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UKM-Biovalley
UKM BUILDS GENOME LAB FOR BIO-VALLEY

KUALA LUMPUR, June 27 (Bernama) -- Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) has developed an interim laboratory for the Genome and Molecule Biology Institute to show its support for the new-launched bio-valley within the Multimedia Super Corridor.

UKM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Salleh Mohd Yasin said the laboratory would be capable of developing important technologies necessary for bio-valley such as genome and bioinformatics.

The technology would be attained through genome research projects which had been started with investigation involving microbes including bacterias, parasites and viruses.

"The laboratory has successfully sequenced two chromosomes of a chicken disease parasite named Elimeria Tenella and identified the bacteria which causes pneumonia in animals and humans through the use of a gene chip," he told a press conference on UKM's Research and Innovation Expo 2003 from July 3-5 here.

He said recently UKM, with the cooperation of several other institutes, had successfully sequenced the virus of two animals within a week, which was on par with famous international laboratories.

He said the success was important for Malaysia's preparations against the spread of human and animal diseases and to reduce the dependence on outside parties.

The bio-valley, lauched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on May 20, will centralise nationwide biotechnology research as well as facilitate and encourage the commercialisation of products and discoveries.

On the expo, Dr Mohd Salleh said: "UKM hopes that research results in this expo can be translated into new fields or new products capable of spurring economic growth."

Meanwhile, the industrial sector was urged to develop research papers by local research agencies and higher education institutes as commercial products for local and overseas markets.

Dr Mohd Salleh said there were several local research papers with the potential of stimulating the nation's economic growth.

"In Malaysia we have many expert researchers who have produced quality discoveries and designs. The industrial sector can take the chance to cooperate in developing and expanding the research findings," he said.

He said Malaysia needed to produce quality creations to be on par with countries like Korea and Japan.

-- BERNAMA
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