

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN  
TARIKH: 1 OKTOBER 2013 (SELASA)**

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**KERATAN AKHBAR**  
**UTUSAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI) : MUKA SURAT 28**  
**TARIKH : 1 OKTOBER 2013 (SELASA)**

# Perjelas teknologi nuklear

KUALA LUMPUR 30 Sept. - Pengetahuan berkenaan bidang teknologi nuklear perlu diperjelaskan secara lebih terperinci kepada masyarakat khususnya golongan kebanyakan bagi memastikan perkara itu tidak dipolitikkan.

Timbalan Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Datuk Dr. Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah berkata, usaha itu perlu kerana tahap kesedaran dan penerimaan orang ramai terhadap bidang tersebut secara amnya masih lagi rendah.

“Saya rasa masyarakat di negara ini masih lagi kurang faham tentang penggunaan teknologi nuklear. Kita tidak boleh percaya perkara yang kabur, contohnya isu Lynas, bagi saya pendekatan yang perlu digunakan adalah kae-

dah profesional, kepakaran dan pendidikan bukan emosi.

“Negara kita sebenarnya mempunyai satu pakej lengkap merangkumi penyelidikan, tenaga pakar profesional dan pengajaran teknologi nuklear di sekolah. Kita sudah ada satu pakej yang bagus tetapi apabila sampai pada tahap penerimaan pula menjadi tanda soal, sehingga menyebabkan pihak tertentu mempolitikkan perkara ini,” katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian dalam sidang akhbar selepas merasmikan Persidangan Nuklear Sains Antarabangsa, Teknologi dan Ke-



**ABU BAKAR**

juruteraan 2013 anjuran Persatuan Nuklear Malaysia di sini.

Kira-kira 200 peserta tempatan dan luar negara hadir ke persidangan antarabangsa tersebut yang berlangsung selama tiga hari mulai hari ini.

Jelas Abu Bakar, walaupun maju dalam bidang teknologi nuklear, namun jika tiada

sokongan dan penerimaan daripada masyarakat, keadaan itu boleh menjejaskan pembangunan negara.

“Oleh itu, kita kena jelaskan bagi menghilangkan keraguan masyarakat terhadap keselamatan

penggunaan teknologi nuklear. Kalau bidang ini digunakan sebaik-baiknya mengikut spesifikasi ia boleh membaiki kehidupan.

“Malah, pihak kementerian juga akan memastikan pembiayaan mencukupi diperuntukkan dalam membangunkan kapasiti dan keupayaan kepakaran negara ini dalam bidang tersebut ke arah menuju sebuah negara perindustrian menjelang 2020,” katanya.

Katanya, pelbagai inisiatif dilakukan pihaknya dalam memberi pendidikan di peringkat awal berkaitan teknologi nuklear.

Dalam masa sama, Abu Bakar berkata, bilangan pelajar dan pakar dalam bidang teknologi nuklear perlu dipertingkatkan seiring dengan negara lain.

# Harnessing science for wealth creation

**2014 BUDGET:** Include investments in new growth industries

**N**EXT month, the prime minister will unveil the 2014 Budget. As usual, the speech will include estimates of income and expenditure for next year.

Reducing the deficit will continue to be a key target. It is also expected to touch on ways to expand the country's income base. The goods and services tax (GST) is one option being discussed.

However, it should not ignore other potential new growth areas. It has become evident in recent years that the country has to create new sources of revenue as it prepares to move up the economic ladder. The Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) is a good start. But we also need to look for longer-term support for the economy. Some of the industries that feed the nation's coffers are at risk of decline.

The palm oil sector, for example, still struggles to expand production.

Land is a limitation. The other obstacle concerns objections by some groups on grounds of sustainability. There is, however, hope that yields may improve as a result of the recent breakthrough in the oil palm genome by the Malaysian Palm Oil Board.

The petroleum sector is also expected to witness a decline in coming years. Oil deposits will not last forever. We are now forced to explore marginal areas where extraction is more costly.

