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Research for the Nation

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia



MALAYSIAN research university, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM – The National University of Malaysia) is recognised for being a leading university which continues to strive to be a pioneer in Research and Development in order to achieve the aspiration of producing a society permeated with dynamic and civil leadership skills.

This vision towards being a pioneer is becoming a reality through human capital and the commercialisation of innovative research which has contributed positively in the development of the Malaysian economy. The university's Vice-Chancellor – Prof Tan Sri Dr. Sharifah Hapsah Syed Hasan Shahabudin tells *International Business Review* more.

▼ BUILDING HUMAN CAPITAL

As one of the country's leading public universities, UKM has turned out human capital which have boosted economic growth. As of this year, this educational institution has produced more than 130,000 graduates, of which, many have gone on to assume top managerial positions in the private sector as well as in top level positions in the government such as ministers and senior civil servants.

Moreover, the university has also produced nearly 20,000 and 2,000 post-graduates at the Masters and PhD levels respectively, thereby supplying a highly skilled human resource for an innovative economy.

As a research intensive university, UKM has continuously been coming up with initiatives to strengthen its research. One initiative aims to increase its intake of post-graduates to achieve a 50:50 undergraduate and post-graduate student ratio by the year 2015. As for milestones UKM is particularly proud of its contributions towards making the national language as the language of science and technology and showing that it is of academic value.

▼ THE BIRTH OF AN INNOVATIVE ECONOMY

In line with the country's shift from a knowledge-based economy to an innovative economy, UKM has initiated efforts to introduce its patents to the market place by utilising the start-up strategy and building capacity for academic

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▀ Nation Builders

Right: Located in Bangi, Selangor, just 35 km south of Kuala Lumpur, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) is one of Malaysia's four Research Universities, and is known for being at the forefront of innovative R&D in the country.



entrepreneurship innovation and job creation with the launch of its 33 start-ups to draw venture capital and to develop its products.

To realise the government's vision of being a fully-developed nation by the year 2020, UKM hopes to produce graduates who are innovative, forward-looking and contribute to the scientific and technological advances of the future.

The university also has a vision of transferring innovative knowledge for social development, environmental sustainability, and building greater pathways for research and development to penetrate the market place. It aims to do this by focusing on entrepreneurship in educational centres like the Centre for Entrepreneurship and SME Development (CESMED) which will provide practical and consulting-based learning and training in education, research and consultancy to promote entrepreneurship development, sustainable growth and community engagement.

▀ A LEADER IN THE WORLD

Part of UKM's future efforts in the innovation realm is to transform itself to be a leading university of the world by 2018. The first step in realising this is to benchmark itself against other leading world-class universities by upping its research quality, so that other educational institutions will turn to it for collaborations in

research and in the dissemination of knowledge in the region.

Among some of the partners in its current collaborations is Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey – a premier private coeducational institution which focuses on research and entrepreneurship. To help nurture a healthy entrepreneurial culture, UKM has established the Centre for Collaborative Innovation (PIK). With the goal to aid the commercialisation process, PIK also collaborates with other international technology transfer centres which successfully shifts information across borders and its effective diffusion in economies.

In order to realise the country's vision to be a fully-developed nation with a high-income economy, UKM sees its role as no longer limited to just producing highly-skilled graduates but also to engage in the development of the economy through capacity building for technological advancement and commercialisation of research findings. Aside from setting out on this venture, one must

not forget that UKM is first and foremost a public university, which is why the university has to ensure their knowledge in creativity and innovation can be applied to public good and will be easily accessible to the public at large.

For the nation to thrive and transform into an industrialised country, it is imperative that it can only succeed on the strength of its knowledge. UKM is very much a believer in this philosophy, which is why it has become an institution which emphasises on innovative knowledge to foster the growth of the economy. Naturally, it is one of the driving forces of innovation in the country by producing human capital in the form of graduates and researchers.