

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 29 OKTOBER 2015 (KHAMIS)**

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Potensi nanoteknologi sumbang RM20 bilion

Oleh **NABIL BASARUDDIN**
ekonomi@utusan.com.my

■ KUALA LUMPUR 28 OKT.

SEKTOR nanoteknologi berpotensi menjadi pemangkin pertumbuhan ekonomi utama negara pada masa akan datang apabila dijangka menjana Pendapatan Kasar Negara (GNI) sebanyak RM20 bilion menjelang tahun 2020.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif, NanoMalaysia Bhd. (NanoMalaysia), Dr. Rezal Khairi Ahmad berkata, nanoteknologi yang akan diperkakan melalui Pelan Tindakan Kebangsaan Graphene (NGAP) 2020 turut dijangka menghasilkan sebanyak 9,000 peluang pekerjaan dalam industri berkenaan.

Jelas beliau, sebanyak 20 hingga 30 peratus permintaan pekerjaan akan meningkat dalam sektor terabit khususnya bagi penyelidikan dan pembangunan (R&D) serta pembangunan perniagaan.

Menurutnya, sehingga kini NanoMalaysia telah menjalankan sebanyak 18 projek pembangunan produk yang dilakukan sejak Julai 2014 menerusi kerjasama bersama industri dan institusi pengajian tinggi (IPT) dalam meneroka perkembangan industri itu.

"Sebagai agensi teknologi nano, kita menyasarkan untuk menghasilkan sebanyak 10 projek pembangunan produk pada setiap tahun agar selaras dengan objektif utama kerajaan dalam merencanakan ekonomi melalui nanoteknologi.

"Antara segmen utama yang terlibat dalam penggunaan teknologi nano adalah elektronik dan elektrik (E&E) yang menyumbang hampir 40 peratus kepada Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) untuk Malaysia," katanya ketika ditemui pemberita selepas majlis menandatangani perjanjian persefahaman (MoU) NanoMalaysia dan Lux Research di sini hari ini.

Yang turut hadir, **Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI), Datuk Seri Dr. Noorul Ainur Mohd. Nur**; Pengerusi NanoMalaysia, Prof. Emeritus Datuk Ir. Dr. Mohamad Zawawi Ismail; Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Lux Re-



REZAL KHAIRI AHMAD (kiri) bertukar dokumen dengan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Impact Technologies, Azrai Razuan sambil disaksikan oleh Noorul Ainur Mohd. Nur (dua dari kiri) dan Dennis Philbin di Kuala Lumpur, semalam.

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DR. REZAL KHAIRI AHMAD
Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif,
NanoMalaysia Bhd. (NanoMalaysia)

search, Dennis Philbin dan Pengarah Urusan Lux Research Asia Pasifik, Cort Isernhagen.

Pada majlis itu, tiga memorandum persefahaman (MoU) ditan-

datangi melibatkan tiga syarikat bagi membangunkan sektor nanoteknologi antaranya ialah USains Holding Bhd.; Koperasi Kontraktor Warisan Bhd. (KKWB) dan Ultra Impact Technologies.

Tambah Rezal, dengan bantuan dan panduan daripada NanoMalaysia, ia dijangka dapat membantu pemain industri untuk memaksimumkan peluang yang ada bagi meningkatkan keupayaan pengetahuan teknologi.

"Buat masa ini, permintaan begitu menggalakkan daripada pemain industri yang meliputi perusahaan kecil dan sederhana (PKS) dan ia juga dijangka akan menunjukkan maklum balas pasaran yang memberangsangkan," katanya.

Sementara itu, Bajet 2016 yang dibentangkan oleh Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak Jumaat lalu, turut menekankan untuk menjadikan Malaysia sebagai hab teknologi yang kompetitif di rantau ini menerusi peruntukan sebanyak RM1.5 bilion kepada MOSTI.

KERATAN AKHBAR
KOSMO (NEGARA): MUKA SURAT 16
TARIKH : 29 OKTOBER 2015 (KHAMIS)

Hujan lebat di beberapa lokasi turut jadi penyumbang jerebu semakin pulih

Tiada lagi titik panas dikesan

Oleh AQMAR ALLADAD
dan SITI AMINAH MOHD. YUSOF

KUALA LUMPUR - Keadaan berjerebu yang melanda negara sejak Ogos lalu semakin pulih berikutan tiada kawasan titik panas yang dikesan, kata Pegawai Meteorologi Bahagian Khidmat Korporat dan Komersial Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia, Ambun Dindang.

Ambun berkata, hujan lebat di beberapa kawasan di pantai barat dan timur Semenanjung termasuk di Sabah turut menyebabkan partikel jerebu yang terampai di udara mendap bersama air hujan.

"Jika adapun titik panas, ia amat kecil dan tidak memberi

ancaman kepada persekitaran," katanya ketika dihubungi *Kosmo!* di sini semalam.

Setakat pukul 8 malam semalam, tiada satu kawasan catat indeks pencemaran udara (IPU) tidak sihat.

Sementara itu, di **Shah Alam, Selangor**, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Kumpulan Progressive Impact Corporation Bhd. (Picorp), Johar Yusof berkata, penggunaan kaedah bacaan IPU berdasarkan pengukuran zarah sudah boleh digunakan tidak lama lagi.

