

# Proposal to fund young scientists

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## Govt wants science students to excel in research

By Yusof Ghani

**PLJTHAJAYA**, Mon: Part of the 8th Malaysia Plan allocation for research and development may be channelled to students to promote development in science and technology.

Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Law Hieng Ding said the idea was mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who wanted to see **Malaysian** scientists win the prestigious Nobel Prize in science by 2020.

Law said the ministry is preparing a report to resolve some "technicalities" to enable students to receive research grants for their science projects.

"We want to produce a special breed of students who are interested in science and technology."

Law was speaking at a media conference after presenting flight tickets to winners of the 14th National Science Quiz, who will travel to Sweden to witness the Nobel Prize presentation ceremony in Stockholm.

Law said the government has allocated RM1.6

billion for R&D to help scientists come up with new findings in science and technology.

"Perhaps a small quantity should be channelled to students as well, if we want to produce good scientists."

Law said the ministry is taking measures to produce Nobel laureates in science, such as bringing past winners to Malaysia to meet scientists and students here.

He also said the science quiz is growing in popularity each year, which can be seen from the increase in participants.

This year, 1,149 schools, including those in rural areas, took part in the contest which saw the Mara Junior Science College in Langkawi emerge as winner.

Winners Zulkifli Ibrahim, Mohd Khairul Fazly Ahmad and Amir Ariff Mohammed Hassan, all aged 17, will leave for Sweden tonight.

For four consecutive years, the winners' tickets have been sponsored by the Danish-based Novozymes (M) Sdn Bhd, formerly known as Novo Nordisk Bioindustrial (M) Sdn Bhd.