MP is first S’porean in NUS course

ANG Mo Kio
GRC MP Yeo Guat Kwang (right) is the first and only Singaporean to enrol in a university programme that combines public administration and business management education.

The Master in Public Administration and Management programme at the National University of Singapore (NUS) typically trains top Chinese government officials and business leaders. Since it started in 2010, all its students have been from China and Taiwan.

Speaking to reporters at the sidelines of the programme’s opening ceremony yesterday, programme director Chen Kang said he welcomed the MP’s participation, and that Mr Yeo can contribute in classroom discussions and explain local policies better.

The programme’s latest cohort of 60 students also heard from former deputy prime minister Wong Kan Seng, the event’s guest of honour.

Mr Wong is special adviser for economic cooperation to the Prime Minister, and chairman of Temasek-owned Singbridge, the co-master developer and investor of the Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City, the first private sector-led bilateral project.

In his speech, Mr Wong said that to build a prosperous society, a government has to ensure the people’s welfare, safety and security.

This included “comprehensive consideration” on factors such as public health, environmental protection, public housing and education, he added.

“Effective strategies must be based on understanding the expectations of the people, and adopting pro-people development policies is fundamental.”

The 10-month joint programme, offered by the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and the NUS Business School, is receiving its third cohort this year.

KEZIA TOH