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Scientist-Reward

MALAYSIA STUDYING NEW REWARD SCHEMES FOR LOCAL SCIENTISTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 18 (Bernama) -- The Government is considering rewarding Malaysian scientists for their contributions to the country by appointing them to the Senate.

Minister of Science, Technology and Environment Datuk Law Hieng Ding said this was among the new reward and recognition schemes being considered by the ministry.

"We might appoint them to the Senate as a recognition for their contribution and service to the country," he told reporters after receiving Profesor Lu Yongxiang, president of Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) at his office today.

Law said he was impressed with China's recognition schemes for its scientists which included government posts and grants with a 14 percent annual increment to serve as capital for research and development activities.

Malaysia would study the Chinese schemes, he said.

On Lu's visit, Law said it was a return visit after both countries signed an agreement, witnessed by the Prime Ministers of Malaysia and China, during Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to China in August 1999.

Consequent to the signing, the Academy of Science Malaysia led a delegation to China in October that year to study the R&D progress in science, engineering and technology in China.

Lu's visit is also to recommend appropriate collaborative R&D projects between the scientists of both countries.

Law said potential areas of collaboration have been identified, mainly in the policy development and strategic studies, life science, physical or mathematic science, information and communication technology, chemical science and engineering science.

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