



FIST ORGANISED BIOTECHNOLOGY SEMINAR

More than 200 participants comprising those from the industries, undergraduates and civil servants attended a variety of talks during the carnival that touched on topics involving biotechnology in agriculture, health care and industry

By: NAZIRA MAHMUD



A biotechnology seminar was jointly held by Pahang Government and Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology Faculty (FIST) on March 3, 2012.

It was held in conjunction with the state-level Bio-ICT Carnival and served as an effective medium to develop the state's biotechnology especially in introducing and encouraging the application and progress of the field in Pahang.

Dean of FIST, Professor Dr Mashitah Mohd Yusoff said the biotechnology field in Pahang was still at the intermediate stage and needed to be further expanded.

Dr Mashitah said UMP had a Biodiversity and Biotechnology Centre of Excellence (CoE), a place of knowledge development that combined the expertise and skill of those in the field.

"The centre offers trainings, services and consultations to entrepreneurs and researchers.

"In fact, it is able to optimise the resources of biodiversity and improve research and development in biotechnology and bio-production in Pahang.

"The centre also plays the role of providing explanation to industries, media and public on the Pahang Biodiversity and Biotechnology Strategic Plan and boost up research projects," said Dr. Mashitah who also delivered a talk titled, 'Positioning Pahang State in a Bio-economy'.

Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation (Biotechcorp)'s Business

And Investment Development (Industry) Division Vice-President, Zainal Azman Abu Kasim said efforts taken by FIST and the state government was a step forward in the development of biotechnology in Pahang which was rich in biodiversity resources.

More than 200 participants comprising those from the industries, undergraduates and civil servants attended a variety of talks during the carnival that touched on topics involving biotechnology in agriculture, health care and industry.

An exchange of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) document between UMP and Technology Park Malaysia was also held.

UMP was represented by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim while Technology Park Malaysia, by its Biotech Division Head, Fadzhairi Abd Jabar.

Both agencies would work together in developing research works in industrial biotechnology.

The collaboration in academic and industry would also involve sharing of expertise in extraction and selected herbal product quality standard development such as 'kacip fatimah', 'tongkat ali' and 'gaharu'.

The MoU would help in expanding the herbal industry and cater to the market demands while the research development would be able to assist small and medium entrepreneurs in commercialising their products that met the necessary quality standard required in a bid to break into the international market.