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Innovation key to boosting economy

Madius: Country can't rely on agriculture as the main asset

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KUALA LUMPUR: Depending heavily on agriculture to be the backbone of the nation's economy is no longer prudent, says Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau.

The Science, Technology and Innovation Minister said for the country to leap forward, innovation in the field of science and technology is the game changer that will boost the national economy and release Malaysians from the middle-income trap.

"We can't rely on agriculture any more as the main asset involved is soil, which is very limited and bound to run out in the future, unlike innovation which is limitless.

"We must change from being a country dependent on natural resources and labour-intensive industries to an economy based on science, technology and industry (STI)," he said in his speech while closing the National Innovation Award (AIN) 2016 at the Nu Sentral shopping mall here, yesterday.

He also said advanced countries such as South Korea and Sweden serve as benchmarks for Malaysia in its effort to ramp up innovation.

"Our country's source of wealth depends on our ability to innovate and it is limitless, unlike natural resources, which are limited and

tied to market prices," he said.

AIN, an innovation competition open to Malaysians of all ages, is a testbed for creativity and the spirit of innovation.

It also aims to reward those who possess creative solutions and products for community-related problems, said Madius.

The last lap of the competition saw 40 finalists from all walks of life vying for top prizes in six categories, with up to RM50,000 cash up for grabs.

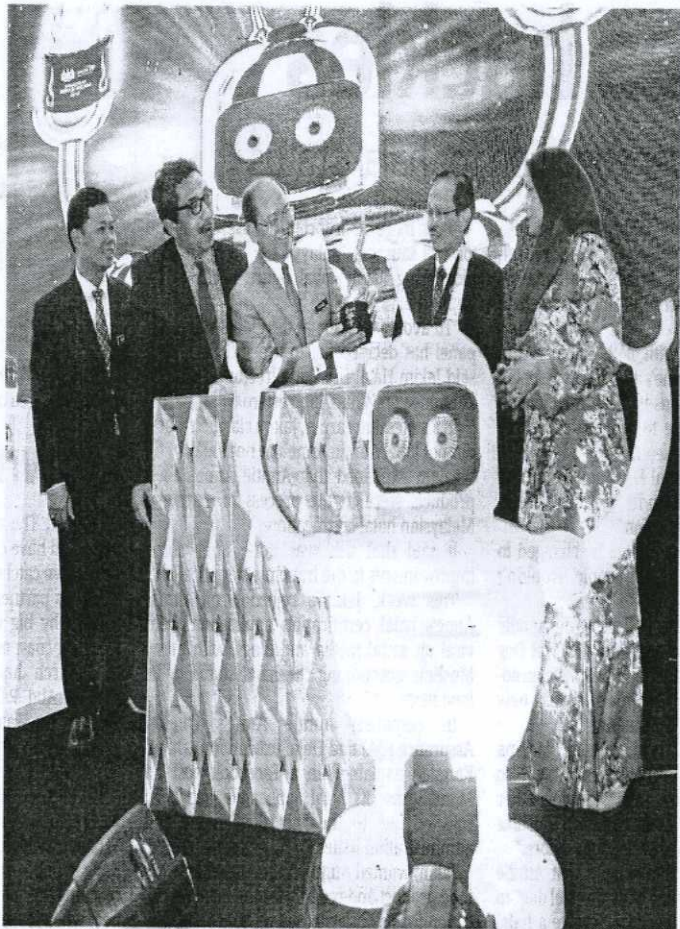
Winning products will be patented before being commercialised in conjunction with 2016, which is Malaysia's year of commercialisation, he said.

"This country definitely does not lack inventors, as we've received more than 500 interesting entries this year, it goes to show that Malaysians have been continuously inventing.

"So, if all 31 million Malaysians were to start inventing commercially viable products that function as creative solutions to day-to-day problems faced by the community, then I'm confident that we can generate great wealth for the country," he told reporters after the ceremony.

Madius added that his ministry was giving importance to allocations for research, social innovation and STI education in Budget 2017, slated to be tabled on Friday.

He said this year's AIN is different



Getting creative:

Madius holding up the AIN trophy as (from left) MOSTI Planning & Commercialisation deputy secretary-general Kua Abun, Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Datuk Dr Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah, MOSTI secretary-general Datuk Dr Mohd Azhar Yahaya and MOSTI Services & Development secretary Lailah Mohd Che Darus look on during the closing ceremony at NU Sentral.

from the previous ones as it aims to showcase a deep appreciation for the media, which plays a pivotal role in informing the public about STI and in highlighting the Government's active support for these noble pursuits.

Print media and electronic media are the two categories introduced this year, and winners stand to receive RM10,000 in cash prizes for the best inventions in each category.

The 11th AIN kicked off on

Monday with a product showcase by the finalists with the announcement of winners from six categories, ranging from the grassroots to schoolchildren, slated to be done tonight at the AIN prize-giving ceremony at Hilton Hotel, here.



Inovasi Sumbang Kepada Ekonomi Negara - Madius

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Okt (Bernama) -- Malaysia harus mencontohi negara maju dalam mencapai tahap teknologi terbaik menerusi ciptaan baharu dan inovasi yang akan menyumbang kepada kadar pertumbuhan Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK).

Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi Datuk Seri Madius Tangau berkata sebagai contoh, Sweden yang mempunyai penduduk 9.9 juta orang mencatatkan KDNK bernilai US\$492.62 bilion (US\$1=RM4.20).

"Selain itu, Sweden juga negara yang berjaya melahirkan rakyat berinovasi tinggi yang memenangi Hadiah Nobel...dan apa yang lebih menarik ialah 52 peratus sumber tenaga negara itu dihasilkan menerusi sumber tenaga baharu," katanya.

Beliau memberitahu pemberita demikian selepas menutup pameran Anugerah Inovasi Negara 2016 selama dua hari mulai semalam di Nu Sentral di sini, hari ini.

Selain Sweden, katanya, Korea Selatan yang tidak kaya dengan sumber semulajadi mempunyai rakyat yang kreatif sehingga mampu mencipta pelbagai produk inovasi baharu dan memberi sumbangan kepada ekonomi negara mereka.

"Malaysia mampu maju seperti Sweden dan Korea Selatan dalam sektor teknologi dengan sentiasa menghasilkan produk inovasi baharu dari semasa ke semasa," katanya.

Sementara itu, Madius berkata dua kategori tambahan diperkenalkan dalam Anugerah Inovasi Negara tahun ini iaitu kategori Anugerah Media Cetak dan Media Elektronik.

"Kategori baharu ini bertujuan memberi penghargaan kepada pengamal media yang membantu kementerian mempromosi agenda sains, teknologi dan inovasi negara," katanya.

Majlis penyampaian Anugerah Inovasi Negara 2016 dijadual berlangsung esok.

-- BERNAMA

