

Asian varsities lead latest young universities ranking

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THE Asian continent remains the world's leading repository of outstanding young universities, according to the latest QS Top 50 Under 50 Ranking, released recently by QS Quacquarelli Symonds.

Six Asian universities are among the top 10 while three Malaysian universities are listed among the top 20 outstanding young universities. The ranking is topped once more by Singapore's Nanyang Technological University (NTU), followed by The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (2nd) and Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (3rd).

The three Malaysian universities are Universiti Putra Malaysia (12th), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (13th) and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (18th).

The ranking which is compiled according to the same methodology used for QS World University Rankings, measures the performance of universities under 50 years of age.

According to the statement released by QS, the ranking also illuminates the increasing competitiveness of the global higher education landscape. The top 50 is comprised of universities from 22 different locations, evidencing the efforts made by governments worldwide to improve tertiary education provision over the past half-century.



Ben Sowter

QS research director Ben Sowter said: "It is essential to acknowledge those young, ambitious universities that have — in their short lifespan — achieved speedy recognition among academics and employers, have begun to conduct world-changing research, and have integrated themselves into a highly international higher education landscape.

"Between 1970 and 2000, global tertiary enrolment rates increased by 206 per cent, with just under 100 million students enrolled at a higher education institution at the turn of the millennium. Though enrolments have slowed and will likely to continue to do so, it is still estimated that enrolments will reach nearly 600 million by 2040.

"In such an environment, it is clear that

nations across the world will need to find ways to improve their capacity to serve the growing global student body, and an ever-larger proportion of that body will be studying at new institutions," Sowter added.

Australia is the most-represented location in the top 50 with nine featured universities, followed by France (6 top young universities), Hong Kong and Spain (4); and Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates and South Korea (3).

Sowter said: "The geographic breakdown of this ranking — with universities in Hong Kong, the UAE, South Korea, and Malaysia well-represented — helps us discern between those locations that are doing most to improve the demand for improved provision."

The ranking also highlights the increasing quality of newer institutions in the Arab Region. One-tenth of the ranking is comprised of universities in this region. The UAE's three universities are joined by Qatar University (31st, up from 36th) and Oman's Sultan Qaboos University, which has entered the top 50 for the first time (49th); Sultan Qaboos University had previously spent three years in the 61st-70th category.

The ranking is compiled according to the same methodology used to compile the QS World University Rankings. The full rankings can be found at www.TopUniversities.com

QS TOP 20 UNDER 50 RANKINGS 2020

1. Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
2. The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong
3. KAIST— Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Korea
4. City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
5. Université PSL (Paris Sciences & Lettres), France
6. Sorbonne University, France
7. Pohang University of Science and Technology, Korea
8. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong
9. Aalto University, Finland
10. CentraleSupélec, France
11. University of Technology Sydney, Australia
12. Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia
13. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia
14. Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium
15. Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna Pisa, Italy
16. University of Wollongong, Australia
17. Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Malaysia
18. University of Antwerp, Belgium
19. Queensland University of Technology, Australia
20. TELECOM ParisTech, France

Source: QS Quacquarelli Symonds 2004-2019

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