Universities obtain six star rating

SIX universities comprising five public and one private have received the six-star rating of the Malaysia Research Assessment (MyRA) for the year 2014-2015.

They are Universiti Malaya, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi Petronas.

The MyRA instrument is used to gauge the research, development and innovation activities in public universities and tertiary institutions with university status, the branch campuses of foreign universities and university colleges.

The outcome of the research, development and innovation assessment and achievement is categorised into six levels, with 'six stars' being the highest level and 'one star' the lowest.

A total of 20 public universities and 38 tertiary institutions (27 private universities, five branch campuses of foreign universities and six university colleges) were assessed for the MyRA ranking for 2014/2015. The MyRA star ranking for 2015 was conducted by the Higher Education Department.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said that since 2006, the focus of the government on research, development and innovation in research universities had been productive with five universities obtaining six stars in the MyRA assessment.

He said this showed that the research and innovation environment existed, especially among research universities.

The results could be interpreted in the achievements attained in the QS World University Rankings 2015 with UM placed in the 146th position among 150 outstanding universities in the world. — Bernama