The electric and electronic sector is on shaky ground. We are too dependent on multinationals to drive that sector. Some have moved to other lower-cost countries. The country, therefore, needs to constantly scout for new growth areas.

In an innovation-driven world, economy, science and technology hold the key to many new growth areas. Over the years, the government, through the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti), has invested in research and development to develop technology.

This is undertaken by universities

and research institutes in the country. R&D has delivered some potential technologies and products that may be commercialised.

Commercialisation, however, should not be the only endgame. Instead, such technology should be strategised as a forerunner of new growth areas. Mosti is the ministry for the new economy. It is where ideas on the new growth areas are born and nurtured for the nation's well-being.

The new science, technology and innovation (STI) policy that will be launched soon is designed to deliver that. Among the six pillars identified in the policy, the most critical one is, admittedly, to energise industry. This is the endgame for the policy.

After all, Mosti's vision has always been to harness STI for wealth creation. So, creating new growth industries is within its mandate. And Mosti is doing just that. A number of flagships have been identified for possible mention in the Budget.



**Dr Ahmad Ibrahim**  
is CEO of the  
Academy of  
Sciences Malaysia

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**SAMBUNGAN...**  
**NEW STRAITS TIMES (COMMENT) : MUKA SURAT 17**  
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# *Thorium-based nuke plant*

## *a possibility*

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The important criteria for such flagships are that they should be technology-driven, new in terms of global business and carry some element of risk which has to be managed. These should not be businesses which are already crowded.

Scanning the global emerging technology business, it has become

evident that there are a number of potential growth areas.

As expected, much of the emerging global interest is linked to green technology, halal pharmaceuticals and healthy foods.

Fuel cell-based business, for example, is an area that can be explored as a flagship. Much research has happened in Malaysia on this. It is now time to move the fuel cell

technology into a full industry.

In the energy sector, thorium, a safer replacement for uranium, is being researched for nuclear power. Over the long term, experts see a thorium-based nuclear plant as a big energy business.

Regarding halal pharmaceuticals, the world is looking at plants as factories to produce vaccines and medicinal drugs. Incidentally, to-

bacco is the best candidate crop to host such technology. With the nation's tobacco farming facing threats post-Asean Free Trade Area in 2015, such a project should be welcomed by tobacco farmers in east coast states. All such projects conform well to the new economic model of being high income, inclusive and sustainable. The 2014 Budget should seize this opportunity.

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TARIKH: 1 OKTOBER 2013 (SELASA)



## Amaran Angin Kencang, Laut Bergelora Ekoran Taufan Wutip

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 Sept (Bernama) -- **Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia** pada Isnin mengeluarkan amaran angin kencang dan laut bergelora berikutan Taufan Wutip dikesan kira-kira 515 kilometer ke Tenggara Hanoi, Vietnam pagi ini.

Berikutan taufan itu yang dikesan pada 8 pagi, keadaan angin kencang Barat Daya dengan kelajuan 50 hingga 60 km sejam dengan ombak mencapai ketinggian sehingga 4.5 meter, dijangka berlaku di perairan Sarawak (Miri), Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan dan Sabah (Pantai Barat, Pedalaman dan Kudat) dan keadaan itu dijangka berterusan sehingga esok (1 Okt).

Keadaan itu berbahaya kepada bot-bot kecil, rekreasi laut dan sukan laut, kata laman web jabatan itu.

Taufan Wutip kini berada kira-kira 1,444 kilometer ke Barat Laut Kudat, Sabah.

-- BERNAMA

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## Gempa Bumi Kuat Di Kermadec Islands

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 Sept (Bernama) -- Gempa bumi kuat berukuran 6.6 pada skala Richter berlaku di Kermadec Islands, New Zealand pada 1.55 petang ini, menurut **Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia.**

Gempa bumi itu berlaku di 929km timur laut dari North Shore, New Zealand dan 7,713km tenggara dari Semporna, Sabah.

Tiada ancaman tsunami dilaporkan.

-- BERNAMA