SINGAPORE: Singapore Management University celebrated its third commencement ceremony on Friday, with 628 graduates receiving their degree scrolls.

Among the graduates is national water polo player Garret Charles Mallal, who has clinched two Southeast Asia Games gold medals.

The business management graduate said, "Actually, I didn't do that well for my junior college exams, so I actually went to university of Western Australia for a year. But the system is really slow, the pace of life was slow; the way they teach, it was not for me. I actually had a lot of friends who came to SMU from my JC batch, so I tried to get into SMU. When I got in, I immediately decided to come back."

Back then, with mediocre 'A' level grades, Garret was only considered by SMU on a discretionary basis for his water polo talent.

But today, he has proved himself outside the pool and graduated with excellent academic honours.

Temasek Holdings CEO Ho Ching, who was guest of honour, spoke about the opportunities and possibilities of working in Asia.

Said Ms Ho, "If Asia countries continue their pace of reform and market liberalisation, Asia's share of global GDP will catch up with its share of world population in another 20 years. It also means that you, SMU graduates of today, will be living the prime of your life in a vibrant and prosperous Asia."

And for the second straight year, all of SMU graduates have found jobs either before graduation or within six months of their graduation. - CNA /ct