

Collaborations, engagements boost UPM rankings

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THE key factor that helped Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) to reach the top 200 band in the recently announced Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2020 is its effort to intensify international collaboration and engagement with the community and industry.

Jumping up 43 places, UPM is now at 159th place, making it the second-best university in the country after Universiti Malaya (UM), which ranks 70th out of the best 1,000 universities worldwide.

UPM vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Aini Ideris said core efforts through research, teaching and implementation of high-impact projects had indirectly improved UPM's score in the Academic Reputation and Employer Reputation indicators.

"We continuously inculcate a culture of performance among our staff, thus productivity and efficiency remain high regardless of various constraints and challenges."

In the six indicators used by QS, UPM scored 44.8 per cent in Academic Reputation, 44.4 per cent in Employer Reputation, 73.2 per cent in Faculty/Student Ratio, 20.9 per cent in Citations per Faculty, 58.8 per cent in International Faculty Ratio and 82.3 per cent in International Student Ratio.

Although UPM's International Student Ratio was the highest in the country, Aini said



UPM has a huge improvement in the Employer Reputation indicator of the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2020.



the biggest jump was in Employer Reputation.

"Industry reputation is not limited to our students' employability, but it is a holistic engagement with local and international industry partners.

"Our staff are required to build bridges and win the industry's trust for UPM to remain relevant in teaching, learning and research.

"UPM is also ready to work with the community. It includes consultation, training,

technological licensing and product commercialisation in agriculture, green technology, engineering, education, biotechnology and food technology."

She said UPM's strong network had enabled it to attract students and researchers of international standing.

"All these improvements are due to the joint efforts of all UPM staff members and support from employees, who provide strong organisational value to excellence, diversity, sustainability and integrity in UPM."

On this year's rankings, Aini said it was the university's best achievement since it first participated in 2015.

UPM IN QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

YEAR	RANKING
2015	376th
2016	331st
2017	270th
2018	229th
2019	202nd
2020	159th

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She added that UPM had met its target of being among the top 200 world's best universities as stated in its Putra Global 200 (PG200) initiative, which is a key aspiration in the UPM Strategic Plan 2014-2020.

"This outstanding achievement has allowed UPM to set new goals in its transformation plan, in line with the role of the university and fundamentals of education."

Asked to elaborate, Aini said the UPM transformation plan had set five vital outcomes to become the university of the future.

"They are governance and financial autonomy with liberating and facilitative policies; lean and consolidated structures; mission-oriented programme offerings; seamless interaction with the industry and community; and, building facilitative infrastructure and technologies."

Aini said UPM would continue to work on its weaknesses, build on its strength and take strategic approaches to improve.



Professor Datuk Dr Aini Ideris