

UM still best performing M'sian varsity

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University ranked 23rd for electrical engineering, moving up 14 spots

By OOI MAY SIM

educate@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Universiti Malaya (UM) retains its position as the best performing Malaysian institution in the latest edition of the *QS World University Rankings* by *Subject*.

It is ranked 23rd for electrical engineering, moving up 14 positions from the previous year.

UM also rose from the 51-100 band for mechanical engineering (now 33rd), chemical engineering (now 38th), and education (now 41st). In total, it ranks in the top 50 for five subjects, compared with

two last year.

Three other Malaysian universities recorded top 50 performances. Taylor's University and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) were placed 29th and 32nd respectively in QS's first-ever hospitality and leisure management category, while the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) is 46th for the study of theology, divinity and religious studies.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh congratulated Malaysian universities for their performance.

"With five subjects in the top 50 and 19 subjects in the top 100, UM

has excelled in various engineering fields and for the first time, its education programme is ranked 41st."

Idris said USM had also made the country proud with four subjects in the top 50, notably with hospitality and leisure management, and mineral and mining.

"Speaking of firsts, we have a private university ranked in the world's top 50, namely Taylor's University at 29th place for hospitality and management," he said.

The World University Rankings by Subject, compiled by QS Quacquarelli Symonds, which produces the annual QS World University Rankings, highlights the

world's top universities on the study of 46 subjects – the A to Z of university performance evaluation.

Overall, Malaysian universities improved in standings, with 19 Malaysian universities included in this year's subject rankings.

QS Intelligence Unit head of research Ben Sowter said the results for Malaysian universities closely followed the recent news that the Higher Education Ministry wanted to collaborate with Microsoft.

"Though such collaborations have not directly affected this upwardly mobile performance, it serves to indicate Malaysia's commitment to innovation and for-

ward-thinking, traits that should ensure the country continues to have its quality acknowledged in global benchmarking exercises like our rankings," he said.

QS had also released its QS World University Rankings by faculty.

The rankings by faculty assessed university performance across five broad groups of subjects – arts and humanities; engineering and technology; life sciences and medicine; natural sciences; and social sciences and management.

Malaysia's best rank in the faculty tables is UM's 35th-placing in the engineering and technology faculty area – a rise of 19 places.