

UM tops local rivals in QS world ranking

by HARIZAH KAMEL

UNIVERSITI Malaya (UM) is 59th in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2021, improved by 11 spots from last year's rankings.

According to the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), UM has been ranked in the top 100 universities since 2018, seven years ahead of its target, but has managed to maintain and improve its ranking every year.

Apart from UM, five other public universities and three private universities also managed to show a commendable rise to the world's top 550.

Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) ranked at 132nd place from 159th in the previous year, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) at

the 141st spot from 160th, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) placed 142nd from 165th, followed by Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) at 187th and Universiti Utara Malaysia positioned between 531th and 540th.

MoHE said for private universities involved, Taylor's University came in at 379th, followed by UCSI University at 391st and Universiti Teknologi Petronas at 439th.

"In this ranking, 20 local universities were listed, of which 12 universities improved over the previous year, six universities maintained and two universities fell from last year," it said.

Additionally, 11 other local higher education institutions (public and private) have also been named in the QS ranking's top 1,000 list.



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Five Malaysian research universities are also listed among the world's top 200 and the top 1% in the world for the first time.

The five universities are UM, UPM, UKM, USM and UTM.

"It has been Malaysia's best achievement so far and has proven the country's higher education is on the right track in providing high-quality educational institutions in line with the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2015-2025 (Higher Education)," MoHE said in a statement yesterday.

The ministry added that the success will continue to position the country as a higher education hub in the region and will form partnerships with world-renowned researchers.

"The QS report also stated that Malaysia is one of the countries with the highest improvement in ratings this time around," it said.