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13 Malaysian universities in Times' world ranking

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UNIVERSITI Malaya (UM) is the third best performer in Asean in the *Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2020* released on Thursday.

UM which is ranked in the 301-350 band, is the top Malaysian institution. The National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University top the rankings in Asean and are ranked 25th and in joint 48th place with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign respectively.

Malaysia improves its representation in this year's ranking, claiming 13 places overall, up from 11 last year.

These are UM, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP), Universiti Tenaga Nasional, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Multimedia University and Universiti Teknologi Mara (see table).

Of the two newcomers, the best-performing is UniMAP, which

debuts in the 601-800 band.

Almost all Malaysian universities remain stable in comparison to their performance last year, with the sole move being UPM, moving up into the 601-800 band (from 801-1,000 last year).

UM vice-chancellor Datuk Abdul Rahim Hashim attributed the success to academic members and other UM staff members, thanking them for their dedication to consistently propel the university's efforts on every front.

"UM will continue to strive for improvement under all the five pillars, as we continue to face internal and external challenges," he added. On Malaysia's performance, THE chief knowledge officer Phil Baty said it is an encouraging sign that Malaysian institutions have been able to expand their representation in this year's rankings.

"For Malaysia to move higher up the table, the country must focus on developing its research environment.

"Investment is also a key ingredient to attracting the best international students and academics to Malaysian institutions," he said.

UTAR maintained its position in the 501-600 band.

It's president and chief execu-



Source: Times Higher Education (THE)
See the full results at
<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2020/world-ranking>

tive officer Prof Dr Ewe Hong Tat said the varsity will continue to improve itself in reaching "greater heights with more industrial and international collaborations".

"We are working on more joint research collaborations with our partner universities and also industrial based research.

"We are conducting more student exchange programmes for international exposure and improving the curriculum to meet the challenges of the fourth industrial revolution," he added.

UTP vice-chancellor Prof Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Abdul Mutalib said despite the university's young age of 22 years, it has continuously achieved excellence by maintaining its position as the top private Malaysian university.

UTP maintained its 601-800 band in this year's rankings.

"UTP is not pursuing ranking just for the sake of rankings, but as a mechanism to measure the effectiveness of our rigorous and continuous effort in enhancing our teaching and learning, research, students' development and operational excellence.

"We will continue to emphasise on strategies towards academic leadership, research stewardship, students' experiences and opera-

tional excellence in our quest to become globally prominent.

"We are constantly expanding and growing our network and collaborative efforts as one of the keys for growth is networking with the right partners.

"Our goal is to become an internationally recognised partner of choice for industry and respected scientific communities by 2025," he added.

Prof Mohamed Ibrahim said UTP has also introduced courses related to data analytics to further equip students for the future and the needs of industry.

The University of Oxford tops the global rankings for the fourth year running, while the California Institute of Technology is second followed by the University of Cambridge, Stanford University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in third, fourth and fifth respectively.

Now in its 16th year, the ranking includes a total 1,396 institutions across 92 countries and regions (up from 1,258 universities across 86 territories last year).

For more information, visit <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2020/world-ranking>.

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