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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**UP IMPROVES POSITION IN UNIVERSITY RANKINGS**

The University of Pretoria (UP) has improved its position among its peers from 22 countries, moving up to position 77 in the 2015 *Times Higher Education* (*THE*) BRICS & Emerging Economies Rankings that were released today.

It is the second year that these rankings were performed, comparing research-intensive universities in countries defined as “emerging economies”. Universities from the large BRICS economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, as well as from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Malaysia, Mexico, Poland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines and UAE were included in the survey.

“Having to compete with a growing number of universities from economic giants such as China and India, we are pleased with the fact that we not only maintained our position among the top 100 institutions, but improved it,” said Prof Anton Ströh, Vice-Principal: Institutional Planning at UP.

The rankings are based on the same [thirteen performance indicators](http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/world-university-rankings/2013-14/world-ranking/methodology) used in the annual *THE* World University Rankings to evaluate all the core missions of the modern global university - research, teaching, knowledge transfer and international activity. These indicators are grouped in 5 areas, namely:

* Teaching: the learning environment (30% of overall ranking)
* Research: volume, income and reputation (30% of overall ranking)
* Citations: research influence (30% of overall ranking)
* Industry Income: innovation (2.5% of overall ranking)
* International Outlook: staff, students and research (7.5% of overall ranking)

Prof Ströh said that rankings like these serve to confirm UP’s position as a leading research-intensive university in the country and highlight the institution’s research strengths in the fields of plant and animal science, clinical medicine, environment

and ecology, engineering, forestry and agricultural sciences and social sciences. UP also has a strong reputation in molecular biology and genetics.

“International university rankings are becoming increasingly important for all institutions as we have to compete for scarce resources – top students, top academics and financial and other forms of support – in an increasingly competitive global higher education arena. It is imperative that we constantly improve our ranking in order to improve our visibility and competitive advantage,” said Prof Strὅh.