

RANKINGS

Malaysia increases share of best universities

EIGHT Malaysian universities make this year's top 1,000 list, up from seven last year in Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2018.

University of Malaya, joins the top 400 as a new entrant (351-400 band) in THE's 14th annual edition.

The definitive list of the top 1,000 universities from 77 countries also has Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman and Universiti Tenaga Nasional joining the table for the first time, in the 501-600 and 801-1000 cohorts respectively.

Global Rankings editorial director Phil Baty said: "It is great to see Malaysia improving its standing in the rankings. The nation has long been tipped as one of Asia's leading emerging university nations and the results this year suggest it is beginning to bear the fruits of its labour."

However, Baty said the rankings are becoming increasingly competitive, with

several other Asian countries soaring up the table.

"Malaysia will need to ensure it can maintain its investment in universities if it wants to continue to improve its global standing," he added.

Globally, the University of Oxford retains first place in the World University Rankings. The University of Cambridge climbs two places to second, overtaking California Institute of Technology and Stanford University, both joint third. While the United States continues to dominate the rankings, Chinese universities are rapidly climbing year-on-year.

Regionally, Southeast Asia has improved its performance in this year's THE World University Rankings.

Baty added: "Southeast Asia has huge potential for higher education success in the future and this year's table shows that the region is already making gains. While

Rank 2018	Previous year	Institution
351-400	NR	University of Malaya
501-600	NR	Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman
601-800	601-800	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
601-800	601-800	Universiti Putra Malaysia
601-800	601-800	Universiti Sains Malaysia
601-800	601-800	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
601-800	601-800	Universiti Teknologi Petronas
801-1000	NR	Universiti Tenaga Nasional

NR= Not Ranked

Source: Times Higher Education 2018

INFOGRAPHICS NST

Singapore is well ahead of its neighbours, Indonesia and Malaysia have improved their standing in the table. With large and growing youth populations and rising economies, both nations have characteristics that could serve their universities well. The countries will need to make

sure they take advantage of these attributes and invest in higher education to establish the region on the world stage."

Singapore's two representatives, National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University, have each risen two places up the table and overtak-

en several prestigious American universities on the way.

Indonesia has increased its share of the world's top universities, boasting three places respectively (up from two). Thailand has not increased its representation but has done well to remain steady in the table — only one of its nine institutions has dropped.

Malaysia is one of the leading emerging university nations in Asia; it has one of the world's fastest growth rates in research paper outputs (albeit from a low base), postgraduate training capacity has increased, and it has the wealth needed to invest in the higher education sector. If Malaysia takes advantage of these characteristics then it may continue to improve in the rankings in the years to come.

The judges research-intensive universities across all their core missions: teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook. The ranking uses 13 carefully calibrated performance indicators grouped into five areas: Teaching (the learning environment); Research (volume, income and reputation); Citations (research influence); International outlook (staff, students and research) and Industry income (knowledge transfer).