

SELF-ACCREDITATION



Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh (seventh from left) with the representatives of the eight universities receiving the self-accreditation status.

'More autonomy to run own programmes'

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THE Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) has awarded self-accreditation status to eight universities in Malaysia, joining nine others that have been awarded the status earlier.

With the status, the universities — Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP), International Medical University (IMU), Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (Utar), Universiti Tenaga Nasional (Uniten) and Multimedia University (MMU) — are now entitled to accredit their programmes except for those that require recognition of the relevant professional body.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said the self-accreditation status is part of the ministry's continuous effort to redesign the Malaysian higher education system.

“We aim to provide the best education system that Malaysia can offer to Malaysians and the world.”

DATUK SERI IDRIS JUSOH
Higher Education Minister

“Self-accreditation status gives more power to top-performing universities in this country to do their own self-assessment. They have more autonomy in running their own academic programmes,” he said in Putrajaya last week.

“We aim to provide the best education system that Malaysia can offer to Malaysians and the world,” he added.

Auditing for the status was done by the Malaysia Qualifications Agency (MQA), an agency under MOHE. The status given is based on the respective institutions' solid and reliable internal quality assurance system.

UiTM vice-chancellor Professor Emeritus Datuk Dr Hassan Said the university's efforts towards self-accrediting authority began in 2013 when MOHE invited UiTM to demonstrate its willingness and ability to manage the accreditation of its academic programmes.

“UiTM has had a long-standing practice of quality management, and with this recognition,

UiTM expands its scope of Quality Assurance to cover that of its academic programmes. This will be managed by the Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) Unit under the Institute for Quality and Knowledge Advancement. The assessors are experienced lecturers in their respective fields and are trained by MQA,” he said.

“This achievement is in line with the current budget constraints because now the cost of new programmes can be reduced. Although UiTM offers more than 500 programmes at various levels and locations, the recognition obtained through a thorough auditing process by the MQA panel is an achievement to be proud of,” he added.

Meanwhile, IMU vice-chancellor Professor Abdul Aziz Baba remarked that autonomy and trust come in hand in hand. “And for that, the IMU pledges continual commitment to uphold the highest standards of intellectual, educational and research productivity in the years to

come,” he said.

IMU was invited by MOHE in 2014 to participate in the self-accreditation status.

“Moving forward, the self-accreditation status allows the IMU's senate to accredit its nonprofessional programmes, namely, health sciences including Chinese Medicine and Chiropractic programmes and post-graduate studies, on the condition that the assessment is carried out based on criteria set by MQA,” said Abdul Aziz.

The self-accreditation system for Malaysian public and private universities was first introduced by MOHE in 2010. Designed to spur growth in Malaysia's dynamic higher education landscape, the pioneer recipients of the status included Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Monash University Malaysia, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus, Curtin University Sarawak and Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak.

“The universities which have received our self-accreditation status have retained them. Their quality is assured,” Idris added.

