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MEDIA STATEMENT

UM CONTINUES TO RISE IN TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2019

The Times Higher Education (THE) released the World University Rankings on 26 September 2018, and this is UM's second time being ranked worldwide by THE since 2017. The release showed that the University of Malaya (UM) has improved in its ranking from the position of 351–400 last year to 301–350 this year out of 1258 institutions worldwide. This is a great achievement for the University as it is an indication of UM's gradual improvement in the ranking system. This year also sees UM as the top University amongst 11 Malaysian universities that were being ranked by THE.

The improvement in rankings is an affirmation of the university's strategic plan as UM continue to strive to be an internationally renowned institution of higher learning in research, innovation, publication and teaching. UM's rise in rankings is due to past years' initiatives taken over several years to improve the performance of the university. THE rankings employ 13 calibrated performance indicators to reflect a university's strengths in five areas that represent the core missions of research intensive universities: Teaching, Research, Citations, International Outlook and Industry Income. In this latest ranking, UM has performed best in International Outlook where we were ranked in the first decile, and our weakest pillar was in Citations, where we were ranked in the fourth decile.

UM's Vice-Chancellor, Datuk Ir. (Dr.) Abdul Rahim Hj. Hashim is delighted with the results. He says, "We are delighted that UM has once again been recognised amongst the world's leading universities and Malaysia's top University". He reiterated that UM is not chasing after rankings, but its participation in the ranking systems is indeed to benchmark UM against other Institutions of Higher Learning, in order to gauge the present state and status of the university and to plan for further strategic improvement.

The Vice-Chancellor also mentioned that over the years UM has improved in building on its fundamentals, but it is utmost pertinent for UM to improve in strategic thrust areas, namely, for financial sustainability, increase industry income, and wealth creation. This is because the transformative challenges that universities will face in the coming years are in the area of Industrial Revolution 4.0. Technology driven innovation industries will demand students that are trained in critical tech-sectors like fintech, blockchains, smartapps, smart contracts and other robotech skills. In order to spur UM to scale greater heights in IR 4.0, the University requires new funds to harness and train such skills. Without a well-endowed fund, these challenges will be harder for the University to achieve.

The Vice-Chancellor would like to thank the University community - staff and students for their commitments and contributions towards the achievement of the University's performance. He also would like to thank the Ministry of Education (MOE) and hope that MOE will continue to provide strong support to UM for UM to fulfill its mission and in the process, produce talented graduates that will become future leaders and technopreneurs for a new Malaysia.

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