

# Ministry sets out to boost quality of national education

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Education Ministry has given its assurance that it will continue to boost national education in terms of quality and academic achievement at all levels.

Second Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said this was important and in line with improvements in the positions of local universities at international level since 2012.

"This can be seen via the positions of local universities such as

Universiti Malaya, which is now at 151st position in the world, compared with 167th previously.

"Eleven other faculties are also recognised as among the best 100 in the world," he said after a ceremony to hand over the 2014 Tunku Medal Award at the Tunku Abdul Rahman Foundation here yesterday.

According to Idris, to boost quality and achievement, the International Student Evaluation programme, held every three years, had been implemented, and psychometric

test conducted at schools level to boost the academic quality of students.

Several students received awards during the ceremony.

The gold medal was awarded to Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) student Ana Masara Ahmad Mokhtar, 24, while the silver went to Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia's Muhammad Iqmal Hisham Kamaruddin, 24.

The bronze medal went to another UPM student, M. Sugentiran, 27, and Universiti Tun Hussein Onn's Wong

Chee Fei, 25.

The awards which were introduced in 1979 were offered to excellent bachelor graduates with first class honours.

All recipients were selected graduates of local public and private higher institutions of learning who were active in academic, co-curriculum and leadership.

Later, Idris launched the Book Fund for schools affected by the flood at the Kuala Lumpur International Book Fair 2015, which will end on

May 3.

The fund aims to collect books valued at RM2mil donated by local book publishers and distributors.

The books to be collected, said Idris, are books which are suitable for school libraries and not text books as those are provided by the government.

Some 900 stalls were opened at the book fair held at the Putra World Trade Centre, including by book distributors from the United States, Egypt and India. — Bernama