

# Investments in research varsities yield RM7b returns

**KUALA LUMPUR** — Government investments totalling RM5.58 billion in five research universities from 2007 to 2015 have generated returns of RM7.17 billion, said Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh.

He said the returns were from investments in many aspects, including book publication, training and consultancy.

“The success has prompted renowned world universities to collaborate with local

universities in various fields of research,” he said in an interview on Bernama News Channel’s Ruang Bicara last night.

“The research and studies carried out by local universities have been used as a source of reference by foreign universities.”

The five local public universities with research university status are Universiti Malaya (UM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Sains Malaysia

(USM), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

Idris said besides enhancing the reputation of the country’s higher education institutions at the international level, it also attracted foreigners to pursue studies, as well as foreign lecturers to work, in Malaysian universities.

He said the research universities were known for their specialised fields, like Universiti Malaya in bionic prosthetics,

Universiti Sains Malaysia (archaeology), and Universiti Putra Malaysia for its success in increasing padi yields through U-Putra padi.

It was the ministry’s hope for research universities to continue with their high-impact research, as well as enhance collaboration with industry players to achieve the objectives of the Malaysian Education Development Plan 2015-2025, he said. — Bernama