

NUS-New York uni law course draws 'rainbow' group

42 students from 23 countries enrolled; programme awards 2 master's degrees

BY JANE NG

MISS Marie Dalton could have done her master's in law in New York, but she chose to attend a "more valuable" programme in Singapore instead.

She signed up for a course offered jointly by New York University (NYU) and the National University of Singapore (NUS) and – in 10 months' time – will have two master's degrees.

Ms Dalton, a former associate attorney at a Los Angeles international law firm, chose to come here as it will give her a "broader understanding of the economic and legal realities of doing business in Asia".

This will help her advise clients better when she returns to her firm, said the 25-year-old NYU law graduate.

She is one of five United States citizens enrolled in the NYU-NUS tie-up, which has a "rainbow" group totalling 42 students from 23 countries, including Chile, China, Rwanda and Uzbekistan.

All have basic law degrees and many have significant work experience.

The programme, which kicked off on May 7, is conduct-



PHOTO: MAY LIN LE GOFF

'GLOBAL' STUDENTS: (From left) Ms Lara Lambino, 36, from the Philippines, Ms Franca Ciambella, 44, from Canada, Ms Jacinta Anyinge, 27, from Uganda, Mr Felipe Mohando, 28, from Argentina, and Ms Arpana Vasanth Kumar, 23, from India, have opted for the "global degree" by NYU-NUS.

ed in Singapore but taught primarily by NYU faculty members.

NYU law school dean Richard Revesz said the NUS partnership is part of his school's vision to go global.

"With the regional focus of the course, it makes more sense for it to be held here in Asia," he said.

It helps also that both schools share a common vision of developing globally oriented teaching programmes, said NUS law dean Tan Cheng Han.

He added: "No matter how good you are, your range is limited. If we leverage on each other's strengths, we will be able to put out a superior product."

US Ambassador to Singapore Patricia Herbold, who invited the programme participants to her home last night, said the tie-up strengthens educational links between the US and Singapore.

"As a former practising lawyer, I am excited by the international composition of the entering class, and look forward to the growth of this innovative partnership," she said.

"Global" degrees such as that offered by the NYU-NUS tie-up are becoming increasingly popular.

Some 600 students at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) are enrolled in such courses, a six-fold increase from five years ago. At NUS, about 800 students are on similar programmes, compared to 500 in 2003.

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