Eight varsities get six stars

58 universities, university colleges obtained at least a four-star rating under Setara

KUALA LUMPUR: Eight local universities have received a six-star rating (outstanding), which is the highest ranking, under the Universities and University Colleges Rating System (Setara) 2017.

The universities are Universiti Malaya, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Petronas, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia, International Medical University, Monash University Malaysia and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said 58 of the 71 universities and university colleges which were eligible for ranking in Setara 2017 obtained at least four stars.

"After four years (since 2013), we have started rating and today, the new Setara can rank our universities for excellence and are on par with international benchmarks," he said at a press conference held after presenting Setara 2017 certificates to the universities and launching the Setara 2017 instrument of assessment yesterday.

Idris said Setara 2017 included several criteria including lecturers' capabilities, strong financial standing, quality of teaching and learning, as well as research and innovation outcomes.

He said the 21 institutions which received five stars (excellent) included Universiti Tenaga Nasional, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Swinburne University of Technology (Sarawak Campus), Curtin University, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus and the International Islamic University of Malaysia.

Also in the list are Universiti Malaysia Perlis, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Taylor's University, UCSI University, Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, Management and Science University, Sunway University, Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, the Global University of Islamic Finance, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Cyberjaya University College of Medical Sciences and Lincoln University College. — Bernama