"Teknologi terbaharu itu sedia ditempatkan di 52 stesen pemantauan kualiti udara di seluruh negara bagi menaik taraf sistem ukuran PM10 yang di-



HAIRI MAAROF (dua dari kanan) membawa keluarganya beriadah di taman permainan di KLCC, Kuala Lumpur semalam.

gunakan sekarang

"Walaupun kaedah ukuran PM10 masih relevan untuk

bacaan IPU, namun ia tidak mampu mengesan habuk halus dalam jerebu seperti yang

diterbangkan dari Indonesia," katanya pada sidang akhbar di pejabatnya di sini semalam.

Johar memberitahu, kos penyediaan alat pengukur PM2.5 itu yang menggunakan teknologi dari Amerika Syarikat adalah antara RM100,000 hingga RM200,000 sebuah.

Sementara itu di **Kota Bharu, Kelantan**, Majlis Profesor Negara (MPN) memberitahu, pihaknya bakal mewujudkan hubungan diplomasi tidak rasmi dengan negara jiran bagi menangani dan mencari penyelesaian terhadap isu sensitif seperti jerebu yang melanda beberapa negara ASEAN termasuk Malaysia.

Pengerusinya, Prof. Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid berkata, MPN akan menghubungi rakan sejawatannya di negara jiran dalam masa terdekat.

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEW STRAITS TIMES (COMMENT): MUKA SURAT 16 & 17
TARIKH : 29 OKTOBER 2015 (KHAMIS)

Innovation a priority in 2016 Budget

CREDIT: The govt has prepared a fairly balanced budget for the coming year

THE 2016 Budget has been tabled. The positive and negative comments are expected. Some applauded the budget, while a few questioned the measures proposed. Considering the fact that it was prepared during trying times, the government deserves credit for a fairly balanced budget.

It addresses the major concerns, yet maintains a small deficit of 3.1 per cent, despite the apprehension about income. The low crude oil price has taken a toll on the nation's revenue. An average price of US\$48 (RM204) per barrel is used for the budget, meaning the income from petroleum would



(From left) Cheng Ah Hock, Mohd Nor Abdul Rahman dan S. Sinnathambay giving the thumbs up to the 2016 Budget. The budget addresses the major concerns, yet maintains a small deficit of 3.1 per cent. Pic by Mohd Azren Jamaludin

deplete significantly.

The low palm oil and rubber prices are not helping. There is hope that the dry El Nino weather will support palm oil prices. As for rubber, the mood is sceptical, especially with the slowing Chinese economy. Even

the weakening of ringgit is influenced by the Yuan devaluation.

Luckily, we have the Goods and Services Tax (GST). As gestured cynically by the prime minister, GST has become the nation's saviour, making up for the

shortfall from petroleum.

The GST income in 2016 may touch RM39 billion. This puts to rest the earlier complaints about GST. Essentially, the budget has outlined five priority targets; strengthening

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DR AHMAD
IBRAHIM

Investing in 'green' research and development a must

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economic resilience, increasing productivity, innovation and green technology, empowering human capital, advancing Bumiputera agenda and easing the cost of living of the rakyat.

But, for us scientists and innovation activists, the priority to increase productivity, innovation and green technology is highest on our radar. This is because we are convinced that innovation is the investment that will take the nation towards the high-income, inclusive and sustainable economy that we aspire. However, implementation is key.

The budget has proposed implementing three measures to boost productivity through innovation.

The target is to attain an annual labour productivity growth of 3.7 per cent. One is to accelerate innovation and entrepreneurship.

As the custodian of this strategy, RML5 billion is allocated to the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry (Mosti). And, in 2016, the ministry will anchor the Malaysia Commercialisation Year initiative.

Small- and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) are the principal target for productivity increase since they contribute significantly towards job growth.

The budget has proposed that for those SMEs spending up to RM50,000 on research and development (R&D) projects, they can claim double tax deduction automatically.

The Malaysian Innovation Agen-

cy, which promised the world in R&D commercialisation when first formed, is given RM100 million.

A recent addition to the innovation ecosystem, MaGIC (Malaysian Global Innovation & Creativity Centre), has been getting rave reviews from the media, gets RM35 million. While another new initiative, the Public-Private Research Network, is allocated RM50 million to accelerate demand-driven innovation.

These allocations confirm that the government is serious about innovation.

The construction industry was also featured highly in the 2016 Budget.

With the recent research by Khazanah highlighting the declining housing affordability issue, the budget gives clear signals to the industry

that it has to change and embrace the deployment of new cost efficient technologies.

One which stands out for mention is the Industrialised Building System (IBS). More companies will be asked to adopt the IBS technology.

For this, an IBS Promotion Fund of RM500 million will be set aside to provide soft loans to developers and contractors.

This should lead to the adoption of sustainable construction as is advocated in the recently launched Construction Industry Master Plan by the Construction Industry Development Board.

In a world where the depletion of resources is very much evident, green and sustainable practices have definitely caught on.

Green technology is the way to go

if the country is to carve a slice of the global expansion in the green economy. This is where the Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry will take the lead. The government targets to reduce the intensity of greenhouse gas emissions to 40 per cent of gross domestic product in 2020.

But, in pursuing the green business, we should avoid repeating the mistakes made when the nation ventured into electrical and electronics.

We should not neglect to invest in R&D and technology development and design, as well as branding. Otherwise, we will only get the crumbs of the green economy!

The writer is a Fellow at Academy of Sciences Malaysia

