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## PM Urges Three Ministries to Formulate Stem Action Plan



PUTRAJAYA, Jan 28 (Bernama) - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has urged three ministries to formulate an action plan for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to help the country achieve developed status.

He said the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of **Science, Technology and Innovation** can mobilise forces to plan and report to the National Science Council.

"STEM is vital to help the country achieve developed status. It is also an important element in Science to Action (S2A). Mastery in STEM can still be enhanced," he said at the first meeting of the National Science Council (NSC) at Bangunan Perdana Putra, here today.

Malaysia's scientific output has also increased by 28 per cent annually, making it among the highest in the world, and this bodes well for the country.

Citing the country's three scientists recognised by Thomson Reuters, he hoped more scientists would conduct research that was recognised internationally.

Najib wanted the research and development (R&D) to be based on the reality in Malaysia and relevant to economic growth and the people's wellbeing.

The ASEAN Economic Community and the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) will give access to international markets and enhance economic growth.

Najib suggested that the NSC, via the Malaysian Science Academy and the National Professors Council, create a mechanism to identify opportunities for new industries based on science and technology.

"In addition, this mechanism is expected to enhance human capital with the collaboration of the economists."

He said the use of science, technology and innovation was most important in the prevention of disasters such as flood, earthquake, haze and dengue fever.

"I understand that a study by the Expert Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction led by the Science Advisor will be presented at the NSC meeting.

"This follows my suggestion to the APEC Chief Science Advisors and Equivalentents recently to find a solution to the haze problem," he added.

-- BERNAMA

# NEW STRAITS TIMES ONLINE

## Najib wants integrated plan on STEM tabled at next NSC meeting

BY AZURA ABAS AND FAZLEENA AZIZ - 28 JANUARY 2016 @ 6:10 PM

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak wants an integrated action plan on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) tabled at the next National Science Council (NSC) meeting.

The plan, said Najib, should be formulated by the Education, Higher Education and Science, Technology and Innovation ministries.

Najib, who chaired the first NSC meeting today, said the STEM fields were crucial in the development of the country and needed more improvements.

In his opening remarks, Najib also suggested that the NSC - via the Malaysia Science Academy and National Professors' Council (MPN) - formulate a mechanism that can identify new industry opportunities in the field of science and technology.

This was in line with the Asean Economic Community and Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA), opening its doors to a wider market access that can strengthen the country's economic growth, he added.

"The mechanism will help bolster human capital together with the cooperation of economists," he said.

On the NSC, Najib said the formation would help increase scientific and technology abilities while addressing the immediate needs of the people.

The council is part of a bigger agenda to better manage the country's Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), he said.

"The rationale behind NSC's formation is to ensure the STI agenda can be monitored and managed under a 'mothership' council, and avoid duplication in terms of administration, outlook and priority.

"On a national scale, the council is the focal point for the Global Science and Innovation Advisory Council (GSIAC) that was formed five years ago," he said, adding a symbiosis of both councils would have a greater effect on the STI agenda.

