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Omar-Science

UNDERGRADS STILL LACKING IN SCIENCE STREAM, SAYS OMAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 5 (Bernama) -- The government's aim to have at least 60 per cent university students in the Science stream and 40 per cent in other faculties is still elusive, Academy of Science Malaysia (ASM) president Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman said today.

He said this was due to the lack of awareness among undergraduates on the importance of science and technology.

"They are still keen in taking up law, accountancy and economic studies. Science and technology are important fields as we need skilled personnel in the technological sector in future," he told reporters after presenting air tickets to winners of the National Science Quiz 2000 here today.

The ASM would continue to play its role to rekindle interests among the young to opt for science and technology as their future career, said Dr Omar, who is the Science Adviser to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the move was in line with the country's aspirations to produce a Malaysian who could win the Nobel prize -- the highest recognition for a scientist.

Commenting on ASM's role in bringing back Malaysian scientists who are currently working overseas, he said the academy was helping the government to bring Malaysian and foreign scientists into the country through various contacts.

He said it was being done by taking Malaysian scientists' delegation to other countries to give talk, identify the expertise and help them to have interactions.

"The other aspect is the cooperation between scientists from Malaysia and other countries. We are looking forward to work with the scientists in developed countries to gain a higher level of experience in research and development," he added.

Earlier, Omar presented a mock airline ticket to the three winners of the National Science Quiz 2000 -- Ahmad Fathil, P.Naaventhan and Mohamed Azamin Anuar, who are fifth formers of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Datuk Ahmad Maher in Kota Baharu, Kelantan.

They will leave for Stockholm, Sweden today to witness this year's Nobel Prize presentation ceremony.

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