



**MALAYSIA**

# **IMPACT OF RANKINGS ON HIGHER EDUCATION & QUALITY ASSURANCE**

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# OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- RANKING VS QUALITY ASSURANCE
- THES RANKING
- IMPACT OF RANKINGS ON NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS
- IMPACT OF RANKINGS ON QUALITY ASSURANCE – UKM AS THE EXAMPLE
- CONCLUSION

## RANKING

- RELATIVE POSITIONS AMONGST PARTICIPATING GROUP  
← MATHEMATICALLY DERIVED  
← PERFORMANCE ON A NUMBER OF SELECTED MEASURES
- INDEPENDENT DATA OR OBTAINED & USUALLY VERIFIED BY HEI
- USUALLY NO SITE VISIT

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

- JUDGEMENT OF STRENGTHS & CONCERNS IN A NUMBER OF MEASURES RELATED TO INPUT, PROCESS AND OUTPUT OF HIGHER EDUCATION → QUALITY ENHANCEMENT
- DATA ALWAYS OBTAINED FROM HEI AS A SELF REPORT
- ALMOST ALWAYS INVOLVE SITE VISIT BY PEERS

# THES-QS

(Times Higher Education Supplement-Quacquerelli Symonds)

| Criteria                 | Indicator                    | Description  | Weight |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|--------|
| Research Quality         | Peer Review                  | Composite score drawn from peer review (which is divided into five subject areas). 3,703 responses.                | 40%    |
|                          | Citations per faculty member | Score based on past 5 year research performance searched in Scopus factored against the size of the research body. | 20%    |
| Teaching Quality         | Recruiter Review             | Score based on responses to recruiter survey. 738 responses.   | 10%    |
|                          | Faculty/Student              | Score based on student/faculty ratio.  | 20%    |
| International Reputation | Int'l Faculty                | Score based on proportion of international faculty.  | 5%     |
|                          | Int'l Student                | Score based on proportion of international students.   | 5%     |

# ISSUES RELATED TO CRITERIA & METHODOLOGY

- **VALIDITY & RELIABILITY OF DATA**
  - MALAYSIAN CHINESE & INDIANS CLASSIFIED AS INTERNATIONAL
  - DATA NOT VERIFIED WITH SOURCE
- **MANY ASIAN LANGUAGE ARTS & HUMANITIES JOURNALS NOT INDEXED IN ISI/SCOPUS DATABASE**
- **INTERNATIONAL FACULTY - NUMBER OR QUALITY?**
- **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS – UNMET LOCAL DEMANDS**

# PERCEPTIONS OF THES RANKING

- RANKING = STANDARDS , THEREFORE  
DROP IN RANKING =DECLINING  
STANDARDS→ UNIVERSITY BASHING
- METHODOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT  
(2005-2007) –NO YEAR ON YEAR  
COMPARISON
- COMMERCIAL INTEREST → DIVERSION  
OF CRUCIAL EDUCATIONAL BUDGET  
TO “RANKING GAME”

# CHARACTERISTICS OF TOP 20 THES

- ABOUT 200 YEARS OLD
- ABOUT 2500 ACADEMIC FACULTY
- ABOUT 24,000 STUDENTS
- ABLE TO ATTRACT & RETAIN TOP PERSONNEL (HIGH SELECTIVITY)
- USD 1 BILLION ENDOWMENT
- USD 2 BILLION ANNUAL BUDGET

# RESPONSES BY GOVERNMENT

- MALAYSIAN UNIVERSITIES RATING SYSTEM –SETARA
- ACCELERATED PROGRAMME FOR EXCELLENCE (APEX)



# NATIONAL RANKING-SETARA

- ALL UNIVERSITIES RANKED IN ONE OF 3 CATEGORIES:
  - RESEARCH INTENSIVE
  - BROADBASED IN RANGE OF PROGRAMMES
  - SPECIALISED IN SPECIFIC DISCIPLINES
- QUANTITATIVE SURVEY
- 6 DOMAINS:
  - WEIGHTS DEPEND ON CATEGORY OF UNIVERSITY
  - 2-3 INDICATORS PER DOMAIN
- BENCHMARKED INTERNATIONALLY

