

'Takes time for R&D projects to make profits'

ONLY 3.2 per cent of research and development (R&D) projects conducted in public universities have been commercialised last year.

Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Dr Hou Kok Chung said the projects generated an income of RM7.6 million.

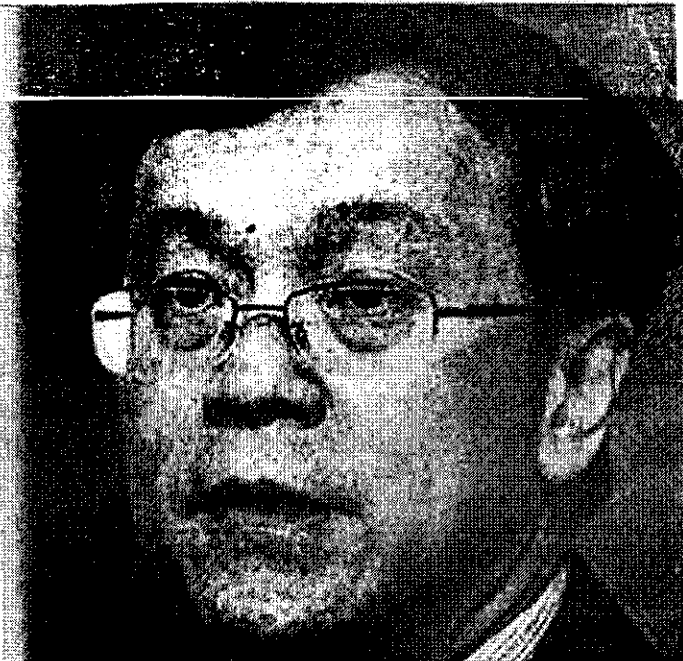
"These projects require time before they can be completed, and they have to be tested and prototypes need to be developed before they can be commercialised. The government is targeting an increase of four per cent for this year and five per cent by 2015," he said in reply to Datuk Seri Ong Tee Keat (BN-Pandan).

Hou added that there were four universities which generated high returns on their R&D projects — Universiti Utara Malaysia which generated RM3.48 million, Universiti Malaya (RM1.27 million), Universiti Sains Malaysia (RM1.02 million) and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (RM1 million).

For this year, Hou said 1,511 applications for R&D projects by public universities had been approved involving funds close to RM200 million.

"We've received an increase of applications this year for R&D projects. There are 8,425 applications compared with 7,055 last year."

Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Wee Ka



Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Dr Hou Kok Chong says applications for research and development projects have increased

Siong, meanwhile, called on Malaysia to carve a name in robotics.

He said the response from primary and secondary schools were overwhelming in this field, with more than 2,900 teams taking part in the National Robotics Competition 2011.

Of the figure, 16 teams had been picked to participate at the World Robot Olympiad in Abu Dhabi from Friday to Nov 20. He said Malaysian teams would compete with more than 400 teams from 38 countries there.

"Our students show high level of creativity and even know how to programme the robots," he said before handing the Jalur Gemilang to the Malaysian team led by Co-curriculum director-general Mohd Rosli Mohd Hassan yesterday.

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