SERDANG: The higher education ministry will hold an entrepreneurship competition to recognise successful university graduates in their respective fields of study. The Minister, Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, said the maiden competition was part of the ministry’s efforts to prove its dedication in encouraging universities to produce more entrepreneurs.

He said five categories would be presented, with its winner selected among university graduates who would receive an award and trophy, as well as RM50,000 each.

A special RM150,000 prize would be awarded to the university which produced the most successful entrepreneurs through the courses offered, he said.

“One of the categories is related to a company started by the students,” Mohamed Khaled told a news conference after launching the Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) 2012 Entrepreneur Incubation Programme at UPM’s Agriculture Faculty Hall here.

Mohamed Khaled said participation would be open by year-end, adding the ministry would try to get the private sector to be involved in sponsorships, to foster closer cooperation between industry players and the university.

He said the higher education sector should emphasise efforts to instill an entreprenuership mentality among students, as well as encourage critical and analytical skills.

Meanwhile, on the entrepreneur incubator programme, Khaled said it involved three main modules, namely the Plantation Module, Aquaculture Module and the Biotechnology Module, with funds of RM2.813 million from the Ministry.

The first group for the first six months of the programme, beginning February, involves 14 participants working on rock melon fertigation, 18 in aquaculture and six in biotechnology.

- Bernama