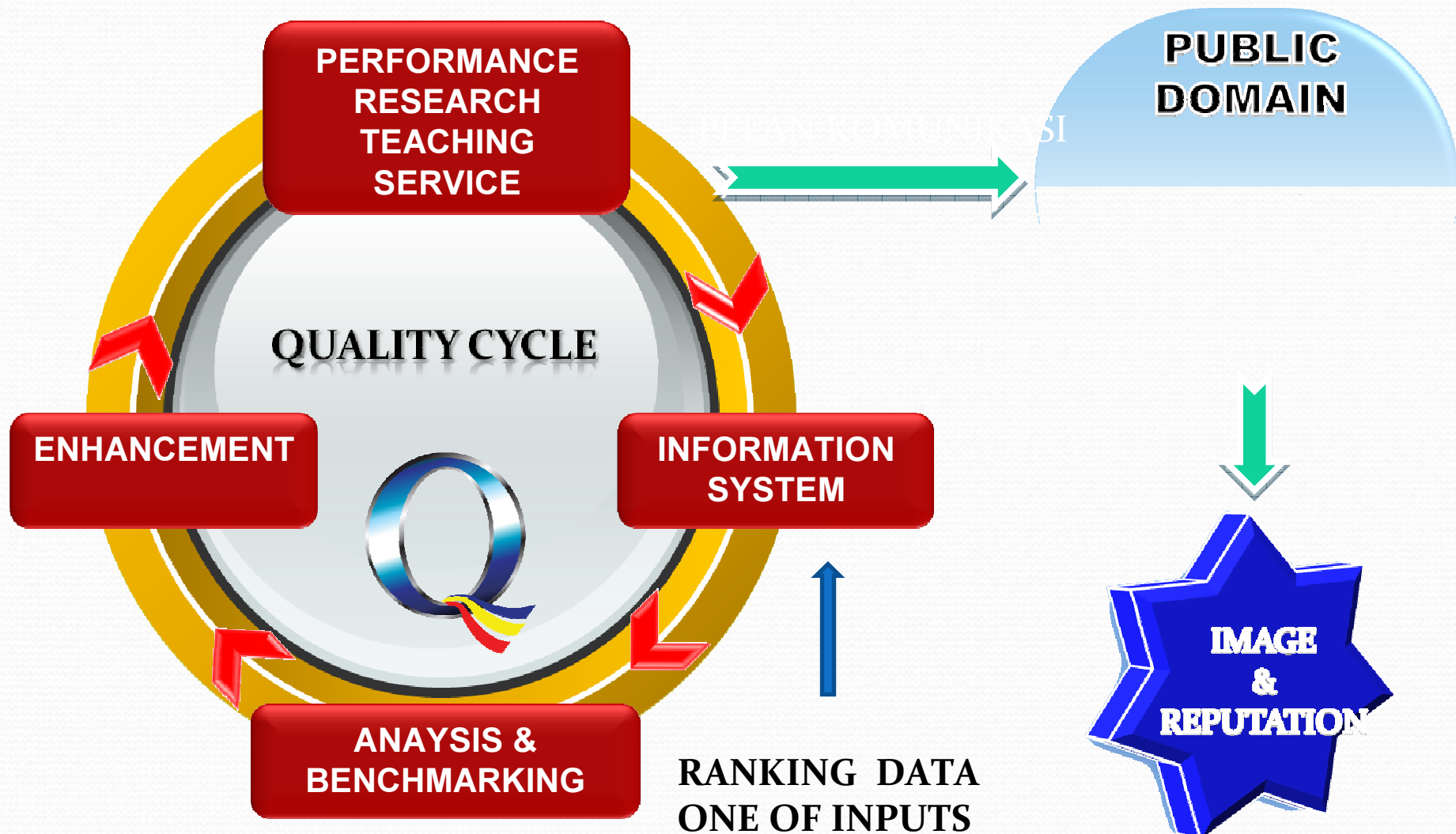
# ACCELERATED PROGRAMME FOR EXCELLENCE (APEX)

- SELECTION OF A UNIVERSITY PERCEIVED TO HAVE POTENTIAL AND READINESS TO TRANSFORM AND MANAGE CHANGE RAPIDLY.
- FACILITATED TOWARDS WORLD CLASS STATUS WITH SPECIAL INCENTIVES, RESOURCES & AUTONOMY
- APEX TARGETS:
  - ➡ 2 HEIs IN TOP 100 BY 2015
  - ➡ 3 HEIs IN TOP 100 BY 2020
  - ➡ 2 HEIs IN TOP 50 BEYOND 2020

