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By TEO SI JIA

INSEAD-SINGAPORE and the National University of Singapore (NUS) Business School have taken first and third places in a ranking of 36 business schools in the Asia-Pacific.

The QS Global 200 Business School 2012/2013, in putting Insead-Singapore in top place again, said the school scored 98.5 points out of 100 in terms of employer recognition, pipping its regional rivals.

NUS Business School, placed fourth last year, narrowly lost the second spot to the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Ahmedabad, India. The Singapore school scored 77 points in employer recognition, and the Indian school, 78.7. QS' objective in putting up this ranking is to provide a resource to help prospective MBA students identify the business schools from which employers most actively recruit.

In terms of salaries drawn post-graduation, students from the Asia-Pacific business schools come off poorly, compared to their counterparts in other regions: graduates of the NUS Business School, for example, had an average salary of US\$68,000 (\$83,338) a year – the lowest of any elite global school in all regions. Graduates of IIM draw US\$74,000, third from the bottom in terms of salary. The salaries of graduates of Europe's elite global schools, on the other hand, averaged US\$109,300; graduates from top schools in North America earn an average of US\$101,100.

QS put up a separate ranking of the region's emerging global schools. On this list, Nanyang Business School of the Nanyang Technological University came in at third place, moving up six places. It is ranked sixth in the overall Asia-Pacific table of schools, scoring 55.7 points in employer recognition. Its average graduate salary stands at US\$80,000. The Lee Kong Chian School of Business of the Singapore Management University, recognised as an emerging regional business school, came in at 28th overall in the Asia-Pacific.