Varsity admissions go smoothly this year

By Maria Almenoar

None of the headaches that marred last year's university admissions was repeated this year.

The problem of students holding on to multiple offers till the last minute was solved with National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Singapore Management University (SMU) having Monday as the common deadline and all acceptances registered on a common online system.

Problems arose last year when for the first time, students could apply to the three universities separately and receive offers from all.

But with different deadlines set for acceptance and no common system, 1,300 students were left on the waiting list a month before school started because 1,500 other students were holding on to two offers.

Under the present system, students can accept only one offer but were still allowed to change their minds up till Monday's deadline.

Although most students still waited till the last minute to make up their mind, the three universities were happy with the new system.

A spokesman for SMU said this year's process "has run very smoothly."

SMU received more than 9,400 applications for its 1,100 places.

All offers of places have been accepted but the school says it is looking into offering a number of places to deserving students on its waiting list.

Meanwhile, NUS received about 25,500 applicants for its 6,500 places.

The school sent out about 6,800 offers and received a 95 per cent response rate.

NTU received more than 20,000 applicants for its 5,000 places, and has filled 10 per cent more than its target quota.

All universities will send out second offers by next Monday and the acceptance deadline is June 21.