

World class statement backed by facts, says Idris

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SHAH ALAM: Second Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh has hit back at those who panned him after he declared the country's higher education system "world class".

Idris said his pronouncement was not "empty words" but was backed up by facts, including a 2014 Unesco report titled *Higher Education in Asia: Expanding Out, Expanding Up*, which stated that foreign students know they can get affordable quality education in Malaysia with English being the popular medium of instruction.

"We cannot deny we are among the better ranking (universities in terms of subject ranking)," he told reporters after launching the *Destini di Penghujung Pelangi*, a

book authored by Md Taib Mat.

According to subject rankings, Idris said 11 faculties from the country's public universities rank within the top 100 in the world.

He said Universiti Sains Malaysia ranked 28 for environmental sciences in the QS Rankings by Subject, while Universiti Putra Malaysia ranked 54 for agricultural sciences in the Best Global Universities Rankings.

—On Saturday, Bernama reported Idris as saying that Malaysia's higher education sector was now on par with those in developed nations, including Britain, Germany and Australia.

The QS World University Rankings is an annual league table of the top universities in the world where over 3,000 institutions were considered.