

PRIME NEWS

Scientists in programme urged to share their expertise

KUALA LUMPUR: The Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) wants the group of nine young scientists who have been selected for an international exchange programme to return and transfer their knowledge locally for the benefit of the country.

The scientists are in an exchange programme with renowned international science, technology and innovation institutions.

ASM vice-president Professor Datuk Dr Asma Ismail called on the group to aim beyond just publicising their research and look towards application of their expertise to spur the development of their respective fields locally.

"This programme has been continuous, whereby we send our best young scientists for such attachments annually. This means we have a pool of talented scientists here. We must look at applying their knowledge in innovations we can develop for the good of the country."

Dr Asma said this after announcing the nine successful applicants for the fully-sponsored exchange programme that will see five of them head to Germany for the 65th Lindau Nobel Laureate Interdisciplinary Meeting, a gathering of the world's top minds in physics, physiology, medicine and chemistry, from June 29 to July 4.

They are Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Dr Chin Kok Yong; Dr Amirah Abd Latif of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM); Liew Peng Pen of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM); Dr Haslina Ahmad of UPM and Dr Oon Chern Ein of the Institute for Research in Molecular Medicine (Informm).

Specialising in the development of laser technology, Universiti Malaya PhD holder Nur Zulaiha Jomhari, 30, will join UPM's Khairul Adib Mohd Yusof on a two-month stint at the renowned European Organisation for Nuclear Research in Geneva, where she hopes to return with the knowledge to develop the technology locally.

"In our field, networking is important, thus this stint will allow me to interact with others and exchange knowledge and experiences. I have begun working on some innovations in this field, which can contribute to the health, defence, security and automotive industries."

Tan Sie Ting, a PhD student at the UTM, will head to the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Vienna, Austria, for the Young Scientists Summer Programme (YSSP) from June 1 to Aug 31, where she hopes to develop innovations in waste management.

Details of the ninth scientist were unavailable at press time.