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Isis study on environ to be finalised by Dec

THE study by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (Isis) on overlapping Federal-state jurisdiction over the environment is expected to be finalised by year-end.

Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding said at present, the special committee under the Department of Environment are still looking into the matter.

"Certain aspects of the study need to be further refined. Yes, it is slightly behind times. We are urging them to complete the study by the end of the year."

He was speaking to reporters after the presentation of the Swedish-Malaysian Scholarship Fund (SMSF) in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. The Minister was asked on the status of the study by Isis's Environment Studies Centre to address the legal and administrative processes in the country's environment management.

The study, which was supposed to be submitted to the ministry in April, came about after some states gazetted their environmental legislations independent of the Federal-level Environmental Quality Act.

On the SMSF, Law said it is a very good development as the fund will help to further enhance the skill of Malaysian human resources.

"More multinational companies that are investing in Malaysia should come forward and establish a similar fund," he added.

In his speech earlier, Law said since the SMSF's inception, two batches of students had been sent to Sweden for further studies. The first batch of eight students, selected in 1995, are now back in Malaysia while another 11 were sent last and they are still pursuing their studies in Sweden. For this year, there are 10 recipients.

The RM2.5 million SMSF was initiated in April 1994 in conjunction with the official visit to Malaysia by the then Prime Minister of Sweden Carl Bildt.

The Swedish Prime Minister and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had graciously agreed to be patrons of the fund, which is fully funded by Swedish companies in Malaysia to finance post-graduate studies in Sweden by Malaysian students in area of technology and engineering.

Law said there are a good number of Swedish companies in Malaysia, and they are well known for their high-tech know how contributing to the manufacturing, marketing and servicing sectors in Malaysia.

"Today these companies are further contributing by coming up to sponsor our students on a scholarship scheme to study in Sweden - an industrially advanced nation," he added.

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