

20 honoured with Rising Star awards

PUTRAJAYA: Twenty researchers and scientists were yesterday honoured with this year's Malaysia's Rising Star Awards (MRSA) for their contributions to global science.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's (UKM) Dr Wan Ramli Wan Daud and Professor Dr Siti Kartom Kamarudin, Universiti Sains Malaysia's (USM) Professor Dr Wan Saime Wan Ngah, and Universiti Malaya's (UM) Professor Dr Mohd Ali Hashim received the MRSA Highly Cited Review Award.

Kartom, a chemical engineering expert, said one must not be afraid to expand on new findings.

"My field of research is on renewable energy to develop a fuel cell system supporting the battery industry."

Ramli and Kartom, together with USM's Professor Dr Bassim H. Hameed, were nominated as the World's Most Influential Scientific

Minds 2015 in January.

For the MRSA Frontier Researcher Award, five researchers and scientists were chosen for producing the world's highly cited articles in a new field of research.

They were Universiti Teknologi Malaysia's (UTM) Professor Dr Zainal Salam and Professor Dr Ahmad Fauzi Ismail, Universiti Putra Malaysia's (UPM) Professor Dr Jinap Selamat, UKM's Professor Dr Ishak Ahmad and UM's Dr Che Hang Seng.

Five others, aged below 40, received the MRSA Young Researcher Award for producing the world's top five per cent of the most cited articles.

They were UTM's Professor Dr Sharifah Rafidah Datu Wan Alwi, USM's Professor Dr Lee Keat Teong, UPM's Associate Professor Dr Lim Hong Ngee, and UM's Dr Ong Hwai Chyuan and Dr Huang Ming Nay.

UKM's Professor Dr Zahira Yaakob



Higher Education Minister **Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh** (left) presenting an award to **Professor Dr Siti Kartom Kamarudin** (right) at Malaysia's Rising Star Award ceremony in Putrajaya yesterday. Pic by Mohd Fadli Hamzah

and Professor Dr Azah Mohamed, and Universiti Teknologi Petronas' (UTP) Associate Professor Dr Suzana Yusup bagged the MRSA Women in Science Award when their work was recognised as among the world's top 10 per cent most cited publications by Malaysian women researchers and scientists.

For the MRSA International Collaboration Award, three recipients were chosen: UM's Professor Dr Nasrudin Abd Rahim and Professor Dr Sulaiman Wadi Harun, and UPM's Professor Dr Rafii Mohd Yusof.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh presented the awards.

Idris said Malaysia's scientists and researchers had proven they were on

a par with world class players.

According to the Web of Science and InCites, Malaysia's research output last year (16,149), had grown more than five-fold, compared with 2006 (3,038). In the last few years, Malaysia had increased its overall relative impact, surpassing the world baseline last year.

Idris also presented the National Research Publications Incentive Scheme (Cream) to 18 journals.

Among them were *Bulletin of the Malaysian Mathematical Sciences Society* (USM), *Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science* (UM) and *Malaysian Journal of Computer Science* (UM) for being admitted and indexed in the Web of Science database.