# THES-QS 2008

|                                   | THES Ranking |             |             |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                   | <u>2006</u>  | <u>2007</u> | <u>2008</u> |
| 1. Universiti Malaya              | 192          | 246         | 230         |
| 2. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia | 185          | 309         | 250         |
| 3. Universiti Sains Malaysia      | 277          | 307         | 313         |
| 4. Universiti Putra Malaysia      | 292          | 364         | 320         |
| 5. Universiti Teknologi Malaysia  | -            | 415         | 356         |

# IMPACT ON INSTITUTIONAL CONTINUOUS QUALITY ENHANCEMENT QA SYSTEM OF UKM



# RANKING VS. QA CRITERIA

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>PEER REVIEW</b>            | <b>ACADEMIC FACULTY NETWORKS<br/>RESEARCH GRANTS,<br/>COLLABORATION, PUBLICATION,<br/>CONFERENCE</b>   |
| <b>RECRUITER REVIEW</b>       | <b>GRADUATES PERFORMANCE ,<br/>EVALUATION &amp; EMPLOYABILITY<br/>TEACHING-LEARNING<br/>APPROACHES</b> |
| <b>CITATIONS/FACULTY</b>      | <b>RESEARCH &amp; PUBLICATION</b>  |
| <b>FACULTY:STUDENT</b>        | <b>PROGRAMME DELIVERY<br/>ARRANGEMENTS</b>   |
| <b>INTERNATIONAL FACULTY</b>  | <b>ACADEMIC FACULTY<br/>RECRUITMENT</b>  |
| <b>INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS</b> | <b>STUDENT SELECTION</b>   |

Balanced

Focused



National Identity, Nation State, Cultural Diversity & Globalisation

Medical & Health Technology

Climate Change

Sustainable Regional Development

Renewable Energy

Nanotechnology & Advanced Material

Biodiversity For Biotechnology Development

RESEARCH EDUCATION SERVICE

EFFICIENT DELIVERY SYSTEM

Project 1 Transformation Machinery  
Project 9 Empowerment & Autonomy

Project 4 Niche Excellence Centre (Niche CoEs)

Project 5 International Outreach

Project 6 Citations Leaping

Project 7 World Class Benchmarking

Project 8 Global Language

Project 3 Bahasa Melayu

Project 2-3 PERPADUAN

Project 2-2 HADHARI

Project 2-1 KAMPA

Project 2 National Identity

# EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS

- RESEARCH GROUPS → FOCUSSED & MULTIDISCIPLINARY IN 8 NICHEs  
→ IMPROVED PUBLICATION + INCENTIVES
- STUDENT → INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE RECRUITMENT; GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP MOBILITY PROGRAMMES; SKILLS TO IMPROVE EMPLOYABILITY; JOINT PROGRAMMES (E.G. UDE-UKM)

# EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS

- ACADEMIC FACULTY → STRICT SELECTION CRITERIA, BETTER STARTING SALARIES & PROMOTION SCHEME, SPECIAL INCENTIVE SCHEMES TO ATTRACT WORLD RENOWNED SCHOLARS FOR CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE
- INSTITUTIONAL RESTRUCTURING – CENTER FOR CORPORATE PLANNING AND COMMUNICATION
- GOVERNANCE – MORE AUTONOMY, INCLUSION & TRANSPARENCY



# CONCLUSION

- INTERNATIONAL RANKING – USEFUL TOOL FOR BENCHMARKING
- AT NATIONAL LEVEL IN MALAYSIA → NATIONAL RANKING SYSTEM & APEX
- AT INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL IN UKM → GREATER USE IN CONTINUOUS QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PROCESSES
- → TRANSFORMATION PLAN FOR LEAPFROGGING FORWARD

# CONCLUSION

- LIMITATIONS OF RANKING:
  - NOT EVERYTHING THAT IS COUNTED, COUNTS
  - NOT EVERYTHING THAT COUNTS CAN BE COUNTED

“MALAYSIA,  
TRULY ASIA”

– *Tourism Malaysia*



Terima kasih

Danke Schön

Thank you

