NUS and NYU launch dual law degree programme

By CHARMIAN KOK

NEW York University (NYU) School of Law and National University Singapore (NUS) Faculty of Law yesterday announced the official launch of NYU@NUS, the dual degree law programme in Singapore.

Speaking at the launch, US ambassador to Singapore Patricia I. Herbold observed that NUS and NYU’s “vision of a dual degree programme in law marks a milestone for the education sector in Singapore, and strengthens educational linkages between the United States and Singapore”.

Graduates from the dual degree law programme will earn a Master of Laws (LLM) in Law and the Global Economy from NYU and an LLM from NUS.

Under the NYU degree, students may choose an optional concentration in either US and Asian Business and Trade Law or Justice and Human Rights.

NUS will recognise coursework taken in pursuit of the NYU LLM degree and will require the completion of an additional four courses taught by NUS faculty to award the NUS LLM degree.

Students taking courses towards the NUS LLM degree can choose to focus their studies on one of five specialisations such as Asian Law or Intellectual Property and Technology Law.

NYU School of Law Dean Richard L. Revesz said: “We recognised that important changes in the way law was being practised required changes in the way it was taught.”

He added: “Our partnership with NUS is an important extension of that insight.”

NYU@NUS reflects the importance and commitment to the global study of law.

Senior Counsel and Dean of NUS Faculty of Law, Professor Tan Cheng Han commented that both law schools have “similar goals of developing globally-oriented teaching programmes and research”. The first cohort of students will begin their studies this month.

They are drawn from 23 countries across six continents and represent countries as diverse as Chile and Rwanda. All have basic law degrees.

“This partnership between two leading universities provides a two-fold benefit to Singapore,” said the chairman of Singapore’s Economic Development Board Lim Siong Guan. He believes that “it will boost our legal services sector by building up our legal capabilities and talent pool”.

Besides that, Mr Lim added that the dual degree programme will “enhance Singapore’s status as a key education hub in the region by adding to the course offerings available here”.

“We expect to see even more global talent coming to Singapore to tap into the variety of quality education available here,” said Mr Lim.