

Malaysia Targets 200,000 Foreign Students By 2020

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KOTA KINABALU, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- The Higher Education Ministry is targeting 200,000 international students to further studies at the public and private higher institutions in the country by 2020, said its minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh.

He said currently there were 150,000 foreign students in the country who are furthering their studies in various fields of study, with 27,000 of them post-degree students with revenue from this sector at RM4.5 billion per year.

"In 2020, we are targeting 200,000 foreign students to pursue their higher education in Malaysia, currently, we have 150,000 students.

"Their contribution in the context of study fees payment and other expenses is currently at RM4.5 billion per year and in 2020, the contribution will be RM10 billion," he told reporters after attending the ministry's programme, 'Soaring Upwards' here, Saturday.

Idris said foreign students' passion to study in Malaysia was driven by the local universities' abilities in positioning themselves as the best universities in the world, such as in energy, engineering and financial system research.

For example, he said in the subjects area, the QS World University Rankings listed Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and Universiti Malaya (UM) at 31st and 32nd positions in the world in the Environmental Science and Development Studies subject, while Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) was ranked at 54th in the Agricultural Sciences subject.

According to Idris, USM, UM, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia and UPM were also ranked in the top 100th in the world in more than 10 subject areas.

Regarding on the Soaring Upwards programme, Idris said the programme will be held in major cities across the country in order to disseminate and share information on local higher institutions' achievements.

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