Five varsities make top 200 in Asia Pacific education list

KUALA LUMPUR — Five Malaysian universities made the top 200 of this year's Times Higher Education (THE) best Asia Pacific schools list, led by Universiti Putra Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia in the joint 121-130 band.

Coming in at number three was Universiti Teknologi Petronas in the 131-140 band, while Universiti Sains Malaysia sat in the 141-150 band.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia was listed within the 151-160 band, while Universiti Teknologi Mara and Universiti Utara Malaysia were listed in the 200 and above band in the THE's inaugural Asia Pacific university ranking.

Phil Baty, THE rankings editor, said Malaysian universities made the ranking due to their good international outlook.

"It is great news that seven Malaysian institutions make this list of the best universities in the Asia-Pacific region, and that five of these feature in the top 200," he said in a statement.

"The country is led by both Universiti Putra Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia in the joint 121-130 band.

"Malaysia's universities generally perform well when it comes to their international outlook."

But Baty noted that Malaysian varsities often achieved low scores for research impact (citations), and urged them to do better in research quality to improve their standings.

"While the country is building its research capacity, it will need to improve the quality of research if it wants to improve its standing in this ranking in future years," he said.

Occupying the top spot was the National University of Singapore, which has scored the best marks for several years now. Singapore's Nanyang Technological University also sat in the list's top five, taking up the fifth spot.

Second on the list was China's Peking University, with University of Melbourne following after. China's Tsinghua University also made the top five, occupying the fourth spot. — Malay Mail Online