QS GLOBAL EDUCATION NEWS

UMT Blue Economy and Sustainability Vision

Mohd Fadzil Akhir   *Published on 9 July 2025*

UMT's Rise in Global Rankings Reflects Malaysia's Blue Economy and Sustainability Vision

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) proudly enters the 801–850 band in the QS World University Rankings 2026, marking a significant achievement for one of Malaysia's youngest and medium-sized universities. This milestone is more than just a number—it is a testament to UMT's strategic focus, impactful research, and its commitment to championing Malaysia's sustainability agenda. UMT's success story is a reflection of its unwavering dedication to areas that are crucial not just to Malaysia but to the world: ocean sustainability, marine science, and the Blue Economy. While many universities in the country have carved out a place in the rankings through sheer scale or breadth, UMT has achieved this through depth, niche excellence, and purpose-driven innovation.

A University Anchored in Purpose

Founded with a clear mandate to serve the marine and aquatic sectors, UMT has evolved into a dynamic institution leading Malaysia's efforts in coastal and ocean sustainability. Its rise in global rankings reflects not only academic and research quality but also real-world impact. UMT's researchers are not just publishing in top journals—they are providing solutions to real marine and environmental challenges, including coastal erosion, fisheries food security, climate change impacts, and ocean governance.

Powering Malaysia's Blue Economy

As a national leader in Blue Economy research and innovation, UMT has strategically aligned itself with global sustainable development goals. Its initiatives support responsible ocean resource use, marine biodiversity conservation, and sustainable fisheries. Through platforms like the Blue Economy Advancement Centre (BEACON), Centre of Ocean Governance and dedicated Ocean Climate Change national research program, UMT is contributing to national resilience and environmental preparedness. UMT's work does not stop at the shoreline. With strengths in aquaculture, biotechnology, marine renewable energy, and environmental economics, the university is building knowledge and technologies that support sustainable livelihoods, especially for coastal and island communities. This includes innovations in offshore aquaculture systems, blue carbon strategies, and marine spatial planning tools that inform national policies.

Policy, Partnership and People

What sets UMT apart is its active engagement in shaping national policy. Its Ocean Governance and Marine Policy team works closely with ministries and government agencies to provide evidence-based advice and scientific insights that influence decision-making at the highest levels. Whether advising on Malaysia's climate adaptation strategies or contributing to international conventions under UNESCO and the UN Decade of Ocean Science, UMT serves as a bridge between science and policy. As a medium-sized institution, UMT is agile, collaborative, and community-driven. This has allowed it to build meaningful partnerships with stakeholders—from fishermen cooperatives to global research networks—amplifying its impact well beyond its size.

Why This Ranking Matters

In a global higher education landscape often dominated by large and long-established universities, UMT's presence in the QS World University Rankings 2026 sends a powerful message: excellence can come from focus, commitment, and relevance. For Malaysia, UMT's rise is symbolic of the country's growing role in championing ocean sustainability and building a resilient, knowledge-based economy. In a time when the world is looking to the ocean for climate solutions, sustainable food, and renewable energy, UMT stands as Malaysia's beacon of innovation in the realm of sustainability. *Prof. Dr. Mohd Fadzil Akhir, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Strategy, Performance & Corporate), Universiti Malaysia Terengganu*

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