

## **Abstract**

This paper generated an index that marries the Times Higher Education (THE) World University ranking and the Reuters Innovative University through principal component analysis. The principal component analysis created an index of university rankings based on the composite of the indicators used in the THE university ranking system and Reuters innovative university ranking system. The results identified four principal components, which included academic competence, returns on innovations, commercial impact, and international outlook. The new ranking system shows that quality tertiary education is a function of academic competence, returns to innovation, commercial impact, and international outlook. The unified university ranking system encompasses the ability to innovate and the ability to produce breakthrough knowledge. Hence, the unified ranking system shows that the universities included in the ranking are resilient universities able to adapt to disruptive changes in the society.

Key terms: quality education; higher education; university ranking