

**RM1.59 Billion Research Fund Approved For 2008-2011: Ongkili
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 14 (Bernama) -- A total RM1.59 billion was approved to finance 2,129 research, development and commercialisation projects from 2008 to 2011, the Dewan Rakyat was told.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili said the projects were part of 6,413 applications for funds, totalling RM7.43 billion, during the period.

Fifty-six projects worth RM55.22 million were terminated during the period, he said when replying to a question from Datuk Seri Ong Tee Keat (BN-Pandan).

Ongkili said 16 types of funds were offered under the Ninth Malaysia Plan compared to 13 in the current 10th Malaysia Plan.

He also said 321 products from 1,862 projects were successfully marketed in Malaysia and abroad such as Indonesia, Nigeria, India, South Africa and the Middle East.

To a supplementary question from Datuk Ibrahim Ali (Independent-Pasir Mas) whether the ministry would set up a special fund to meet the shortage of capital facing researchers who have been successful in marketing their products, Ongkili said the matter was being looked into by the Finance Ministry and the Malaysian Innovative Agency.

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