By JOSHUA TAN

COMPANIES here could soon find themselves playing a much larger role in the education of their prospective employees. This was according to speakers at the “Committee on University Pathways Beyond 2015 (CUEP) Townhall”, held yesterday at Ngee Ann Polytechnic. During the forum discussion, the audience of about 400 students, parents and representatives from higher education providers voiced their concerns and made suggestions on the expansion of the university sector to members of the CUEP, which is chaired by Minister of State for Defence and Education Lawrence Wong.

A keenly debated issue was how university graduates would be able to retain their competitive edge in the workforce, with the rate of enrolment of students per cohort to publicly funded universities set to increase to about 30 per cent by 2015.

In an interview after the closed-door dialogue session, Mr Wong emphasised the need for greater diversification in terms of undergraduate educational opportunities.

Outlining the future of Singapore’s university landscape, with a “more diverse range of opportunities available, and different programmes, different offer-ings that cater to the diverse interests and talents of our people”, Mr Wong highlighted a possible new pathway as a “more practice-based, industry-linked teaching university”.

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