

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
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Bil	Tajuk	Akhbar
1	MIMOS, Turki teruskan kerjasama teknologi	Bernamea.com
2	Taking ecosystem for granted a risky move	New Straits Times



Mimos, Turki Akan Teruskan Kerjasama Teknologi

KUALA LUMPUR, 12 Feb (Bernama) - [Mimos](#), agensi penyelidikan dan pembangunan nasional, sedang berbincang dengan Kementerian Sains, Industri dan Teknologi Turki untuk menjalin kerjasama dalam projek terutamanya berkaitan komunikasi wayarles dan teknologi semikonduktor.

[Presiden dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Mimos Datuk Abdul Wahab Abdullah](#) dalam satu kenyataan berkata perbincangan mengenai potensi kerjasama itu diadakan semasa kunjungan wakil kementerian Turki ke kampus Mimos di sini, hari ini.

"Ini merupakan kali ketiga mereka melawat Mimos sejak tahun lepas. Perbincangan mengenai kemungkinan kerjasama dengan mereka menunjukkan bahawa hasil penyelidikan dan teknologi Mimos diiktiraf hingga ke Kesatuan Eropah.

"Kerjasama teknologi antara Malaysia dan Turki bermula sejak 1997 apabila Mimos bekerjasama dengan sebuah institusi penyelidikan Turki dan hasil penyelidikan itu berjaya diguna pakai di negara tersebut," katanya.

-- BERNAMA

Taking ecosystem for granted a risky move

RIGHT THE WRONG:

Many fail to realise fragile nature of its positive synergy



DR AHMAD
IBRAHIM

WE take many things for granted. Since we are blessed with plentiful rain, we always assume that we will never face water shortage. We have been proven wrong.

If we are not careful, even the air we breathe has risks. We have been warned of global warming. We have long been told of worsening air quality due to pollution. And, the disturbing part is that all such changes come from our own doing. Unless we take measures to correct the wrongdoing, the future is bleak.

Fortunately, we are not short of concerned people. Many have lobbied for actions to make right the wrongs that we have committed. As a result of their persistence, those in authority have taken notice.

The world now has in place a number of international initiatives, through which positive actions have materialised. The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, for example, has motivated many useful actions to alert the world about the measures needed to curb global warming. Though the progress has been slow and challenging, there have been many success stories.

A more recent initiative by the UN was the formalisation of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in 2012. The platform aims to provide authoritative state-of-the-art reports on key scientific and technical aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Specific topics are guided by requests from policymakers, who need scientifically credible and independent information to support policymaking.

IPBES is something special for Malaysia. This is because a Malaysian, Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid, was the first and is the



'*Noctiluca scintillans*' algal bloom, triggered by pollution, glowing in the waters of Hong Kong. Mankind tends to take nature for granted in the name of progress. AP pic

current chairman of the group.

In a recent article, Zakri wrote about a meeting in Bonn, Germany, of many international experts, who had come together to assess the latest developments in science on the subject of biodiversity and ecosystem services. All these years, mankind has more or less taken nature for granted. We have bulldozed our way through, with minimal regard to nature, in the name of progress.

Many have failed to realise that nature, including man, forms a fragile ecosystem that makes the world what it is. It is positive synergy in the ecosystem that main-

tains a dynamic and healthy balance between the air that we breathe, the water that is constantly replenished, the food chain that is unbroken and other services that we tend to take for granted.

Now, scientists who have been documenting changes in the ecosystem have warned of many upsetting developments in biodiversity. In his article, Zakri wrote about the startling prospect of extinction facing some species of birds, mammals and amphibians. Not to mention the slow but sure demise of the world's coral reefs.

At the academy's IdeaXchange discourse, a fellow of the academy

shared his findings on the growing disappearance of many indigenous plant species. All such reports are warning signs of a crumbling natural ecosystem. It will not be long before all such imbalances take their toll on the services that a fragile ecosystem provides mankind.

The challenge for scientists is how to communicate the true value of biodiversity and consequential ecosystem services to those who ultimately have a strong say on the actions that need to be taken, especially policymakers.

This was the main agenda of the Bonn meeting, held from Jan 12 to 17. The experts were handed the task of developing a preliminary guide for the valuation of biodiversity and nature's benefits to mankind. They met to assess the various approaches that have been used in the past for the monetisation of such intangibles and propose an internationally agreed upon approach. We can be assured of more meetings before an eventual biodiversity management blueprint is proposed.

It is an opportune time for us to have a national mirror group to coordinate a similar effort at the domestic level. The suggestion to formalise a National Biodiversity Trust is worth pursuing. This is because failure in the natural ecosystem spells dire consequences for us all.

The writer is Academy of Sciences Malaysia fellow and Universiti Malaya adjunct professor