



Dr Daing (middle, in grey slacks) and UMP staff celebrating their achievement.

Recognition for university

UMP awarded excellence ratings for setting high standards

By **ONG HAN SEAN**
hansean@thestar.com.my

KUANTAN: Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) has bagged the QS 5-star ratings award in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Star Rating System 2018 in the recently concluded QS Stars audit.

The university said in a statement that it become the first Malaysian technological university and non-research university to receive such a distinguished 5-star overall excellence rating.

"Specifically, the QS Star ratings reflect high qualities of teaching, research, community services, and globalisation at the institution.

UMP also did well in the advanced criteria of QS Star ratings, namely "Innovation" and "Inclusiveness," with 5-star ratings.

"Besides that, UMP is ranked in the top 2.4% universities in 2018 QS Asia University Rankings. This groundbreaking achievement reinforces the results of the previous prestigious ratings and high-profile assessments," it said.

UMP vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Seri Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim said the achievement coincided with UMP's aspiration to become a state-of-the-art technological university by 2020, which would receive not only local but also international recognition.

He said however, that UMP was not resting on its laurels.

"We constantly move forward" and evolve to ensure that our students and curriculum meet the demands and challenges of the future. For almost 16 years of providing services in the tertiary education industry, UMP has always been at the forefront across national borders, particularly in technological and engineering areas," Prof Daing said in the statement.

In an effort to support the mission of the Education Ministry to develop a high-quality education system, nine faculties and one language centre at UMP are ready to offer a wide range of skills-based and practical-based tertiary education in engineering and technology.

New programmes have also been established in areas such as Business Engineering, Process Plant Operation, and Mining and Mineral Technology.

In addition, UMP has been working closely with the Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences and Reutlingen University in Germany, as well as the Northern Illinois University in the United States, for dual-degree programmes, the statement said.

In recent years, UMP received five-star ratings in Malaysia



Prof Daing: The achievement does not mean UMP will be resting on its laurels.

Research Assessment (MyRA), the Rating System for Malaysian Higher Education Institutions 2017 (Setara), the Ministry of Higher Education Star Ratings 2017 (MyMoheS) and the Management Excellence Award 2016 based on the Malaysian Auditor-General's Financial Management Accountability Index.

Additionally, UMP has 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 (Unesco) in 2013, and was ranked world's 58th by UI

GreenMetric World University Ranking in 2016.

UMP deputy vice-chancellor (research and innovation) Prof Datuk Dr Mashitah Mohd Yusoff said the university continuously records excellent performance and growth in its indexed publications and citations in two popular databases, namely InCites by Clarivate Analytics and SciVal by Elsevier.

She said InCites recognised UMP as one of the young and fastest-growing universities in Malaysia which stands at the first place in the quality of research.

The well-known databases also placed 64% of UMP's research articles as 'hot' papers through its subsidiary database known as "Essential Science Indicators".

The statement added that 95% of UMP graduates had been employed upon graduation in 2017.

"Graduate employability encompasses more than academic strength, focusing on work-readiness — the ability to work effectively in a multi-cultural team, to deliver presentations, and to manage people and projects. In the QS Stars criteria of employability, UMP remarkably scored the full score of 150 with five stars.

"This shows that UMP receives relatively high endorsement from employers on its graduates' readiness and competency," it said.