

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 16 OKTOBER 2013 (RABU)**

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KERATAN AKHBAR
THE SUN (MEDIA & MARKETING) : MUKA SURAT 14
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ICT trends of 2014

RESULTS of the 2014 Future Trends Research reveal that the top three ICT trends next year will be cloud computing, big data and increased mobility. The three trends are a continuation from 2013 and are expected to accelerate further in 2014.

Sharing his forecasts for next year, Datuk William Ng, managing director of Business Media International states: "Cloud adoption will be driven by both vendor-led ecosystem and government deployment, while big data will see a sharp increase in utilisation, as companies begin to see the benefits of analytics even as costs of manpower increases and time to market shortens."

He expects 2014 to be a year of enterprise mobility, both in terms of telecommuting and deployment of mobile devices to support

efficiency and reduced time versus cost ratio. "Bring your own device' or BYOD is going to be the norm in Malaysia, as companies firm up policies regarding using of own devices. With the rapid increase of smart phones and mobile devices, it is not a 'what-if' situation, but 'what-now' for companies. You either adopt or you are left behind," Ng adds.

Commissioned by Business Media International, the research conducted in July and August 2013 is based on feedback from over 600 respondents in the IT sector. Views comprised those of IT managers, vendors and industry analysts. The results of the research were unveiled at the launch of ITX Asia 2013 in September and was officiated by Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Datuk Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah.



Top : Abu Bakar (third from left) and Ng flanked by models at the launch.

Bottom : Ng and Abu Bakar officiating the launch.



Percaya teknologi tempatan



Mampu jimat kos, untung besar

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Syarikat yang memasarkan produk dan perkhidmatan berkaitan teknologi perlu mempercayai penghasilan tempatan sekali gus menaikkan kualiti dan pencapaian negara sendiri dalam bidang inovasi.

Ketua Pegawai Teknologi MIMOS Berhad (MIMOS), Thillai Raj berkata, ramai dalam kalangan usahawan memandang tinggi nilai produk luar ne-

gara dan memasarkannya meskipun teknologi sama yang dibangunkan secara tempatan sudah dihasilkan.

"Ia sekali gus menyebabkan harga ditawarkan lebih tinggi walaupun produk atau perkhidmatan sama yang juga turut ditawarkan dan dihasilkan syarikat tempatan," katanya.

MIMOS Berhad (MIMOS) adalah pusat penyelidikan dan pembangunan (R&D) negara yang diletakkan di bawah Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI).

Beliau turut mengulas mengenai teknologi MIMOS, Platform Inovasi Ter-

buka (PIT) yang membantu membangunkan lagi industri teknologi maklumat dan komunikasi (ICT) mereka pada masa depan.

"PIT adalah sistem operasi sumber terbuka yang dicipta MIMOS yang membolehkan pihak lain membina teknologi mereka sendiri untuk membangunkan produk mengikut kesesuaian.

"Kami di Mimos bersedia untuk bekerjasama dengan mana-mana pihak berikutan mereka kini membangun dan menjadi keperluan bagi mereka untuk terbabit secara aktif dengan industri ICT," katanya.



THILLAI RAJ

Beliau berkata, bukan mudah untuk terbabit dengan industri teknologi baru malah dalam usaha memastikan mereka boleh membangunkan industri, ICT

memainkan peranan penting.

"Syarikat tempatan cenderung menggunakan teknologi asing bagi mempromosi produk masing-masing, namun mudah gagal mengekalkannya ekoran teknologi terhad.

"Teknologi asing kebiasaannya mengehendkan penggunaan pada tahap tertentu. Ada satu tahap akan tersekat dalam teknologi itu dan tidak dapat pergi lebih jauh," katanya.

Beliau berkata, PIT diwujudkan bagi menyediakan teknologi untuk syarikat Malaysia mengukuhkan inovasi dan produk serta

bersaing dengan peserta lain.

"Kita kurang usahasama dengan industri dan akademik. Kita cenderung menggunakan teknologi asing yang mempunyai sistem 'terkunci' dan peserta ICT sendiri terlalu bergantung kepada dana kerajaan bagi mencipta teknologi sendiri," katanya.

