Spurring the young ones into biomed

CLAD in oversized white laboratory coats, safety glasses, gloves and shoe cover-ups, these 11- and 12-year-old children got an early peek into a scientists’ world last Friday.

In a bid to “inspire” young children into making biomedical science their career, the Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (IBN) invited about 100 students to its Open House under its Youth Research Programme (YRP).

Participating schools include Anglo-Chinese (Primary), Catholic High School, Henry Park Primary School, Nan Hua Primary School, Nanyang Primary School, Raffles Girls’ Primary School, Rosyth School, St Hilda’s Primary School and Tao Nan School.

Said the principal research scientist, Dr Victor Samper: “Biomedical scientific research is a very rewarding field, which Singapore recognises as important.

“We hope to spur interest in young children and, hopefully, they will be inspired to make this their career.”

In their laboratory tours, the students got to witness demonstrations by different scientists.

Since the launch of the YRP last October, the IBN has actively reached out to both students and teachers through research attachment programmes and talks.

This will be the last chance students get to observe demonstrations in the current laboratory.

The IBN is moving to new premises at the Biopolis, Singapore’s biomedical hub, later this year. The new building, Nanos, will enable research scientists to work in state-of-the-art laboratory facilities with specialised equipment. – Diana Neo