

Malaysia drops to No. 32 in world competitiveness ranking

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has been ranked 32nd in the 2022 International Institute for Management Development (IMD) World Competitiveness Ranking (WCR), down from the 25th spot last year.

In a statement, the IMD World Competitiveness Centre (WCC) said Thailand (33rd from 28th) and Indonesia (44th from 37th) also tumbled down the rankings, driven by the slow reopening of the economy post-Covid-19 compared with the European Union and the United States.

China dropped one spot to 17, reversing a strong upward trend in recent years, and signalling poor economic recovery exacerbated by a zero-Covid strategy.

“Going forward, China needs to restructure the economy from manufacturing to high-value services and from investment to consumption.

“It also needs to build a unified national market to enhance long-term economic prosperity, and it will only achieve its socio-economic development goals by us-

ing a macroeconomic policy mix,” it said.

Nonetheless, China still tops the Asia-Pacific (APAC) economies along with Singapore (third), Hong Kong (fifth) and Taiwan (seventh).

IMD WCC noted that India has the sharpest rise among the Asian economies, ranking 37th from 43rd.

This comes after four stagnant years. The jump was primarily due to gains in economic performance and business efficiency.

IMD WCC chief economist Christos Ganolis said besides inflationary pressure, other global challenges

affecting the competitiveness of countries included variants of Covid-19 and the invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

Denmark, as the most digitally advanced country in the world, reached the top spot for the first time in the ranking's 34-year history.

The 2022 WCR assessed 63 economies, using 333 competitiveness criteria selected from comprehensive research. **Bernama**

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