Katanya, Mimos tampil membantu peserta industri ICT dalam bentuk platform itu bagi mengetengahkan teknologi ciptaan dalam negara dan memajukan teknologi berasaskan Malaysia yang 'tidak terkunci' untuk industri.

BiotechCorp's effort paying off

Total revenue of biotechnology companies has hit RM3.5bil, says CEO

By FOO YEE PING
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PETALING JAYA: President Barack Obama may not have come a-calling at the recent Fourth Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, but there have been huge collaborations between Malaysian and US companies in bio-technology over the past eight years.

Malaysian Biotechnology Corp (BiotechCorp), which has billed itself as an agency to "feed, heal and fuel the world" since 2005, has been unrelenting in its push for a successful bio-economy in Malaysia.

Bioeconomy is the sustainable production and conversion of biomass for a range of food, health, fibre and industrial products and energy to create economic growth, with its evolution facilitated by an increased commercialisation of biotechnology research.

BiotechCorp chief executive officer Datuk Dr Mohd Nazlee Kamal cited the QB3-Malaysia Programme, which is a collaboration between the Malaysian Government and the California Institute for Quantitative Biosciences (QB3) to develop the biotech ecosystem in Malaysia, as an example.

"This is particularly so in the area of drug discovery to address medical needs and the development of natural product-based therapeutics," he said in an email interview.

"Malaysian bio-entrepreneurs would have direct access to international capital and partnerships, and would gain a foothold to enter the US market in a very capital-efficient manner."

To date, the United States remains in pole position in the international biotechnology market, where it contributes 70% in revenue to the global industry. It is also home to the largest



Nazlee: 'Malaysia has made great strides in making up for lost time.'

global companies, especially in the bio-medical sector.

The World Economic Forum's *Global Competitiveness Index 2013-2014* ranks the United States at No. 5 while Malaysia is placed at No. 24 in terms of the most competitive countries in the world.

"Based on the index, Malaysia ranks second in Asia Pacific in terms of its ability to provide a conducive environment for companies to undertake innovation activities," Nazlee said.

"However, the biotechnology market in Asia

Pacific is outgrowing the United States and Europe at 10.88%," he said.

He said Malaysia, as one of the most competitive biotechnology hubs in the region, had adopted early critical steps in coordinating and harnessing bioeconomy's potential via the implementation of the Bioeconomy Transformation Programme (BTP), which is the driving force of the National Biotechnology Policy (NBP) as well as the platform to boost commercialisation opportunities in biotechnology.

As for the achievements, he cited that the combined total revenue of BioNexus status companies was nearly RM3.5bil so far. BioNexus status is a recognition awarded by the Malaysian Government to qualified companies that participate in and undertake value-added biotechnology activities in Malaysia, and includes fiscal incentives, grants and other guarantees to assist growth.

The award is given via BiotechCorp, an agency under the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry responsible for executing the objectives of the NBP. At present, there are 225 BioNexus status companies.

"Malaysia has made great strides in making up for lost time," Nazlee said.

Bioeconomy, he said, would be a "sustainable economy" for Malaysia, as it covered all industries and economic sectors that produce, manage and utilise biological resources such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food, wellness, chemicals and renewable energy.

"As a bioeconomy-centric country, we are blessed with abundant natural resources to be exploited for higher-value products. Bioeconomy is the game-changer for the nation, but alongside this driver correlates the need to have access to global innovation and capital along



the entire value chain."

Nazlee noted that government funding and support has been increasing. For example, he said the Government had announced almost RM85mil for the BTP fund.

"The announcement was made at the seventh meeting of the Biotechnology International Advisory Panel 2013 in San Francisco last month," he said.

He pointed out that BiotechCorp had established links with the US biotech industry over the years. "Malaysia has secured major investments by CJ Cheil Jedang, Arkema, Gevo, MetEX, GlycosBio and Verdezyne. The combined investments from these large companies is about RM5bil."

One of the prime events in BiotechCorp's calendar this year will be the BioMalaysia & Bioeconomy Asia Pacific 2013 Conference & Exhibition in Johor.

To be held from Oct 21 to 23, it will feature biotechnologies, solutions and products from local, regional and international biotechnology firms.

