Top scientists for biotechnology symposium here

KOTA KINABALU: Top biotechnology scientists from the United States, Switzerland, France, Japan, United Kingdom, Korea, Switzerland, China and Malaysia will speak at the three-day Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) International Biotechnology Symposium on Signal Transduction from Dec 3.

"This illustrious gathering of scientists include some potential Nobel laureates," noted Professor Datin Dr Ann Anton, organising chairperson, who is also Director of the UMS Biotechnology Research Institute.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman will launch the symposium and also witness the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the UMS and Korean Research Institute for bioscience and biotechnology.

Describing signal transduction as a revolutionary topic, Dr Anton said the symposium would examine its mechanisms and applications.

"Signal transduction is one of the biological processes which deals with transmission of signals across cells, which then triggers a response," she said.

"Signal transduction is closely linked with cell growth and division and can lead to an understanding of, for example, how a cell loses cell growth control and develops into a cancerous tissue," Anton added.

As such, she pointed out: "This process has very important applications, particularly in drug discoveries for cancer, diabetes and other immunological diseases, and researchers who have excelled in this field of research have been honoured with the Nobel Prize."

A hands-on workshop will precede the symposium.

The workshop will look into methods in signal transduction.

Prof. Dr Michael Stark of the University of Dundee and Professor Dr He Chaozu of China's Academy of Sciences, Beijing, will jointly conduct the workshop.

Dr Anton described the event as a "rare opportunity "to expose Sabahans and Malaysians in general to information and knowledge on this revolutionary science.

"There is a lot of room to increase public perception and awareness on biotechnology events in Sabah," she said.

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