

DPM: Find out why varsities fell in rankings



Feeling at home:

Muhyiddin mingling with the crowd during a dinner with the Malaysian community in London. — Bernama

Universities told to ensure high performance

THE world rankings of Malaysian universities attract "due attention" and the institutions must analyse and determine the reasons behind their decline, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said.

"What is important is that the respective public universities look into ensuring that their performance and rankings do not deteriorate.

"We understand that some will improve and some will decline but we should look at the medium-and long-term," the Deputy Prime Minister told the Malaysian media covering his working visit here.

Muhyiddin, who is also the Education Minister, was commenting on the QS World University Rankings 2013/14 which revealed that Universiti Malaya dropped 11-places compared to last year due to intense competition.

Apart from UM, there are six other Malaysian institutions in this year's rankings – Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Putra Malaysia, the International Islamic University Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi Mara and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

Six of the seven institutions slid down the rankings with UM as the country's highest-ranked university at 167th place while UTM improved three places, from 358th place in

AUDREY EDWARDS
IN LONDON



2012 to 355th this year.

Muhyiddin said he had met vice-chancellors during a meeting several weeks ago and told them to develop a plan to be more autonomous financially and to better use their resources, and pledged the ministry's close cooperation on this.

He also advised universities to focus more on publishing international journals and improving the performance of students in critical areas like science and technology.

However, Muhyiddin said universities should not become too engrossed with rankings to the point of accepting only students who excelled.

"This is because the Government also emphasises on using universities to improve the socio-economic status of students," he stressed.

Meanwhile, during a dinner with the Malaysian community here, Muhyiddin said unity among Malaysians of various backgrounds was vital.