SMU to beef up post-grad offerings

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New president aims to triple number of post-grads to 2,000 in next five years

by LEE U-WEN

WITH its undergraduate population having reached a steady state of about 7,000, the Singapore Management University (SMU) is now turning its attention to ramping up its post-graduate education offerings over the coming years.

This is one of the top priorities of the varsity’s new president, Arnaud de Meyer, who is confident of tripling the number of post-graduates from the current 630 to nearly 2,000 in the next five years.

Speaking to BT in a recent interview at his office, Prof de Meyer said it was important for SMU to meet the growing demand for such courses, especially from the private sector.

This, said the Belgian, would help the university build its networks and linkages with companies and increase its relevance to the business community.

“We have done well with the undergraduate programmes over the past 10 years, but there is much scope for our portfolio of graduate degrees to grow.

“We have a growing MBA (master of business administration) programme, but we can do more and I am making this a top priority during my time here,” said the 56-year-old management studies scholar.

Fresh from a four-year stint as the director of Cambridge University’s prestigious Judge Business School in the UK, Prof de Meyer is still busy settling down to life as SMU’s fourth president, having taken over the reins two months ago on Sept 1.

Prior to joining Cambridge, he was the founding dean of top international graduate business school INSEAD’s Asia campus in Singapore.

Latest figures reveal that SMU’s enrolment of post-graduate programmes is growing steadily, with the launch of the new executive MBA (EMBA) course taking the total number to 77. The EMBA will admit its first intake of about 50 students next April.

Prof de Meyer said he al-