

MOE unable to divulge collaboration fees with partnering foreign unis: Heng Swee Keat

By Monica Kotwani | Posted: 10 September 2012 22:17 hrs

SINGAPORE: Education Minister Heng Swee Keat said his ministry is unable to divulge collaboration fees between Singapore's autonomous universities (AU) and its overseas partnering universities.

But the ministry closely scrutinises the amount of funding required by AUs to enter into such partnerships.

Mr Heng said this in a written response to a question posed by Nominated Member of Parliament, Assistant Professor Eugene Tan.



Model of Yale-NUS campus in Singapore.

Assistant Professor Tan wanted to know what the total amount of partnership and related fees were for past and ongoing collaborations between the Singapore Management University and Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Zhejiang University, and the National University of Singapore and Yale University.

Mr Heng said these agreements are covered by confidentiality clauses, and collaboration fees vary according to different models of partnerships between Singapore's AUs and overseas partners.

He added fees also decrease significantly after the start-up phase of collaborations.

Mr Heng said fees are closely scrutinised, in order to ensure that such collaborations provide quality education opportunities for Singaporeans, and position Singapore well for the future.

- CNA/ck