

'Ranking not true measure of success'

'THE BEST': Students should be proud of local higher institutions, says V-C

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CHASING ranks among Malaysia's Higher Education Institutes (HEI) is a misguided culture and quality, said Open University Malaysia (OUM) president and Vice-Chancellor Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Anuwar Ali.

Speaking at the CEO Talk, organised by the Institute of Marketing Malaysia yesterday, he said Malaysian HEIs were listed with those from the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia because Malaysians spoke "a bit of English", while the much better HEIs in Japan and Europe, were non-English-



Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Anuwar Ali says local institutions need to develop new methods of attracting students

speaking countries.

"The true measure of success should be your students' quality," he said, speaking to an audience of academicians on the importance of quality and innovation.

"If the chasing of ranks is being pushed, the quality of teaching will

decline because lecturers' main concern would be to produce impressive research papers and not teaching their students."

Anuwar noticed how graduates would tell people that they came out of "just a local university" instead of proudly saying that they were the product of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Malaya or Universiti Putra Malaysia.

"There are 80,000 of our students studying overseas and these are the best students from our schools.

"They are probably studying in mediocre overseas colleges when they could be in the best of our own HEIs."

Anuwar said local HEIs needed to develop new methods of attracting Malaysian students and those from other countries, as well as revisiting HEI roles, which are for nation-building and human capital development.

"Students will enjoy learning if they have good lecturers. Let professors who enjoy teaching, teach the first-year students, so that the students will value their education."