

Malaysian research universities among world's top 200

KUALA LUMPUR: For the first time ever, all five Malaysian research universities have been ranked among the world's top 200 in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings next year.

Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Mansor Othman said the country's oldest university, Universiti Malaya (UM) was ranked 59th, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) 132nd, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (141st), Universiti Sains Malaysia (142nd) and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (187th).

He said UM made an 11-spot leap from the 70th placing last year with a 70.1 overall score, while UPM improved from its 160th position to 141st.

Mansor also said that three private universities — Taylor's University, UCSI University and Universiti Teknologi Petronas — have been listed as among the top 500 universities in the world.

"It is the country's best achievement so far in the QS World University Rankings 2021, which also stated that Malaysia is one of the countries that showed the best improvement.

"Congratulations to all the universities," he said yesterday at the one-day National Education and Learning Summit 2020 at Berjaya Times Square themed "Rethinking Malaysian Education: Gearing Up for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR4.0)" here.

Apart from that, 10 polytech-

nic have also received accreditation from Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC), nine of which are in the top 10 of 26 countries which received the Gold Award.

Among them are Politeknik Ibrahim Sultan, Politeknik Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah, Politeknik Ungku Omar, Politeknik Sultan Azlan Shah, Politeknik Kota Baru, Politeknik Kuching Sarawak and Politeknik Port Dickson.

The recognition, Mansor said, showed that local polytechnics were globally competitive and poised to be an excellence benchmark for Technical and Vocational Education Training streams in the Asia Pacific region.

He said the achievements proved that Malaysia's Education Blueprint for 2015-2025 (Higher Education) was on the right track.

"This will continue to place Malaysia as a higher education hub in the region and will help forge collaborations between institutions and world-renowned researchers."

Earlier, in his keynote address at the education summit, Mansor said the ministry was drawing up an action plan focusing on four strategies to prepare the nation's human capital with the appropriate knowledge, skills set and values to face the challenges of IR4.0.

The strategies are Strengthening Education Governance Sys-

tem towards IR4.0; Enhancing Education 4.0 Ecosystem; Developing Highly Skilled and Knowledgeable Talent for IR4.0; and Enhancing Research and Innovation Towards.

The framework will, among others, address the need for universities to enforce their roles in shaping future technology by being the testbeds for innovation and educating future generations; look into the ever-changing landscape that causes dynamic changes in industry's needs; study the fact that 65 per cent of children entering primary school today will end up working in completely new job types that do not yet exist; as well as the need to enhance Malaysia's innovation culture.

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