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Harvard still tops

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PETALING JAYA: The United States' Harvard University remains the number one in the world ranking of universities followed by Yale University, topping United Kingdom's Cambridge and Oxford.

The Times Higher Education (THE) & Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings released its world's top 200 universities list for this year yesterday.

As expected, Malaysian universities were nowhere in the list. Rankings beyond 200 will only be released on Monday.

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), which was named Apex University recently, was in the 307th position last year falling from 277 in 2006, while Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) was at 309, falling from 185 in 2006. Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) which was at 292 in 2006 fell to 364 last year.

Universiti Malaya fell from 192 in 2006 to 246 last year.

Japan's University of Tokyo is still the highest Asian university, at number 19 in the list (17 in 2006), while Kyoto University maintained its position at 25.

The National University of Singapore is at 30th place this year, climbing from 33rd last year.

The THE-QS World University Rankings was created to present a multi-faceted view of the strengths of the world's leading universities.

The overall rankings are compiled based on six distinct indicators: Academic (40% weightage), Employer (10%), Faculty (20%), Citations per faculty (20%), International Faculty (5%) and International Students (5%).

The weightages are decided by THE based on their opinion of the importance of the measured criteria balanced against the effectiveness of the indicator to evaluate the intended measure.