

# SMU-Yonsei to start joint law programme

By **GRACE LEONG**  
gleong@sph.com.sg

THE Singapore Management University (SMU) has partnered South Korea's Yonsei University Law School to set up a dual Juris Doctor (JD) programme to develop more lawyers with expertise in the legal systems of both countries.

The joint programme, which was made possible by a memorandum of understanding signed last month by the deans of SMU School of Law and Yonsei

University Law School, allows a JD student from one university, with two years of study in the partner university, to obtain a second JD degree from the latter.

"This exposure will give them a competitive advantage that will stand them in good stead when they pursue careers with Korean MNCs in Singapore and firms with a strong presence in the Korean market," said Yeo Tiong Min, dean of SMU School of Law. Prof Yeo is also Singapore's

first Honorary Senior Counsel and a Yong Pung How Professor of Law.

Under the programme, SMU's JD students must have completed at least two academic years of study in Singapore and meet the minimum Grade Point Average before they may be transferred to Yonsei's JD programme with full recognition of their credits earned at the SMU School of Law. SMU's JD students will take 19 credit units in Singapore and 60 credit units in Korea.

An SMU student who completes two years of study in Singapore and two years at Yonsei University will receive a JD degree from each institution. The same applies for the JD student from Yonsei University.

Launched in 2009, SMU's three-year full-time JD programme graduated its first batch of students in 2011. To date, the SMU School of Law has established partnerships with 31 universities worldwide.