

## Chinese tycoons among NUS, NTU alumni



### THE SIX TYCOONS: WHO THEY ARE



(From left) Mr Geng, who graduated from NTU, and NUS graduates Mr Chen and Dr Lan. Dr Lan remains an adjunct professor at NUS.

graduated from the NUS Business School in 1998.

**■ Ms Yang Yuyan, 47**  
**Worth: 2.1 billion yuan**  
The real estate company Ms Yang and husband Zhang Yong set up in 1997 became the first Chinese property firm listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 2007. Ms Yang graduated from the NUS Asia-Pacific Executive MBA programme in 2008.

#### GRADUATED FROM NTU:

**■ Mr Wang Zhenhua, 48**  
**Worth: 5 billion yuan**  
The Jiangsu entrepreneur set up his first company at the age of 26, and has not looked back since. He found success in real estate after setting up Future Land in 1999. Mr Wang is a graduate of the NTU Chinese Executive MBA programme.

**■ Mr Geng Jianming, 48**  
**Worth: 7.5 billion yuan**  
An engineer by training, Mr Geng formed real estate firm Rongsheng in 2002 with younger brother Jianfu. Their firm was listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange in 2007, which made them billionaires overnight. Mr Geng graduated from the NTU Chinese Executive MBA programme.

#### GRADUATED FROM NUS:

**■ Mr Chen Dan, 44**  
**Worth: 1.5 billion yuan (\$5310 million)**  
The Guangdong native formed Evergreen Group in 1998, selling animal feed and crop seedlings to farmers. He graduated from the NUS Asia-Pacific Executive MBA programme in 2001, and subsequently grew his conglomerate into a 6-billion-yuan-a-year business.

at NUS in 1990, he was content with the \$1,000 monthly allowance he was given. But greater prosperity awaited him. Shortly after he graduated with a PhD in 1995, he set up water treatment firm Sinomem. It became a multimillion-dollar company and was listed on the Singapore stock exchange in 2003. He remains an adjunct associate professor at the NUS chemistry department.

**■ Mr Jim Xu Liankuan, 44**  
**Worth: 1 billion yuan**  
He heads the Hong Kong-listed engineering firm Zonda Group, which manufactures buses, auto equipment and other steel products. The Jiangsu native

**■ Dr Lan Weiguang, 48**  
**Worth: 1.8 billion yuan**  
When Dr Lan received a scholarship to study chemistry

The rankings are a boost for both Singapore universities, especially their executive MBA programmes.

NUS' programme was ranked 11th globally last year, up from 30th in 2005, according to the financial Times.

The good showing by the business school's graduates, said its dean Bernard Yeung, "attests to the rigorous, relevant and rewarding education that we have consistently provided to our students as Asia's leading global business school".

NTU's business school dean Gillian Yeo too said she was proud of its successful alumni. She added that the school's course curriculum "has helped to develop the business acumen and leadership skills of our graduates".

Chinese education experts backed their comments, saying that the latest rankings burnish Singapore's reputation as an education powerhouse.

A survey last year by China's top overseas education consultant EIC showed that Singapore was the most preferred destination in Asia among China's students, beating Hong Kong and Japan.

Globally, the Republic was ranked fifth after the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia.

"Among prospective Chinese business students, Singapore is even more attractive because schools there can teach them how to combine the international and Asian ways of doing business," said EIC analyst Tian Chao.

"This is something lacking in American and British business schools."

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The 2 S'pore unis are the only Asian colleges on a US-dominated list of schools where rich Chinese studied

#### The Straits Times China Bureau

**Beijing** – The National University of Singapore (NUS) has produced more Chinese tycoons than top United States colleges like Yale, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Duke.

In the last 15 years, it has produced four Chinese multimillionaires, mostly from its business school.

On a list of foreign university alumni Chinese multimillionaires, NUS came in at No. 3, just behind Harvard and Stanford. Harvard produced six tycoons, and Stanford, five.

MIT was ranked fourth, and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) did well too, producing two Chinese tycoons to tie for fifth place with eight other schools.

The two Singapore universities were the only Asian colleges on the US-dominated list which appeared two weeks ago in a report by 21st Century Talent, a newspaper, and Cuaa.net, a website that serves Chinese university alumni organisations.

Covering Chinese tycoons worth over 100 million yuan (\$520 million) who had appeared on other rich lists such as Forbes and Hurun over the past 10 years, the report analysed their personal attributes such as place of birth, industry and the universities they graduated from.

Of the nearly 2,000 tycoons covered, some 130 had studied in universities abroad.

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