

# Malaysia makes its mark in research

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RESEARCH in Malaysia has grown tremendously in the past 16 years. That was based on findings released by the Islamic World Science Citation Centre (ISC).

Malaysia's growth in scientific publications over the past 16 years is 18 times more than the world average, said ISC president Dr Muhammad Javad Dehghani at a Scientific Workshop held at Universiti Putra Malaysia titled "Increasing the Impact of Research Strategies and Practical Guidelines for Universities and Research Institutions".

He added that the number of scientific publications in the world has increased by 77% – from 1.3 million titles in 2000 to 2.3 million in 2016.

ISC is a citation index established by the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology that ranks about 600 universities and research institutions from member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Dr Muhammad said OIC released eight times the world average of scientific publications – from 24,603 titles in 2000 to 188,370 last year.

Malaysia saw an increase of 18,329 publications over the last 16 years. It was also the third-highest contributor in the OIC network, after Turkey and Iran.

Among the published subjects, the biggest increase in the publications focused on humanities, followed by engineering and technology. The agricultural sciences saw the lowest increase in publications.

These figures show that Malaysian education institutions are moving in the right direction.



Malaysia was the third highest contributor in the OIC network, says Dr Muhammad.

UPM's newly appointed deputy vice-chancellor (Research and Innovation) Prof Datuk Dr Husaini Omar believes that the role of research at universities is crucial not only in developing academic systems but also for the country to be a part of the global knowledge society.

Malaysia has taken big steps to boost the achievement of local public universities by introducing the status of Research Universities to five local universities, Prof Husaini said.

"This is seen as a catalyst to trigger healthy competition among public universities and it is hoped that this development will increase the quantity and quality of the country's invention and innovation."

UPM Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering lecturer Prof Dr Robiah Yunus explained that the majority of people refer to Web of Science or Scopus indexes, which only list publications in English.

"Many OIC countries use other languages such as Arabic or Bahasa Malaysia and do not produce publications in English.

"Having the ISC database allows impactful publications from OIC countries to be consid-

ered," said Prof Robiah.

On ways the countries can improve, Dr Muhammad said research teams should co-operate with universities from other countries so their findings would be more independent. Researchers can also collaborate with the industry for technological impact.

In terms of findings, Dr Muhammad suggested new research that can make an innovative impact on the world.