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'Universities have adequate post-graduate courses in biotechnology'

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Local universities have adequate postgraduate courses and research facilities in biotechnology which are relevant to the country's needs, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Mohd Salleh Mohd Yasin said.

"Co-operative programmes in research and biotechnology through relevant centres which have been developed by Malaysia's National Biotechnology Directorate and the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment, are effective in overcoming the problem of critical mass in research in this country," he said.

He was speaking at a Press conference to announce an expo on Research and Innovation, which will demonstrate the commercial potential of some of the research findings in various fields by UKM. The expo, featuring 278 exhibits, will be held on July 3-5.

He hopes the findings will be picked up by commercial industries to be marketed and developed into products.

He said UKM was supportive of the Biovalley Malaysia project, which was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on May 20.

One of its efforts is the National Institute of Genomics and Molecular Biology, which has been entrusted with discovering and developing genomic and bioinformatic technology required for Biovalley Malaysia.

UKM is also preparing first degree, Master's in Science and PhD programmes for its students in fields required for Biovalley Malaysia.

The university is aiming for a 40 per cent increase in enrolment for its post-graduate students in science-related fields, which is a 10 per cent increase over the present number of 6,800 post-graduates enrolled at the university.