

Big milestone for eight universities

Varsities achieve Tier Six in Setara system

KUALA LUMPUR: Eight universities – two private and six public – achieved Tier Six or outstanding status in the Rating System for Malaysian Higher Education 2017 (Setara).

The public universities are Universiti Malaya, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Petronas, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Putra Malaysia and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

The private universities are International Medical University and Monash University Malaysia.

Seventy-one out of 105 Malaysian universities and university colleges took part in Setara 2017, a rating instrument based on a seven-step methodology encompassing national and international benchmarking, stakeholders' engagement, pilot run, data verification as well as sensitivity and validity analysis.

The universities were rated by more than 90 senior auditors based on four main criteria – general, teaching and learning, research and innovation, and services.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said this marked the first time the Tier Six rating was achieved.

"I believe the ratings are fair reflections of the state of our higher learning institutions," he said at the Setara 2017 award ceremony here yesterday, after congratulating the varsities on a job well done.

Idris said Setara classified universities into three categories – matured universities which have been around for over 15 years, emerging universities which are below 15 years and university colleges which have produced one cohort of undergraduate students.

Another 21 institutions – 11 private and 10

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public – were classified as Tier Five or excellent, while 29 others achieved Tier Four or very good status.

Institutions that achieved Tier Five status include Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Sunway University, Taylor's University, UCSI University, Management and Science University, Cyberjaya University College of Medical Sciences, The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus, Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation, Curtin University Malaysia, Lincoln University, Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus, Universiti Tenaga Nasional, Universiti Utara Malaysia, International Islamic University Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Perlis, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, University Malaysia Terengganu and International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance.

Setara 2017 chief auditor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Saleh Jaafar said besides looking at the four criteria and other relevant data, institutions' financial statements were also closely examined.