Table 2: Malaysian journals (all fields) under ISI Thomson [1].

No.	Journals	Information	Feilds	Impact Factor
1.	Malaysian Applied Biology	Malaysian Society of Applied Biology, Department of Botany, Faculty of Life Sciences, UKM [ISSN: 0126-8643] – semiannual http://pkukmweb.ukm.my/~msab/MAB%20JOURNAL.htm	Biology	-
2.	Malaysian Naturalist	Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), KL. [ISSN: 1511-970X] – quarterly http://www.mns.org.my/section.php?sid=21	Natural Siences	-
3.	Asia–Pacific Journal of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology	Institute Postgraduate Studies & Research, University Malaya. [ISSN: 0128-7451] - semiannual	Biology & Biotechnology	-
4.	Pertanika Journal of Tropical Agricultural Science	Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) [ISSN: 0126-6128] – tri-annual	Agricultural Science	-
5.	Journal of Plant Protection in the Tropics	Malaysian Plant Protection Society (MAPPS), KL. [ISSN: 0127-6883] – semiannual	Tropical Science	-
6.	Journal of Tropical Forest Science	Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), KL. [ISSN: 0128-1283] - quarterly http://www.frim.gov.my/Korporat/2003Publications/Links/Frim14.htm	Tropical Science	**0.113** (2005 JIF)
7.	Journal of Tropical Agricultural & Food Science	Malaysian Agricultural Research & Development Institute (MARDI), KL. [ISSN: 1394-9829] – semiannual http://www.mardi.my/main.php	Agricultural & Foof Science	-
8.	Tropical Biomedicine	Malaysian Society of Parasitology & Tropical Medicine, Institute for Medical Research, KL. [ISSN: 0127-5720] – semiannual ttp://www.msptm.org/index.html	Tropical Physiology	-

Table 3 shows the statistics of Malaysian papers published in various fields. There are 12 fields of research performed between 2002 and 2006 which are based on number of paper published in citation journals under ISI Thomson. Computer science and microbiology appeared every year from 2002 to 2005. Compared to other countries under Rising Star, Malaysia is at par with neighbouring countries, namely Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam. The 2006 R&D output seems 'inactive'- there is only a token in social sciences. This may be caused by many reasons such as researchers publishing their work in conferences as well as the shrinkage of research grant 'amount' caused by the increasing number of universities. It is hoped that the statistics do not reflect a paradigm shift away from publishing their work in the cited international journals.

Table 3: In-Cites of Rising Star - ISI Thomson for Malaysian publications in various fields of research.

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
January	Computer Sci, Business & Economy	Materials Sci, Physics.	Mathematics	Computer Sci.,	
March					
May		Microbiology		Microbiology	
July			Computer Sci, Microbiology		
September					
November				Microbiology	Social Sci, general

Conclusion

A basic definition of journal impact factors and information about Malaysian statistics in R&D under ISI Thomson database has been given. The ISI Thomson is the best tool for any researcher to explore the journal status and its IF. The IF is a very useful tool for journal evaluation, but must be used discreetly. Considerations include the amount of review or other types of material published in a journal, variations between disciplines, and item-by-item impact.

The journal status with regard to coverage in the ISI databases as well as the occurrence of a title change is also very important. IF has caused conflict and controversy, influenced perception of published scientific research and evaluation [8, 9]. The best way to overcome this conflict and controversy is to understand the statement by Hoeffel [10]:

"Impact Factor is not a perfect tool to measure the quality of articles but there is nothing better and it has the advantage of already being in existence and is, therefore, a good technique for scientific evaluation. Experience has shown that in each specialty the best journals are those in which it is most difficult to have an article accepted, and these are the journals that have a high IF. Most of these journals existed long before the impact factor was devised. The use of impact factor as a measure of quality is widespread because it fits well with the opinion we have in each field of the best journals in our specialty."

In order to achieve excellence in R&D, universities cannot escape from the quality of R&D evaluated via publications, which is usually referred to journal impact factor because it simply shows recognition internationally. The most important thing is the audience who cited the work. In Malaysia, one of the main criteria for an establishment of a Research University (RU) is publications with IF. Malaysia's vision to be a world-class k-economy must be coupled with high-quality R&D of international standard. Harvard, Oxford, MIT and Cambridge have shown their outstanding achievement in R&D generated over the course of hundreds of years.

Comparitively, Malaysian R&D can be considered young and fresh since most universities were developed during the past 50 years. During the time when journals were standardized with impact factors, Malaysia, or Malaya, was in a political turmoil in order to strive for independence from the British, followed by 30 years of nation development based on economics and education. As such, it is not off mark to consider that Malaysian R&D had only begun in the 80s.

References :

1. E. G arfield, "Citation indexes to science: a new dimension in documentation through association of ideas", *Science*, 122 (3159), pp. 108-111 (1955).
2. ISI Thomson, http://www.isinet.com/
3. E. G arfield, *"Citation Indexing: Its theory and applications in science, technology, and humanities"* John Wiley & Sons, New York, (1979).
4. C.N. Alexander , "A method for processing sociometric data", *Sociometric*, 26, pp. 268-269(1963).
5. J. Bollen, M.A. R odriguez, and H. Van de Sompel, "Journal Status". *Scientometrics* ,69, (2006).
6. Citation to IEEE journals continue to climb , http://www.ieee.org/web/publications /journmag/journalcitations.html
7. I n Cites - ISI Thomson - ESI: http://in-cites.com/
8. P . Ball, "Index aims for fair ranking of scientists", *Nature*, 436, 900, (2005).
9. E ditorial: "Not-so-deep impact", *Nature*, 435, 1003, (2005).
10. C. Hoeffel, "Journal impact factor" *Allergy*, 53, p. 1225 (Dec., 1998).