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# Varsity in top 50

UNIVERSITI Putra Malaysia (UPM) has joined Universiti Malaya (UM) as the only other Malaysian university to be in the 2016 instalment of the QS University Rankings: Asia.

The regional university ranking which was released this week by QS Quacquarelli Symonds, global higher education analysts, saw UPM jump 17 rungs from last year to 49th place, while Universiti Sains Malaysia narrowly missed out by coming in at 51st place.

Meanwhile, UM retained its status as Malaysia's best university, rising two rungs to make it to 27th.

The rankings have expanded this year to include the region's 350 best universities — an expansion of 50 on the previous year. They have also included methodological enhancements this year, introducing Staff with PhD in order to add another dimension to the analyses of teaching quality their rankings provide.

QS Intelligence Unit head of research Ben Sowter said UM is the only Malaysian university to achieve a benchmark score of 100.0 in any one of the 10 metrics used.

"It achieved the full weighted score for both proportion of inbound exchange students and proportion of outbound exchange students — indicative of its successful internationalisation plans," he said.



**Well done:** Sowter says UM is the only Malaysian university to achieve a benchmark score of 100.0 in any one of the 10 metrics used.

In a statement, UPM vice-chancellor Prof Datin Paduka Aini Ideris said the varsity's achievements has surpassed its initial target of reaching the 60th spot.

"The 17-step jump from its 66th position last year will definitely bolster the spirit of the university community to further enhance the quality of teaching, learning and research.

"I hope this accomplishment will motivate UPM to continue its



**Top spot:** Prof Mohd Amin says the milestone achieved by the university is due to better scores for research output and impact indicators.

streak of excellence, ultimately leading to meaningful contributions to society and national well-being," she added.

Prof Aini also said UPM will beef up initiatives outlined under Putra Global so that UPM can be ranked among the top 200 universities in the world by 2020, in line with its vision to attain international recognition.

Meanwhile UM vice-chancellor Prof Tan Sri Dr Mohd Amin



**Initial target:** UPM will beef up initiatives under Putra Global so that it can be in the world's top 200 universities by 2020, says Prof Aini.

Jalaludin said it was no mean feat to land on the 27th spot.

"After breaking into the league of the top 30 universities in Asia last year, the new milestone achieved by the university this year is a result of better scores for research output and impact indicators of the ranking measure," he said in a statement.

He added that it was not easy to rise further as QS had made several methodological changes this

year that included the tweaking of weightage assigned to ranking indicators and the introduction of a new criterion that measures the quality of training of academic staff.

"These changes brought about a new playing field with considerable implications on the ranking results that may not be directly favourable if not systematically dealt with in future," said Prof Mohd Amin. He added that the current economic situation in the country has forced universities to heighten efforts to find new sources of funding, and has affected internationalisation efforts.

Meanwhile, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia came in 55th and 63rd respectively. Another three universities entered the league of the top 200 — Taylor's University (179th), Universiti Teknologi Mara (181st) and Multimedia University (193rd).

The National University of Singapore remains the region's top university, followed by the University of Hong Kong and the Nanyang Technological University.

QS evaluated 517 universities in the region for this year's rankings, with the full list available at [topuniversities.com](http://topuniversities.com).