

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 08 JANUARI 2016 (JUMAAT)

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KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI) : MUKA SURAT 3
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Tiada ancaman pencemaran radioaktif, gempa bumi berangkai

KUALA LUMPUR 7 Jan. - Ujian bom hidrogen yang dilancarkan Korea Utara semalam dikatakan tidak akan menyebabkan pencemaran bahan radioaktif berskala besar atau berlakunya gempa bumi berangkai di rantau ini.

Pengerusi Lembaga Pengarah Perlesenan Tenaga Atom, Prof. Datuk Dr. Sukiman Sarmani berkata, ini kerana bahan kimia yang dihasilkan daripada letupan itu hanya mengandungi hidrogen dan isotopnya pula terdiri daripada deuterium dan tritium.

Selain itu menurutnya, faktor kedudukan dan geografi tempat pelancaran ujian bom itu yang jauh kedudukannya dari Asia Tenggara menyebabkan risiko kesan pencemarannya tidak akan mengancam di rantau ini.

"Jika benar bom yang diuji itu adalah bom hidrogen maka tidak akan berlaku pencemaran bahan radioaktif berskala besar di rantau ini. Bahan kimia yang dihasilkan daripada letupan itu hanyalah hidrogen yang isotopnya adalah deuterium dan tritium.

"Jika berlakunya penyebaran tritium larut di dalam air, maka pencairannya adalah pada kadar sangat sedikit," katanya kepada

Utusan Malaysia hari ini.

Beliau mengulas laporan akhbar hari ini tentang tindakan Korea Utara semalam yang mengumumkan kejayaan negara itu menjalankan ujian bom hidrogen yang mencetuskan kemarahan Korea Selatan, China, Amerika Syarikat, Perancis dan Jepun.

Katanya, bom nuklear yang berasaskan uranium dan plutonium hanya akan menghasilkan banyak bahan radioaktif jika diletupkan di udara dan menyebabkan pencemaran radioaktif di kawasan yang luas terutama di bahagian Hemisfera Utara.

"Lazimnya ujian bom uranium atau plutonium dilakukan pada kedalaman satu kilometer dari permukaan ia dilancarkan bagi mengelakkan pencemaran radioaktif. Ujian bom di udara tidak diketahui sama ada boleh menyebabkan gempa bumi berangkai. Walau bagaimanapun perlu ditunggu beberapa hari untuk melihat jika ada gegaran susulan," ujarnya.

Katanya, ujian itu menunjukkan keingkaran Korea Utara terhadap amaran pihak antarabangsa termasuk sekutu dan musuh yang melarang Pyongyang menjalani sebarang program pembangunan nuklear.

KERATAN AKHBAR
THE STAR (VIEWS) : MUKA SURAT 50
TARIKH: 08 JANUARI 2016 (JUMAAT)

Fresh hope for science vision

AFTER almost two years of data crunching and analysis, the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) has finally released the key findings of its much awaited maiden Science Outlook report.

This was launched by Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti) Minister Datuk Seri Madius Tangau who, since assuming office, has brought fresh hope to science in this country.

There was apprehension when the idea to produce the report was mooted. A few felt it would be a futile exercise while some questioned the need to invest in such an effort. ASM ventured with the study regardless because its Fellows saw the need to conduct our own self-assessment of the nation's important science and innovation ecosystem. The report has unveiled the true picture of the nation's state of science.

There are gaps which need

mending and unless constructive remedial actions are taken, we may not see improvement in our science and innovation ecosystem. And very few would deny that without a robust science and innovation ecosystem, we cannot maximise the returns from the country's investment in R&D.

With the constant change in technology and shifting consumer preferences, the only way to remain credible and relevant in the highly competitive global environment is to embrace *kaizen* or continuous improvement.

The Science Outlook initiative was intended primarily as a self-assessment on where we are in the implementation of the nation's science, technology and innovation policy (STI), and how we fare when benchmarked against the best in the world. It is essentially an exercise of monitoring and evaluating the nation's STI

commitments so that the necessary feedback would alert us to the improvements required. It is no different from the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) cycle of Quality Management widely practised by big businesses. The hope is that by taking the necessary steps to close the gaps, we will move closer to the vision of science in our country, which is to contribute towards wealth creation and overall societal well-being.

As elaborated by ASM president Tan Sri Dr Tajuddin Ali, the Science Outlook study rigorously assessed the six pillars of the current STI policy, namely governance, R&D commercialisation, talent, energising industry, enculturation, and international linkages.

Since becoming president, Tajuddin can take much credit for the realignment of ASM's activities which now emphasises the science think-tank and advisory mandate.

His efforts are slowly bearing fruit.

Fellows of the Academy are also encouraged by the positive response of the minister and Mosti. In fact, at the launch the minister showed his appreciation for the report and promised to give serious consideration to implementing the recommendations and also make the study a biennial exercise. ASM was also asked to disseminate the findings to other stakeholders.

Many of the recommendations have been highlighted in the past but this time they are based on real evidence from the study. On governance, the recommendations include strengthening the STI management cycle, establishing a centralised STI body and a parliamentary select committee and enacting the Science Act.

On the R&D pillar, the study recommends empowering a central-

ised coordination body and ensuring the effective use of government expenditure on R&D.

Under the talent pillar, the report recommends a more systematic planning and development of science talents, and embracing a mechanism to better attract and retain talent. On energising industry, it called for more formal and regulated linkages in public-private partnership.

A national STI data centre is needed to better coordinate the data needed for effective planning.

The report also proposed the development of a science enculturation index and pursuit of strategic international networking.

A regular science outlook study will go a long way in enhancing the nation's STI achievements.

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