



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Vice-Chancellor Datuk Seri Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim (second from left) and UMP board chairman Datuk Seri Ibrahim Ahmad (on Daing's left) with the QS 5-Star certificate in Kuantan recently. PIC COURTESY OF UMP

## QS 5-STAR RATING

# Another first for Pahang varsity

**KUANTAN:** Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) has added another feather to its cap after emerging as the first local technical and non-research university to receive the prestigious QS 5-star overall rating award in the 2018 Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Star Rating System.

The QS Star rating reflects the high-quality teaching, research, community services and globalisation at UMP, besides performing well in the advanced criteria of QS Star ratings, namely "innovation" and "inclusiveness".

UMP Vice-Chancellor Datuk Seri Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim said the latest achievement was at a par with UMP's aspiration to become a state-of-the-art technical university by 2020.

He said instead of being satisfied with its latest feat, UMP would continue to strive to ensure its students and curriculum were ready to meet future demands and challenges.

Since it began to provide services in the tertiary education industry some 16 years ago, he said UMP had always been at the forefront, particularly in the technology and engineering sector.

"As part of the Education Ministry's objective to produce high-quality education system, nine faculties and one language centre in UMP are ready to offer a wide range of skills and practical-based tertiary education in the fields of engineering and technology," he said, adding UMP was currently ranked in the top 2.4 percent universities in the 2018 QS Asia University Rankings.

In a bid to reinforce the movement, Daing said new programmes were established in areas such as Business Engineer-

ing, Process Plant Operation and Mining and Mineral Technology.

He said UMP had been working closely with the Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences, Reutlingen University in Germany and the Northern Illinois University in the United States, for dual-degree programmes.

Daing said 95 per cent of UMP graduates had been employed upon graduation last year and the graduate employability encompassed beyond academic strength, focusing on "work-readiness" – the ability to work effectively in a multi-cultural team, deliver presentations and manage people and projects.

"In the QS Stars criteria of employability, UMP achieved maximum points by scoring 150 with five stars. This shows that UMP receives relatively high endorsement from employers on its graduates' readiness and competency when they enter the job market."

Since appointed UMP vice-chancellor, Daing had embarked on a massive administrative and management transformation agenda in steering the operational ecosystem of the university.

His exceptionally good management style is value-based, strategy-focused, and performance-driven as he has successfully guided UMP through the strategic phases for 2008-2010 and 2011-2015, and he is currently focusing on implementing and accomplishing UMP Strategic Plan 2016-2020. The Pahang-based university had emerged as the top university among 15 Asian universities with high publication growth rate in Engineering as reported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in 2013.