

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 15 SEPTEMBER 2013 (AHAD)**

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Program Perak Expo For Young Scientists Jadi Acara Tahunan

TANJUNG MALIM, 15 Sept (Bernama) -- Program 'Perak Expo For Young Scientists' akan menjadi acara tahunan bagi memupuk minat rakyat Perak terhadap bidang sains, teknologi dan inoasi selain bagi melahirkan lebih ramai saintis.

Timbalan Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi Datuk Dr Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah berkata program tersebut merupakan hasil kerjasama antara kementeriannya dengan Jabatan Pelajaran Perak serta Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI).

Program ini diharap dapat membantu usaha murni kerajaan untuk memperkasa lagi bidang sains dan teknologi serta membudayakan inovasi di kalangan masyarakat, katanya kepada pemberita selepas menutup program itu di Fakulti Sains dan Matematik UPSI di sini hari ini.

Katanya kerajaan telah membelanjakan sebanyak RM150,000 bagi program tersebut yang berlangsung selama tiga hari bermula Jumaat lepas.

"Program ini bersesuaian dengan UPSI kerana institusi pendidikan ini mempunyai tenaga yang mahir manakala kementerian mempunyai peralatan dan kemudahan yang baik kepada saintis untuk buat pameran manakala Jabatan Pelajaran menggalakkan pelajar untuk menyertai program ini," katanya.

Beliau berkata sains dan teknologi merupakan penyumbang penting kepada kemajuan ekonomi sesebuah negara.

"Pada 2020 kita mahu jadi negara pengeluar teknologi kerana teknologi adalah berasaskan kepada sains. Kebolehan mencipta, menyebarkan luas dan mengeksploitasi pengetahuan ialah sumber utama kelebihan kompetitif, penciptaan kekayaan dan penambahbaikan kualiti kehidupan," katanya.

Pada majlis itu Abu Bakar turut menyampaikan hadiah berupa wang tunai dan sijil kepada pemenang beberapa kategori antaranya teknologi serta reka cipta, kimia dan biologi.

-- BERNAMA

KERATAN AKHBAR
THE STAR (STAREDUCEATE – SCHOOLS): MUKA SURAT 14
TARIKH: 15 SEPTEMBER 2013 (AHAD)

Sowing the seeds of science

By JEANNETTE GOON
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ANYONE who has read Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time* will know that time passes differently in outer space as compared to Earth. But just how different is it?

The answer may lie in the research that will be carried out by students taking part in the Malaysia Space Seeds (MASS) 2013 competition.

National Space Agency (Angkasa) Space Science Research Unit head Mohd Fairos Asillam said students would be given Azuki seeds (*Vigna angularis*) to plant.

"These seeds are also being planted in the International Space Station (ISS). Photos of the plants will be sent back to Earth," he said, adding that measurements of the plants would also be included.

Students, in groups of five, will have to compare the rate of growth of their plants on Earth to the plants being grown in the ISS. They are also required to write a detailed report on their experiment.



Think big: Mohd Fairos talking to students during the launch of the competition.

"This will help students develop their skills when it comes to conducting Science experiments," said Mohd Fairos, adding that compared to other fields in Science, stu-

dents tend to show more interest in space and astronauts.

He said that when students register for the competition, they have to do an entry

survey. "This is so that we can ascertain their knowledge before the project. At the end, they will also have to do an exit survey so that we know how much knowledge they have gained," he said.

Besides submitting a full report, which includes a literature review, students have to update their results on the competition website on a daily basis.

Mohd Fairos said that the judges for the competition are experts in the fields relevant to the competition and that judging will be based on criteria like "knowledge of field" and "timeliness".

"We will judge them based on their report and literature review, as well as whether they report their results on time," he said.

He also said that this would allow the students to experience how scientists in the real world work.

The competition is organised by Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry, Angkasa, Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute, the Education Ministry and the National Seed Association of Malaysia.