

QS WORLD RANKING

5 RESEARCH VARSITIES MOVE A NOTCH UP

UM leads, poised to become one of top 100 research universities globally

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THE improved world rankings for five top local research universities have placed them in the top one per cent of research universities in the world, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said yesterday.

Based on a global ranking system involving 26,000 research universities conducted by the International Ranking Expert Group's Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), topping the list as the best Malaysian research university is Universiti Malaya (UM), currently ranked 114th in the world.

"UM is getting close to becoming one of the top 100 research universities in the world. This is good news to us since we introduced the research university ini-



Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh (second from right) with (from left) USM Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Prof Datuk Dr Asma Ismail, UTM V-C Prof Datuk Dr Wahid Omar, UKM V-C Prof Datuk Dr Noor Azlan Ghazali, UPM V-C Prof Datin Paduka Dr Aini Ideris and UM V-C Prof Dr Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud in Putrajaya yesterday. With them are Idris's deputy, Datuk Dr Mary Yap Kain Ching (third from right) and the ministry's secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Noorul Ainur Mohd Nur. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

tiative in Malaysia 10 years ago," Idris said yesterday.

Joining UM in the list are Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM).

"Between 2007 and last year,

local research universities have generated RM6.18 billion in income for the country.

"This is a 55.3 per cent return on research investment made by the government."

Attributing the success of UM to its enhanced engineering faculty, its acting Vice-Chancellor

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2018 MALAYSIAN OVERVIEW

2018	2017	Institution
114	133	UNIVERSITI MALAYA (UM)
229	270	UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA (UPM)
230	302	UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA (UKM)
253	288	UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA (UTM)
264	330	UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA (USM)
601-650	601-650	UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI PETRONAS (PETRONAS)
701-750	601-650	INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA (IIUM)
701-750	701+	UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA (UUM)
751-800	701+	UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA (UITM)

Source: QS Quacquarelli Symonds 2004-2018 www.TopUniversities.com

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Professor Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud said: We know we have a lot of challenges ahead of us as we strive to be among the top 100 research universities in the world. Our research and development budget is limited. Competition is stiff. But we will try our best."

While UPM and UKM are ranked 229th and 230th, respectively, UTM landed at the 253rd spot. USM's ranking improved from 330 to 264 this year.

Idris said they would continue to improve the world ranking of the universities by having more cross-border collaborations.

In **Kuala Lumpur**, the five Malaysian universities ranked in the Top 300 of the Quacquarelli Symonds World University rankings for 2018 will be magnets to attract international students to study in the country, academicians said.

The recognition, they said, proved that a reduced budget for public universities this year by the government was not a hin-

drance to excellence.

However, National Professors Council chief executive officer Professor Datuk Dr Raduan Che Rose told the *New Straits Times* that although Malaysia was on track to attract a targeted pool of 200,000 foreign students by 2020, the issue of quality over quantity must be addressed.

"Institutions should introduce credible criteria for student admission to ensure we receive quality students from outside.

"We should expand our programmes to reach more countries. This will reflect the quality of our programmes," he said, adding that institutes of higher learning should build on the success of the rankings to continue improving in the future.

Raduan said the country's tertiary education scene was moving in the right direction, provided that fundamental elements such as the quality of programmes and research also improved with time.