

UTM in top 100 of the Asia University rankings

By REBECCA RAJAENDRAM
educate@thestar.com.my

UNIVERSITI Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) is the only local varsity that made it into the Top 100 of this year's *Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2016*.

The fourth edition of the rankings saw UTM being ranked 70th in Asia.

Malaysian institutions have been missing from the Top 100 of these rankings since 2013, when the first edition was released. In 2013, UKM was in joint 87th place with the American University of Beirut in Lebanon.

This year, another three Malaysian universities are in the Top 200 — Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) (121–130), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) (141–150) and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) (161–170).

THE rankings reporter Ellie Bothwell said that UTM scored well on international outlook and citations.

"It would be ranked in the top 25 if measured on the international outlook indicator alone, and within the top 50 if judged on citations.

"It is great that the university is producing influential research and focusing on attracting top talent from around the world," she told The Star on behalf of THE rankings editor Phil Baty.

Bothwell said that seven Malaysian universities submitted data for this edition of the rankings.

UPM vice-chancellor Prof Datin Paduka Dr Aini Ideris said making it into the rankings this year is a testament to the university's efforts to be globally recognised.

She added that UPM will remain committed to strengthening its fundamentals in teaching, learning and research to continue climbing up the Asian and World edition of THE's rankings.

The National University of Singapore climbed one rung and is now top in Asia, taking over from University of Tokyo, Japan.

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore is in joint second place with Peking University,



Team effort: Prof Aini says the university remains committed to strengthening its teaching, learning and research.

China.

The top five is completed by the University of Hong Kong in fourth place and Tsinghua University in fifth, also giving China two places in the top five.

Baty in separate statement, said that this new data release shows that Malaysian universities are able to stand up to rigorous benchmarking against the THE's performance indicators.

"Southeast Asia is one of the



New data: Baty says Malaysian universities are able to stand up to rigorous benchmarking against the THE's performance indicators.

most exciting and dynamic regions in world higher education and research today. Not only is it home to Asia's top two universities (both in Singapore), it is also at the centre of significant initiatives to drive up the quality of universities – and to put them at the heart of the region's economic growth.

"While the region has major challenges, not least in building a stronger research infrastructure, the increased policy focus on com-

petitive universities, combined with the increased harmonisation of higher education systems across the Asean area, and the heightened global visibility of the region's universities driving an increased hunger for global collaborations with the region, all points to a healthy future," he added.

Baty also said that after consulting universities and higher education bodies across the region, the Asia ranking places less emphasis on reputation elements but places more importance on industry income and research income, and also on productivity, in terms of publications.

"This is the first time the Asia University Rankings uses a bespoke methodology and means that the ranked list differs from a filter of the World University Rankings for Asian nations," he added. All data are collected, analysed and verified by data specialists Thomson Reuters.

For more information, visit <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/world-university-rankings/>.