Strong research lifts HKU's world ranking

The University of Hong Kong is ranked the world's 25th best university in the QS World University Rankings, one position higher than last year, thanks to strengthened research.

Released today by global higher education analysts QuacquarelliSymonds, HKU sees its 2019 ranking improve for the third consecutive year. It was 26th on the list a year ago.

It is the fifth best university in Asia, after National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Tsinghua University and the University of Tokyo.

Globally, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is named the world's No 1 university for a record seventh consecutive year. QS ranks the world's top 1,000 universities from 85 different countries.

"The University of Hong Kong's improvement can be attributed to a strengthening research performance. It improves its rank for Citations per Faculty - the indicator that QS uses to measure research impact - by seven places," QS said.

Seven universities from Hong Kong are featured in this year's ranking.

The only other university to improve its overall rank is Baptist University, which rises from 299 to 277.

University of Science and Technology's ranking dropped to 37th from 30th, while that of the Chinese University of Hong Kong dropped to 49th from 46th.

Polytechnic University is no longer among the top 100 universities in the world. Its ranking dropped from 95th to 106th.

Meanwhile, a University Grants Committee task force has suggested the government double funding for research and development to HK$4 billion a year by 2022.

Chaired by Tsui Lap-chee, the Task Force on Review of Research Policy and Funding was set up to review research support strategy for the higher education sector in Hong Kong.

It has finished a preliminary report, and is consulting the public until July 10. A final report will be submitted to the government later this year.
In Hong Kong, the ratio of gross domestic expenditure on R&D to GDP was between 0.72 percent and 0.79 percent from 2011 to 2016. This ratio is much lower than the mainland, Singapore, South Korea, Britain and the United States.