

Foreign varsities praise UiTM grads

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PETALING JAYA: Since its inception 50 years ago, Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), has achieved tremendous success, said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The prime minister said UiTM's achievements were also recognised by international institutions.

At the university's 50th anniversary dinner here last night, representatives of prestigious universities from Canada, Germany and Japan were singing praises of UiTM graduates.

Abdullah said the government would continue to provide assistance to UiTM to ensure it became the pride of the nation.

To face international competition, Abdullah said universities such UiTM must add value to their courses to produce higher-quality human capital.

"We have no choice but to add value to everything. We cannot avoid competition from outside.

"We want to see students become individuals who can contribute positively towards a developed nation.

"I urge lecturers, administrators and the vice-chancellor not to be complacent about the university's success."

He said he was confident that UiTM and Malaysians would rise up to the challenge.

UiTM, which has produced 300,000 graduates, was founded by the nation's second prime minister, Tun Abdul Razak, who was given a posthumous award by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin, who is the university's Chancellor.

The award was accepted by his widow, Tun Rahah Mohd Noah.

UiTM aspires to produce another 200,000 graduates in the next 10 years.

About 4,000 guests attended the dinner, including Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah, vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Seri Dr Ibrahim Abu Shah and Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.