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## 'Our next target to ensure we deliver'

**GEORGE TOWN:** With recognition comes responsibility. This, says Universiti Sains Malaysia's dean for the School of Communications Dr Adnan Hussein, is what the Apex university status means.

Adnan said he was happy with the recognition but warned that much work was ahead for the university and its faculty.

"Still, it was worth the hard work we put in over the past few months.

"We now have to improve in all aspects," he told the *New Straits Times* in a telephone interview.

Adnan noted that the USM community could not afford to be complacent.

He added that it was important to improve in research and publication so that the university's standing at the international level will improve.

Dean for the School of Chemical Engineering Prof Abdul Latif Ahmad said the recognition was something the university was very proud of.

He agreed with Adnan that there would now be higher expectations of USM.

"The recognition has also given us the momentum to ensure that we deliver," he said.

Abdul Latif attributed the recognition to the collective ef-

**UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA**

### WHAT IS AN APEX UNIVERSITY?

- Malaysia's version of an Ivy League institution.
- Target to become one of 100 best universities globally.
- Autonomy in finance, service scheme, management, student intake and study fees.
- Student admission to reflect the demographic profile of the country and merit.
- Twenty per cent of seats for foreign students.
- Board of directors comprising of top professionals.
- Stringent process to select vice-chancellor.
- Only top experts including foreigners, would be appointed as administrators, lecturers or deans.
- Better terms of service and salary to foreign lecturers.

The Apex programme is aimed at encouraging local universities to keep pace with changes in the academic, economic and social fields. The government has set 2020 as the target year for at least two local universities to achieve this.

**Nine universities were in the running:**  
 Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, Universiti Tenaga Nasional, Universiti Teknologi Petronas, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia and Universiti Putra Malaysia.

fort of the USM community, adding that this was something which was inculcated by USM vice-chancellor Tan Sri Prof Dzulkifli Abdul Razak over the past seven years.

Meanwhile, School of Chemical Science lecturer Dr Mas Rosemal Hakim Mas Haris said the recognition

was a great one.

He said USM had done more research work compared with other universities.

Professor Dr Mahyudin Ramli, the dean of Housing, Building and Planning School, said the recognition meant that the university was on the right track.