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Local universities make strides in Times world rankings

NUS is No 26, rising three spots from last year; NTU is up 10 places at No 76

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SINGAPORE'S two oldest universities have moved up the ladder in the latest edition of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

The National University of Singapore (NUS) came in 26th on the list, up three rungs from 29th last year.

The Nanyang Technological University (NTU) climbed 10 places to 76th - the third year in a row that it has risen in the table since finishing at 174th in 2010.

The Singapore Management University was unranked because it is deemed a specialist university.

The full list of the top 200 universities was released in London last night (4am today, Singapore time), once again unveiling California Institute of Technology in the US as being top of the pile.

Commenting on Singapore's performance, Phil Baty, the editor of Times Higher Education Rankings, said: "Singapore's reputation as one of the world's leading hubs for research and innovation and its ability to attract top academic and business talent suggest its rise will continue."

In a statement, NUS president Tan Chorh Chuan said his university has maintained a strong focus on enhancing the value and impact of its work through continually raising the quality of the faculty and the impact of their teaching, scholarship and thought leadership.

NUS also pioneers fresh approaches to education, such as that embodied by the new University Town campus and the setting up of the Yale-NUS College, he said.

As for NTU, it scored a major coup this year by also emerging first globally for industry income and innovation, a sharp jump from last year's 15th position in that category. The university also improved its scores in citations per paper and international outlook.

Its president Bertil Andersson said his university has, in the last few years, been rapidly ramping up its collaborations with the world's top multinationals and key industry players.

The World University Rankings uses 13 performance indicators to measure a university's strengths in five areas - teaching, research, citation, industry income and international outlook.

Overall, American universities took seven of the top 10 spots, and British institutions, the remaining three.

The California Institute of Technology was the best of the lot for a third consecutive year. Harvard University and the University of Oxford came in joint second, and Stanford University fell two rungs to fourth.

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In Asia, Japan solidified its status as the region's top country in the rankings with five universities in the top 200, the best of which was the University of Tokyo (23rd).

South Korea was a close second in the region with four representatives. Seoul National University broke into the top 50 for the first time at 44th position.

While Europe can take heart that Oxford is the world's No 2, the continent in general fared poorly this time round; almost all its other top institutions - including the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich - lost ground.

Mr Baty said: "More Asian institutions are nipping at the heels of the best in the West, increasingly occupying world's top 50 places and showing no signs of letting up."

The release of this year's rankings has been timed to coincide with this week's inaugural World Academic Summit, a three-day event co-organised by NTU and Times Higher Education.

The full rankings can be found at www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/world-university-rankings