NUS climbs three places in world university rankings

AFTER dropping out of the top 20 in the global rankings of universities, the National University of Singapore (NUS) is slowly climbing back up the ladder.

It is ranked 30th, up from 33rd last year, and retains its fourth place among Asian universities, with the University of Tokyo, Kyoto University and the University of Hong Kong ranked higher on the continent.

The latest edition of the British publication, the Times Higher Education–QS World University Rankings, placed Nanyang Technological University at 77, from 69th previously.

Worldwide, the top-five places were taken by the likes of Harvard, Yale, Cambridge, Oxford and new entrant California Institute of Technology (Caltech), which was previously seventh.

The rankings is in its fifth year and has been growing in acceptance.

More than 6,350 academics responded this year compared to 5,100 last year while 2,340 employers did so compared to 1,480 last year.

While NUS was in the top 20 two years ago, it dropped out after more weight was placed on staff-to-student ratios.

The latest trends show an increasing profile of technology-based universities, such as Caltech and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, which also improved on its position.

Responding to the rankings, NUS president-designate Prof Tan Choh Chuan said the university will build on its global programmes and leverage on its insights and expertise in Asia. The results of NTU’s progress, for example, attracting top talent such as internationally renowned geologist Professor Kerry Sieh, and its recent successes in research competitions will only show up in five years, as such rankings tend to be “backward-looking”.

Also responding to the rankings, NUS president-designate Prof Tan Choh Chuan said the university will build on its global programmes and “leverage on its insights and expertise in Asia”.

“This will enable NUS to develop innovative programmes that will nurture future leaders able to excel in diverse environments,” he said.