

NUS ties up with Swiss reinsurance company

By FELICIA CHOO

REINSURANCE firm Swiss Re and the National University of Singapore (NUS) are collaborating to boost the country's strength in big data, business analytics and information technology.

The three-year partnership signed yesterday involves Swiss Re working with four NUS faculties – the Centre for Business Analytics, the Business School, the School of Computing and the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health.

The aim is to bolster Singapore's development as an international business analytics hub by supporting the education of professionals specialising in the insurance industry.

Professor Bernard Yeung, dean of the Business School, said yesterday: "Swiss Re's insurance and reinsurance industry experience will allow (us) to deepen the specialisation of our students in... insurance pricing, risk management and regulation."

Professor David Rosenblum, the dean of the School of Computing added: "In computing, a lot of the things that we teach our students can seem very abstract... so any opportunity we have to give our students exposure to real-life problems, the better they are prepared at the end of their studies."

Though discussions started only late last year, the agreement to work together was very intuitive, said Ms Sharon Ooi, who heads Swiss Re here.

"The changing industry landscape means that it's great to collaborate externally... in ensuring we have an outside view of what's missing currently," she said.

"By using data and analytics, what we hope to do as an industry is insure what could be uninsurable risks, like natural catastrophes."

The partnership includes an annual six-month-long Swiss Re Challenge Series, in which NUS faculties and graduate students can form teams to employ big data systems and business analytics to tackle social challenges in Asia and drive economic growth.

The most innovative solutions will get seed funding from Swiss Re of up to \$50,000 for each project in the first year and up to \$75,000 in following years.

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