NTU ranked 16th among under-50 unis

Being one of the youngest in survey, it has potential to grow: NTU president

By KEZIA TOH

THE Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has come in 16th in a new ranking released yesterday for universities under 50 years old.

Published by the Times Higher Education, a British education consultancy whose research includes ranking universities, the assessment comes in the same week that a similar ranking placed the Singapore university in the fourth place.

The earlier survey, conducted by London-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), also ranked universities worldwide that are below 50 years old.

NTU president Bertil Andersson said the university's showing in the new ranking was a sign that NTU was well-recognised internationally.

Of the difference in the two rankings, Professor Andersson said the 21-year-old university was likely placed lower in the Times ranking because of the survey's focus on research.

NTU did not start ramping up its research capabilities until 2004, said Prof Andersson, adding that it usually takes at least five years for any research

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> **NTU president Bertil Andersson (above), on the new survey's focus**
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efforts to produce results.

"This was a disadvantage to NTU. As a research-intensive university, we may be only seven years old," he said.

Prof Andersson noted that among the universities in the Times ranking, NTU was one of the youngest. This, he said, meant the school has "the potential to grow our standing further".

The university president added that he was aiming for the school to be ranked in the top 10 by Times, and top three by QS, by 2015.

He said the university would focus on research in sustainability and the environment, such as in areas of clean energy and water.

NTU has received about $830 million for sustainability research.

Prof Andersson said NTU's main Asian competitors in the rankings were Hong Kong's universities, which have featured prominently in both rankings.

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology was placed third in the Times ranking, following the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne in second place; and the Pohang University of Science and Technology in South Korea in the top spot.

In the QS ranking, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology were placed first and second respectively.

The National University of Singapore (NUS) was not ranked in either survey because it is more than 50 years old. As for the Singapore Management University, it did not fit the two groups' ranking criteria as it was considered a "single faculty institution" specialising in one area – the social sciences.

Researchers from both the Times and QS said that another reason NTU was ranked differently in the two surveys may be because of the way the universities were assessed.

In the Times tally, academic reputation accounted for just a fifth of the overall score, said Mr Phil Baty, editor of the Times Higher Education rankings in an e-mail reply to The Straits Times.

The QS ranking, however, weighed academic reputation as 40 per cent of its overall score.

Mr Baty said reputation counted for less in his study because it reflected better the profile of younger universities.

"This is because reputation is often associated with heritage and history", which is an advantage older institutions had over younger universities, Mr Baty said.

Both rankings are spin-offs from the Times' and QS' annual World University Rankings to chart the rise of young varsities.

✉ keziatoh@sph.com.sg

Rankings

TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION 100 UNDER 50
1. Pohang University of Science and Technology
2. Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne
3. Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
4. University of California, Irvine
5. Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology
6. Universite Pierre et Marie Curie
7. University of California, Santa Cruz
8. University of York
9. Lancaster University
10. University of East Anglia
16. Nanyang Technological University (NTU)

QS TOP 50 UNDER 50
1. The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)
2. The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)
3. The University of Warwick
4. Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
5. Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology
6. University of York
7. Pohang University of Science and Technology
8. Maastricht University
9. City University of Hong Kong
10. University of California, Irvine (UCI)
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