

# The Challenge of Establishing World-Class Universities

The background image is a photograph of a large, modern university building. The building features a central section with a curved glass facade and two large, curved wings on either side, each with a white, ribbed exterior. A wide set of stone steps leads up to the entrance of the building. The sky is clear and blue.

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Taipei

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# **natural lab experiment:**

## **U. of Malaya vs. NUS**

- **late 1950s: 2 branches of University of Malaya**
- **today, stark difference:**
  - **THES: NUS # 34, UoM not in top 200**
  - **SJTU: NUS 101- 151, UoM not in top 500**





# outline of the presentation

- defining the world-class university
- the road to academic excellence
- lessons of experience



# what have we learned?



**DIRECTIONS IN DEVELOPMENT**  
Human Development

## The Road to Academic Excellence

*The Making of World-Class  
Research Universities*

Philip G. Altbach and Jamil Salmi  
Editors



THE WORLD BANK



# how do you recognize a world-class university?

- everyone wants one
- no one knows what it is
- no one knows how to get one

*Philip G. Altbach*



# defining the WCU

- self-declaration

