

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN**  
**TARIKH: 8 JULAI 2014 (SELASA)**

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KERATAN AKHBAR  
THE STAR (NATION) : MUKA SURAT 22  
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## Space poster contest for students

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Primary and secondary school students are encouraged to come up with a poster that depicts their vision of the future for a competition.

The National Space Agency (Angkasa) said the *Space for the Future* competition was part of the Prime Minister's Cup National Space Challenge 2014 programme that would be held in October.

The contest is co-organised by the Science, Technology and

Innovation Ministry.

Three winning drawings in the primary school category will represent Malaysia at the 21st Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum Poster Contest in Japan in December. The contest closes on Aug 31.

Call Jong Tze Kian at 03-2273 4303, or visit [www.angkasa.gov.my/planetarium](http://www.angkasa.gov.my/planetarium) or Angkasa's Facebook page for more information. — Bernama

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## Amaran Angin Kencang, Laut Bergelora Ekoran Taufan Neoguri

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 Julai (Bernama) -- [Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia](#) pada Isnin mengeluarkan amaran angin kencang dan laut bergelora berikutan Taufan Neoguri yang dikesan kira-kira 1,995 km ke Timur Laut Kudat, Sabah pada pukul 5 petang tadi.

Taufan itu yang dikesan pada Latitud 21.9U dan Longitud 127T bergerak ke arah Barat Laut dari lokasi berkenaan dengan anggaran kelajuan 25km sejam.

Berikutan itu, keadaan angin kencang Barat Daya dengan kelajuan 40 hingga 50 km sejam dengan ombak mencapai ketinggian sehingga 3.5 meter, dijangka berlaku di perairan Perlis, Kedah, Pulau Pinang, Sarawak (Miri), Sabah (Kudat, Pantai Barat dan Pedalaman) dan Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan dan berterusan sehingga Ahad ini.

Keadaan itu berbahaya kepada bot-bot kecil, rekreasi laut dan sukan laut, menurut kenyataan jabatan itu.

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## Gempa Bumi Kuat Di Near Coast Of Chiapas, Mexico

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 Julai (Bernama) -- Satu gempa bumi kuat bermagnitud 7.0 pada skala Richter telah berlaku di Near Coast of Chiapas, Mexico pada pukul 7.24 malam ini.

[Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia](#) dalam satu kenyataan berkata, pusat gempa itu terletak di 15.0 darjah Utara dan 92.1 darjah Barat, 786 km di tenggara Puebla, Mexico.

Menurut jabatan itu, tiada ancaman tsunami berikutan gempa itu namun pihaknya sedang memantau perkembangan tersebut.

-- BERNAMA

# Tapping flower power

Firm cultivates orchids using biotechnology

By LIM WING HOOI  
winghooi@thestar.com.my



In the 16th century, tulip mania became the first recorded speculative bubble. At its peak, 12 acres of land was offered for a *Semper Augustus* orchid bulb.

During the Victorian era, *Orchidelirium* became the name of the game. Wealthy orchid fanatics of the 19th century sent explorers and collectors to almost every part of the world in search of new varieties of orchids.

Orchids became status symbols for the rich and famous of the day.

Today, there are still some levels of madness for orchids. In 2012 alone, the global orchid trade was valued at US\$504mil (RM1.6bil).

Capitalising on the growing appreciation and demand for orchids, Orchid Life Sdn Bhd founder and chief executive officer Abdul Razak Mohd Isa, together with his chief operating officer Mustadza Muhamad, looked at the possibility of growing orchids on a larger scale through tissue culturing.

"We chose to go into business with orchids as there is global demand," said Abdul Razak.

## From cell

In 2006, the former manager of a multinational oil and gas company partnered with architect Mustadza to set up the venture.

A year into the business, they secured funding from the Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC) to commercialise Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Agribiotech's research and development. Orchid Life received an RM2.5mil allocation from the Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation (BiotechCorp) under the BioNexus Seed Development Fund to grow their business.

Abdul Razak said the first phase of their business saw them establishing a 1,000sq ft lab at UPM, buying equipment for tissue culture activities and funding the research and devel-



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