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Malaysia-Japan

PLANS DELAYED FOR MALAYSIAN-JAPANESE UNIVERSITY

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 10 (Bernama) -- Plans to establish a technical university under the cooperation of the Malaysian and Japanese governments have been delayed until next year.

Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad said both parties were fine-tuning details of the university that would be based in Malaysia.

"Since we are still discussing, the project may be delayed until June next year instead of the earlier plan to recruit students this October. The delay I think is needed as we want to ensure quality education is offered," he told a media conference after his ministry's post-Cabinet meeting here today.

"We are in the final stage of the discussion and there is agreement between both governments but we are only discussing about details mainly concerning how Japan can contribute its expertise," said Musa.

The idea to set up a technical university was mooted during Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Japan last December in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of the launching of Malaysia's Look East Policy.

"We need more technical workforce but what is more important is to develop technical education that is different from what is being offered by the local institutions.

"We want to inculcate a different work culture although Science and technical education are the same. Besides teaching we want to inculcate the work ethics that are usually good among the Japanese," said Musa.

The first batch of 250 students are expected to be recruited in June next year and students who have sat their Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) and Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia (STPM) examinations would be eligible to enrol in the university.

"But we want the students to undergo the matriculation (exams) to familiarise with the Japanese language. All courses will be conducted in Japanese and English," he said.

Classified as a public university, it will offer various disciplines in engineering and information technology and once established, students from the region will be also allowed to enrol.

The locality of the campus has yet to be identified and the cost of setting up the university was too premature to announce, he said.

Musa mentioned that the university would be Japanese-oriented as the main architects of the university were Japanese professors.

"To ensure the teaching will provide insight into the Japanese way of life and Japanese culture, it is possible the way it will operate will be more Japanese than Malaysian," he added.

-- BERNAMA

VP RV RM