



Headline	6,000 PhD holders by 2023		
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KUALA LUMPUR

## 6,000 PhD holders by 2023

IN line with efforts to produce specialists in various fields to promote the country's industrialisation policy, the government was set to increase the number of doctor of philosophy (PhD) holders to 6,000 by 2023.

Speaking at the Dewan Negara yesterday, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar said the target was a mechanism to create a highly-knowledgeable base.

He said the graduates would be a catalyst for research and development in tandem with the role of research universities like Universiti Malaya, Universiti Putra Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

"The capacity of public and private institutions of higher learning (IPTs) will be enhanced to increase specialists in various areas. We have 65 public and private IPTs," he said, in response to a question

from Senator Dr Ariffin SM Omar.

Abdul Wahid said four technical universities set up by the government, namely Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Technical University of Malaysia Malacca, Universiti Malaysia Pahang and Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia, churned out 7,743 technical graduates, last year.

He said technical training institutes like the German-Malaysian Institute, the British-Malaysian Institute, the Malaysian France Institute and University Kuala Lumpur, also produced 2,636 skilled graduates last year.

Abdul Wahid added the Centre of Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST) was set up by Khazanah Nasional Berhad in June last year with the collaboration of 10 electrical and electronic companies in the quest to produce a more industry-relevant technical workforce. — Bernama