

Nation's Rising Star researchers

FOURTEEN national researchers have been recognised as the recipients of Malaysia's Rising Star Award for obtaining the top 1% of the *Highly Cited Papers* published worldwide. The information was extracted from the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) for the period from 2005 to 2014 by Thompson Reuters.

Articles by the award recipients have been frequently referred by researchers worldwide in a broad range of fields.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh presented the awards at the launch of the National Conference for Published High Impact Journals in Langkawi on Thursday night.

The recipients for the Malaysia's Rising Star Awards are Prof Datuk Dr Abdul Khalil H P Shawkataly, Prof Dr Abdul Latif Ahmad, Prof Dr Abdul Rahman Mohamed, Prof Dr Abd Karim Alias, Prof Dr Hazizan Md Akil, Assoc Prof Dr Mohd Roslee Othman and Prof Dr Wan Saim Wan Ngah from Universiti Sains Malaysia; Prof Dr Wan Mohd Ashri Wan Daud from Universiti Malaya; Prof Dr Siti Kartom Kamarudin and Prof Dr Ishak Hashim from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia; Prof Dr Luqman Chuah Abdullah and Assoc Prof Dr Abdul Halim Abdullah from Universiti Putra Malaysia; Assoc Prof Dr Wong Kuan Yew from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia and Norliana Mohd Abbas from Universiti Teknologi Mara.

According to a statement from the Higher Education Ministry, the Thomson Reuters *Web of Science and InCites*, Malaysia's research output had grown almost six-fold in just nine years.

The number of published scientific papers was 11,479 in 2014 compared to 1,643 in 2005

Top papers, defined as the most highly cited 1% of all papers published worldwide in that year and subject category, increased more than 32-fold from a mere four papers in 2005 to 125 top papers in 2014.

More than half of these top papers published from 2005 to 2014 are in Energy and Fuels and Engineering, clearly demonstrating Malaysia's research strengths in these fields.

This success was due to the RM4.3bil invested by the Malaysian government from 2007 to 2013 in the higher education sector.

Congratulating the recipients on their awards, Idris said the national higher education system ranking has improved from 28th to 21st spot out of 50 nations according to the Universitas 21 Ranking of National Higher Education Systems (also known as U21).

"We are pleased to support Malaysia's pursuit of scientific discovery and to collaborate with the Higher Education Ministry in honouring the Malaysian researchers. "They are highly esteemed by not just their peers in Malaysia but also around the world in their respective fields.

"We have always strongly supported the



Well done: Idris (third from right) and Higher Education Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Zaini Ujang (third from left) chatting with award recipients after the presentation ceremony.

research and development efforts of Malaysia's research and business community, and will continue to work closely with the ministry and Malaysian institutions and companies," said Thomson Reuters IP & Science, Asean and North Asia vice president Arto Valio. This award is the result of the joint effort between Thomson Reuters and the Higher Education Department's Malaysian Citation Centre.

The indexing of scholarly local journals at the international level is the most important aspect in recognising the publication of researchers.

As a Publishing Encouragement Scheme (CREAM), 13 local journals that have shown remarkable performance in international databases such as *Web of Science (WOS)* and *Scopus* were chosen as the recipients of the CREAM status. A total of three local journals indexed in WoS and 10 local journals indexed in *Scopus* in Science, Technology and Medicine and Arts and Humanities and Social Science were awarded with the recognition.