



EIGHT-POINT PLAN: UPM pro-chancellor Tan Sri Thong Yaw Hong (left) with Nik Mustapha (centre) at the launch of the 75th anniversary celebrations.

World-ranking wish for UPM

SERDANG, Fri. — New Universiti Putra Malaysia Vice-Chancellor, Prof Dr Nik Mustapha Raja Abdullah wants world ranking for the institution.

His dream is for UPM to be among the top 80 universities in the world and top 20 in Asia. Nik Mustapha said these were attainable using the institution's eight-point plan that began in 2000 and ends in 2010.

"I am confident that we can achieve a better standing in the international level," he said after launching the university's 75th anniversary celebrations. "We have renowned scientists working for us and we pride ourselves on being the local university with the most PhD holders.

"About 62 per cent of our 2,400 academic staff have doctoral degrees. Seventy-five per cent of our graduates gained employment upon completing their studies."

He said he would continue to stress agricultural research and education. UPM has asked for RM250 million from the Government to set up centres of excellence to improve its performance.

He also wants to generate more funds to reduce the university's dependence on the Government.

UPM is the largest beneficiary of Intensification of Research in Priority Areas (IRPA) grants among public institutions of higher learning or research agencies under the Eighth Malaysia Plan.

The anniversary celebration includes the launching of its 75th anniversary celebration website (<http://www.upm.edu.my/jubliintann>), the introduction of the book *The Serdang Story* by former UPM lecturer Dr Othman Yaacob and the opening of Malaysia's first agriculture conservatory at its Institute of Bioscience.