

UM placed 18th in THE rankings

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THE Times Higher Education (THE) Emerging Economies University Rankings 2019 announced recently saw Universiti Malaya (UM) rising to the top 20 among 450 universities from 43 countries classified by the Financial Times Stock Exchange as "advanced emerging", "secondary emerging" or "frontier".

The university scaled nine places from last year to rank joint 18th, alongside Tongji University, China. This is the second time the university participated in the rankings.

UM vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Abdul Rahim Hashim said the university's participation in the ranking systems is to improve its value proposition and to benchmark UM against other higher learning institutions.

"We aim to improve our linkages and collaboration with strategic industries and international partnerships to better prepare UM graduates to handle new technologies as the economy moves towards Industrial Revolution 4.0. The challenge is how universities can handle these fast evolving smart technologies in this era."

He said UM continues to focus on strengthening its fundamentals through the many phases of its Strategic Plan. Through the UM Eco-Campus Blueprint (UMECB), UM has expanded its research focus on environment and sustainability linked to the United Nations Sustainability Goals. Many initiatives outlined in the UMECB is promulgating UM's research orientation towards closer partnership in various industries and community.

Another two Malaysian universities

that made into the top 100 list are Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP) and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). UTP is ranked at 60th, scaling 17 positions from 77th last year, while UTM is ranked at 86th.

UTP vice-chancellor Professor Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Abdul Mutalib said the increase is primarily owed to the boost of scores for research, significant increase of scores for citations in academic/research publications and a slight increase of scores in international outlook and teaching.

"In this latest ranking, UTP scores the highest mark for research among other peers and institutions in Malaysia. This is primarily due to how we position ourselves as an institution that is heavily invested in research and innovation with world-class facilities and expertise," he explained.

UTP, which has been involved in the ranking since 2017, gained a 60 per cent increase in scores for publication citations (from 16.1 to 26.7). Mohamed Ibrahim said that this demonstrated the university's ability to get papers published in quality peer-reviewed journals and showed a clear correlation to the results of its research activities and its impact.

"The ranking is seen as a measure to indicate how the university is doing in comparison with its peers. This enables us to develop strategies in addressing the gap and ensuring quality education.

"It portrays a distinct characteristic of

the university: a drive and ambition to constantly evolve and improve," he said.

Moving forward, Mohamed Ibrahim said UTP's journey continues with emphasis on strategies leading towards academic leadership, research stewardship, students' experience and operational excellence.



Datuk Dr Abdul Rahim Hashim



Professor Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Abdul Mutalib

Malaysia has 11 institutions represented in the 2019 table, but only eight retained in the top 200. The other five universities that are listed in the top 200 list are: Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Putra Malaysia and Universiti Tenaga Nasional.

THE Global Rankings editor Ellie Bothwell said: "Malaysia is one of the success stories of this year's ranking with many of the country's universities rising.

"The nation is rapidly becoming an international student hub, and reforms aimed at granting students greater political freedoms — and its universities more autonomy — are welcome. However, cuts to higher education funding pose a threat to the nation's success in future years. Malaysia must ensure

that its universities receive enough investment to thrive in an increasingly competitive global higher education market."

THE Emerging Economies Rankings use the same 13 carefully calibrated performance indicators to provide the most comprehensive and balanced comparisons, trusted by students, academics, university leaders, industry and governments, but the weightings are specially recalibrated to re-

EMERGING ECONOMIES UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2019: MALAYSIA

Institution name	2019	2018
Universiti Malaya	=18	27
Universiti Teknologi Petronas	60	=77
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	86	=101
Universiti Sains Malaysia	105	135
Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman	=117	=114
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia	132	=151
Universiti Putra Malaysia	=145	108
Universiti Tenaga Nasional	=187	=159
Universiti Utara Malaysia	201-250	251-300
Universiti Teknologi MARA	351+	NR
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak	351+	NR

NR indicates not previously ranked
= indicates a joint position

Source: Times Higher Education (THE)

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reflect the characteristics of the emerging economy universities.

The performance indicators are 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).