

Headline **USM triumphs over UM**
Date **04. Sep 2008**
Media Title **New Straits Times**
Section **Local News**
Circulation **158042**
Readership **512000**

Language **ENGLISH**
Page No **1,6**
Article Size **787** cm2
Frequency **Daily**
Color **Full Color**
AdValue **12973.92**



UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA



Universiti Sains Malaysia is country's
first Apex university

**PICK OF
THE BEST**

‘Apex is about the future. We are not talking about the position of the universities. We are identifying one that can go leaps and bounds into excellence with government help.’

*Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin
Higher Education Minister*

REPORTS: P6



USM triumphs over UM

Headline
Date
Media Title

USM triumphs over UM
04. Sep 2008
New Straits Times

■ **By Regina Lee**
reginalee@nst.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Universiti Sains Malaysia has been chosen to be the country's first Apex university.

The university was chosen based on its state of readiness, its transformation plan and preparedness for change.

USM scored an upset against the older and the higher ranked Universiti Malaya, as well as beating Universiti Kebangsaan and Universiti Putra Malaysia, which had also been shortlisted.

"It is not about the ranking. We are just choosing the most suitable one for the programme.

"Apex is about the future.

We are not talking about the position of the universities, but we are identifying one that can go leaps and bounds into excellence with government help," said Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin here yesterday.

He added that USM's transformation theme that could unify all its seven niche fields and its impressive Key Performance Index were among factors that convinced the ministry that it deserved the Apex status.

The university's five-year budgetary plan will be taken into consideration, with the government making a decision in the 2010 Budget.

Bigwigs from the university will soon be called to discuss with the ministry a viable implementation plan for autonomy.

The ministry also has another programme to develop centres of excellence within non-Apex universities.

New or emerging institutions will also be given focus.

"Being an Apex university is a long and transformative journey which the institution will have to undertake on its own.

"Depending on USM's performance, if it can stand on its own soon enough, then we can look into getting another university to be an Apex university.

"But I expect USM to be ranked in the top 200 in the ratings such as the Times Higher Education Supplements

ranking in five years, and make it into the top 100 by 2020." In the latest THES ranking,

USM is listed in 307th place, while UM is the highest ranked local university at 246th place.

WHAT THEY SAY



"I am proud to be the student council president when USM achieved this prestigious recognition. The entire student force worked hard during the last 12 months.'

*Muhammad Syukri Ibrahim, 21,
USM Student Council president and third-year political science student*



"We were quite disappointed when there was no announcement last week. But today is the proudest day in our life as a USM student.'

*Wan Zetti Akhtar, 21,
Multimedia Interactive in Education student*



"Students and staff collectively contributed to the university getting this recognition.'

*T. Ramanathan, 21,
Third-year accounting student*



Datuk Seri Khaled Nordin and Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Idris Haron (left) at a press conference yesterday to announce USM's Apex university status.