Singaporean university says may admit more law students

SINGAPORE, Feb. 22 (Xinhua) -- The law school of the Singapore Management University is considering admitting more students of law in the coming years to meet the demand for lawyers, the incoming dean of the law school has said.

Yeo Tiong Min, the incoming dean, said that the school could admit up to 180 undergraduates annually in the next three to five years, up from the current 120, and that the school was in discussions with the Ministry of Law on the ideal student intake, local daily Straits Times reported on Wednesday.

The ministry said it would make decisions on enrollment at the university and at law schools of National University of Singapore later after a review of the supply and demand of lawyers.

Currently, about 700 applicants out of the 1,000 who apply are shortlisted for an interview and a written test for the law school of the Singapore Management University, one of the four universities in Singapore.

Singapore is currently facing a shortage of lawyers. The law school of the National University of Singapore increased its undergraduate intake from 220 to about 250 in 2007. Yeo said the law school of the Singapore Management University is looking at introducing a pro bono program which will be compulsory for all students. He also wanted to grow partnerships with overseas universities for student exchange programs and encourage the faculty to do more research.