



S'pore scores well in world university ranking

By **NG SAI YING**

SINGAPORE universities are gaining a foothold among the world's best tertiary institutions, offering 28 out of 30 subjects taught by the top 150 universities in the world, according to the 2013 Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) *World University Ranking by Subject* published yesterday.

Described by QS as the "best performing university in Asia", the National University of Singapore (NUS) is ranked among the world's top 10 universities for 12 subjects, with another nine subjects in the top 20.

Although some subjects such as psychology and environmental science recorded a fall in ranking, the only significant decline was for law, which dropped to 22nd this year from joint 10th place in 2012.

"This is a strong international recognition of NUS's strengths in humanities and languages, engineering and technology, sciences, medicine and social sciences," said Tan Eng Chye, deputy president of academic affairs at NUS.

The Nanyang Technological University (NTU) also performed well, improving in 13 out of 23 subjects. It achieved a joint eighth position for civil and structural engineering, up from 13th last year, ahead of NUS's 11th placing. Other engineering subjects include mechanical, aeronautical & manufacturing engineering (11th) and electrical & electronic engineering (14th).

In addition, education (13th) moved up seven places while communications & media studies improved 12 places to 11th.

At the Singapore Management University (SMU), accounting & finance was placed in the 51-100 rank bracket, while law, computer science & information systems and economics & econometrics were placed in the 101-150 rank bracket.

Ben Sowter, head of research at QS, said: "Looking at Singapore's overall performance, the country's institutions are clearly world-class in a wide variety of disciplines. NUS and NTU's excellent performance in statistics and the engineering subjects is a great achievement for the country."

The QS World University Rankings is a widely known and trusted annual league table of the top universities in the world, ranking them based on academic reputation, employer reputation, university publications, faculty-student ratio, proportion of international students and proportion of international faculty.

A total of 2,858 universities were evaluated and 678 institutions were ranked this year.