

RANKINGS

Five M'sian varsities in top 50

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IN the latest QS Quacquarelli Symonds University Rankings: Asia 2018 results which were released last week, five Malaysian research universities did the country proud by making it to the top 50, compared to only two universities last year.

They are University of Malaya (UM), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

UM achieved its highest-ever ranking among the 425 universities from 17 Asian nations and moved from the 27th spot last year to 24th.

UPM, which has risen 13 places within the top 50, now ranks 36th. Joining UM and UPM in the top 50 are UKM (43rd, up 12 places), USM (46th, up five places), and UTM (49th, up 14 places). No other Malaysian university comes in the top 100.

However, this has still been a highly successful year for Malaysian institutions of the nation's 27 ranked universities, whereby 18 have improved their rank.

A total of 22 Malaysian universities, both public and private, rank within Asia's top 300.

Notably, Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP), a private institution, is ranked 101st (up 26 spots from 127th) and is on the verge of a place in Asia's top 100.

"As Malaysia accelerates towards becoming a higher education hub in line with Shift 8: Global Prominence as stated in the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2015-2025 (Higher Education), this ranking is indicative of the progress we have made over the years in ensuring that our institutions are able to deliver quality education across the board.

"We believe the ranking serves as a useful reference point for prospective students in choosing Malaysia as a preferred education destination," said Higher Education minister



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IDRIS JUSOH
Higher Education minister

QS UNIVERSITY RANKINGS: ASIA (MALAYSIAN OVERVIEW)



2018	2017	Institution Name
24	27	University of Malaya (UM)
36	49	Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)
43	55	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)
46	51	Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)
49	63	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)
101	127	Universiti Teknologi Petronas (PETRONAS)
131	137	Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM)
150	179	Taylor's University
158	181	Universiti Teknologi Mara (UITM)
163	151	International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)
179	193	Multimedia University (MMU)
212	343	UCSI University
217	-	Management and Science University
219	299	Limkokwing University of Creative Technology
221	229	Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UNIMAP)
222	218	University of Malaysia Sabah (UMS)
243	300	Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN)
247	261	Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)
251-260	266	Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)
271-280	280	Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT)
281-290	291	Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)
291-300	-	Sunway University
301-310	307	Universiti Tun Hussein Onn University of Malaysia (UTHM)
351-360	-	Al-Madinah International University
351-360	373	Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UNIKL)
361-370	-	Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI)
391-400	-	Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin

Source: QS Quacquarelli Symonds 2004-2017

INFOGRAPHIC NST

Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh.

"On behalf of the ministry, I would like to convey a heartfelt congratulation to all the institutions for improving and making it into this year's ranking.

"This achievement is the result of the hard work, commitment and dedication of members of the in-

stitutions — from the lecturers to the researchers and the lab assistants to the administrative staff.

"Thank you for contributing. The ministry is always supportive of your endeavours to make Malaysia's higher education



great and believes in the synergy that exists among higher education institutions which help foster a dynamic and innovative ecosystem.

"Stay focused, always strive to improve and as we say at the ministry, may we keep soaring upwards," he added.

UM acting vice-chancellor Professor Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud said the concerted efforts of all parties in the implementation of its strategic plan have delivered positive results.

He exhorted the staff to continue their tireless efforts to further improve UM's regional and global standing in the future and stressed that the university is on the right path.

"Its focus on strengthening fundamentals through the many phases of its strategic plan has provided the impetus for the university to compete regionally and internationally.

"UM has also achieved better scores for all the indicators used to compute the rankings, except for the ratio of international staff indicator," he said.

While this may be celebrated, Awang also added that the university is mindful that the results also show that UM has lost some grounds in its regional competitiveness in attracting international students and staff, and to maintain an ideal faculty student ratio such that the quality of teaching and graduate supervision is not compromised.

He recognised the challenges arising from the current economic conditions that demand the university to find new sources of funding and venture into income generating activities to support its internationalisation efforts, and to continue to intensify research and build on its network with industry and international research partners.