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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **QS World University Rankings by Subject 2018: UM Achieves Top 50 in the World for 7 Subjects**

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This year's QS World University Rankings by Subject 2018 saw the University of Malaya (UM) making a steady improvement amongst the world's leading universities by having seven (7) of its academic disciplines ranked within the Top 50. These include Library & Information Management (24<sup>th</sup> in rank), Electrical & Electronic Engineering (30<sup>th</sup>), Development Studies (30<sup>th</sup>), Mechanical, Aeronautical & Manufacturing Engineering (41<sup>st</sup>), Chemical Engineering (42<sup>nd</sup>), Civil & Structural Engineering (46<sup>th</sup>), and Mineral & Mining (47<sup>th</sup>). In addition, UM has also recorded 21 subjects ranked in the world Top 100 this year, an improvement from 19 subjects last year.

The record achievement of the five engineering subjects in the Top 50 has helped to propel UM's Engineering and Technology to the 22<sup>nd</sup> place (from 35<sup>th</sup> in 2017) in the broad subject area. In the Social Science and Management category, UM reached the 45<sup>th</sup> spot in the rankings (from 71<sup>st</sup> in 2017) with 7 subjects in the Top 100 band. In the Arts and Humanities category, UM is now ranked 65<sup>th</sup> in this newly released subject rankings (from 85<sup>th</sup> in 2017), contributed by 7 subjects in the Top 100 band.

In thanking all staff of the University of Malaya, Vice-Chancellor Datuk (Ir.) Abdul Rahim Hashim attributed UM's achievement in the Subject Rankings to the high productivity of its staff and their commitment and dedication to outstanding research and teaching, while striving for excellence in performing their duties. "The rankings result reflects the international recognition of the quality of UM's faculty and graduates," said Datuk Abdul Rahim.

Datuk Abdul Rahim also attributed UM's success to its Strategic Plan, which has been consistently implemented throughout the past years and have borne good fruit, both locally and internationally. The Strategic Plan, now in its third phase covering the years 2016-2020, places great emphasis on transforming the research landscape of the university with a special focus on its research culture. The plan calls for greater efforts in internationalization, which is an important contributing factor in enhancing visibility of the university in the international arena. The university has firmed up

research cooperation with international partners, resulting in nearly 50% international joint-authorship in total papers published. UM has also embarked on translational research which aims at utilizing its research output directly to meet the needs of industry, government, society and the nation.

Datuk Abdul Rahim revealed that UM's Strategic Plans also calls for improvements in teaching and learning by emphasizing outstanding teaching and learning experiences through the provision of high quality academic programmes. Priority is being given to effective pedagogy in course delivery as well as the integration of ICT in teaching & learning and the internationalization of the curriculum to ensure that UM graduates are well sought-after globally.

While delighted with the results, Datuk Abdul Rahim recognized that UM is now facing enormous challenges in moving further ahead, in view of the current financial situation. The challenges arising from the current economic conditions require the university to find additional sources of funding and venture into income-generating activities to support its internationalization efforts, and to continue to intensify research and build on its network with industry and international research partners. Datuk Abdul Rahim reiterated that UM will need strong support from both the Malaysian Government as well as the industries in order to advance further in all academic aspects, including international rankings.

Datuk Abdul Rahim thanked the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia for its strong support that has contributed significantly to the University's achievement. In looking forward, Datuk Abdul Rahim emphasized that the UM community is committed to doing better in the future and he called upon the Ministry for continued support in the coming years to realize the full potential of the University.

For more information, please contact:

Puan Shahzatul Ermiza Johol  
Deputy Director  
Corporate Communications Office, UM  
Tel: 03-7967 7741

Puan Tuty Haryati Kassim  
Corporate Relations Officer  
Corporate Communications Office, UM  
Tel: 03-7967 3424 / 0162195696

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*Issued by:*  
Corporate Communications Office (CCO)  
Level L, Chancellery Building  
University of Malaya  
50603 Kuala Lumpur  
Tel: 03-7967 3238 Fax: 03-79560027 Email: [corporate@um.edu.my](mailto:corporate@um.edu.my)