UNIS CAN UP INTAKE NEXT YEAR

TO provide more university places for students, Singapore will have to expand the intakes of the three universities next year.

The National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) could each add 200 to 250 places, and the Singapore Management University could take in another 400 to 600 students.

That would be an extra of about 800 places.

Former Cabinet minister Dr Tony Tan, now advising a committee on expanding the tertiary sector, offered this suggestion to lessen the worry parents and students have of demand overtaking supply.

He was speaking at the 20th anniversary dinner of NTU Alumni Club, and made it clear that they were suggestions and needed the committee and the Government’s approval.

To achieve Singapore’s goal to up the proportion of university places to 30 per cent of each cohort by 2015, other suggestions have been made, such as a fourth university, and having multi-campuses affiliated to the three existing universities. Dr Tan said these may include a campus on health science-related disciplines, liberal arts with a focus on financial services, and engineering and technology.