

# Malaysian Universities Storm 2018 Times Higher Education List

By Kongleaphy Keam on September 5, 2017



Advertisement

Your support for good governance and independent journalism here:  
700 x 125  
Independent Journalism. Now more important than ever.

The Times World University Rankings are out for another year with Malaysian Universities swamping the list, in the process disrupting the previously sedately moving ranking of Asean's top Universities for 2018.

Further up the list both of Singapore's bastions of higher education – the National University of Singapore (NUS), and Nanyang University – demonstrated that they are yet to reach their full potential with both improving two places on last year to finish at 22nd and 54th in the world respectively, well ahead of Asean's third highest ranked university, Universiti Malaya.

Entering the Times 2018 World University Rankings for the first time, the 67-year-old Universiti Malaya is ranked a respectable 351-400, well ahead of Asean's fourth highest ranked university for 2018, Thailand's Mahidol, in the 501-600 band.

The entry of Universiti Malaya brings to an end a grip that Mahidol has had on the third highest ranked Asean university title for many years, as predicted by *AEC News Today* in July. (See: *Times' Asia Pacific University Ranking Distorts, Confuses: Mahidol No Longer #3 in Asean*)



Wikimedia

Universiti Malaya is now officially Asean's third highest ranked university with the release of the Times 2018 World University Rankings

Universiti Malaya wasn't the only success story for Malaysia. All up there are eight Malaysian universities in the 2018 World University Rankings, only one less than Thailand.

Nipping at Mahidol's heels in the same 501-600 band is Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), who enters the 2018 World University Rankings for the first time.

Advertisement

Although further down the 2018 list in the 601-800 band for 2018, the University of the Philippines and Indonesia's Bandung Institution of Technology (ITB) were two of the big movers in the region, jumping about 200 places from the 801+ band last year.

The regions other big mover was Chiang Mai

University, though for it the news isn't so good. Ranked in the 601-800 band in the Times 2017 World University Rankings, for 2018 it is relegated to the 801 and beyond band.

In total 23 Asean universities made it into the Times' top 1,000 universities in the world list for 2018, two more than last year.

Malaysia: One of Asia's Leading

Phil Baty, Time Higher Education (THE) editorial director, global rankings, said Malaysia is one of the leading emerging university nations in Asia; it has one of the world's fastest growth rates in research paper outputs (albeit from a low base), PhD training capacity has increased, and it has the wealth needed to invest in the higher education sector.

Acknowledging the stiff competition at the higher end of the list, Mr Baty said both Singapore institutions recorded impressive improvements this year as a result of improved teaching and research reputations, and research productivity

"NUS is now on a par with the University of Toronto and has overtaken Carnegie Mellon University, while Nanyang now outranks the University of California, Santa Barbara, University of California, Davis, and the University of Minnesota", he said.

Also impressive, he said, was the performance of the University of the Philippines, along with Indonesia where three universities are included in the Times 2018 World University Rankings compared to just two in 2017.

Advertisement

"Indonesia has a large and growing youth population, a pool of more than 4,300 universities and is growing economically. To improve, Indonesia should increase its research capacity as the majority of its institutions have historically been focused on teaching", Mr Baty said.

With the exception of

Chiang Mai University, Thailand's nine entries in the Times 2018 World University Rankings saw little movement over last year.

According to Mr Baty Thai universities are suffering from low student enrollment due to shrinking birth rates and there are concerns that government plans to allow foreign universities to launch campuses in the country will put some Thai universities in danger of shutting down.

As with all lists, the 2018 World University Rankings should be used as a starting point rather than as a definitive list. Some universities have strengths in some areas, and are not so strong in others.

For the 2018 World University Rankings entrants were judged on four criteria: teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and international outlook, comprising 13 carefully calibrated performance indicators.

## 2018 Asean University Ranking

Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2018 vs 2017						
2018 Asean Ranking	2018 Global Ranking	University Name	Country	2017 Asean Ranking	2017 Global Ranking	2017-2018 Change
1	22	National University of Singapore	Singapore	1	24	↑ 2
2	52	Nanyang Technological University	Singapore	2	54	↑ 2
3	351-400	Universiti Malaysia	Malaysia	NR	NR	NR
4	501-600	Mahidol University	Thailand	3	501-600	—
5	501-600	Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)	Malaysia	NR	NR	NR
6	601-800	Chulalongkorn University	Thailand	7 (tie)	601-800	—
7	601-800	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia	Malaysia	8	601-800	—
8	601-800	King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi	Thailand	4	601-800	—
9	601-800	University of the Philippines	Philippines	12 (tie)	801+	approx. 200 up
10	601-800	University Putra Malaysia	Malaysia	5 (tie)	601-800	—
11	601-800	University Sains Malaysia	Malaysia	7 (tie)	601-800	—
12	601-800	Suranaree University of Technology	Thailand	10	601-800	—
13	601-800	Universiti of Teknologi Malaysia	Malaysia	5 (tie)	601-800	—
14	601-800	Universiti of Teknologi Petronas	Malaysia	6	601-800	—
15	601-800	Bandung Institut of Technology (ITB)	Indonesia	12 (tie)	801+	approx. 200 up
16	801-1000	Chiang Mai University	Thailand	9 (tie)	601-800	approx. 200 down

Source: 2018 Times Higher Education

AEC News Today Digital

The 2018 Times Asean University Ranking

Visit Times Higher Education to view the full 2018 World University Rankings

**Related:**

- *Malaysia's education in 60 years: Much ado over language (The Malaysia Insight)*
- *Times' Asia Pacific University Ranking Distorts, Confuses: Mahidol No Longer #3 in Asean (AEC News Today)*

Advertisement



**Bio**

**Latest Posts**

**Kongleaphy Keam**  
 Writer at AEC News Today

Kongleaphy Keam is a Khmer national with broad experiences in journalism for more than 2 years. In prior of joining AEC News Today team, he was a senior reporter and writer at Phuket Gazette, a local English newspapers in Phuket Thailand. Kongleaphy graduated his Bachelor Degree of International Studies from Prince of Songkla University. He is fluent in three language: Khmer mother tongue, Thai, and English with variety of multi-cultural experiences.

[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Google+](#) [LinkedIn](#)

Please support independent news media and share this post:

Tweet

Share 1

submit

WhatsApp

Telegram

Share

Email

Print

**Related**

**University Rankings: Malaysia Emerges as Higher Education**

**Times' Asia Pacific University Ranking Distorts, Confuses:**

**Singapore Tops First Asia-Pacific**