

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 14 OGOS 2014 (KHAMIS)**

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KERATAN AKHBAR
HARIAN METRO (SETEMPAT): MUKA SURAT 33
TARIKH: 14 OGOS 2014 (KHAMIS)

Yakin sasaran produk baru

Shah Alam: Sebanyak 58 produk baru dikomersialkan tahun ini, sekali gus menunjukkan perkembangan positif terhadap perkembangan sains, teknologi dan inovasi di negara ini.

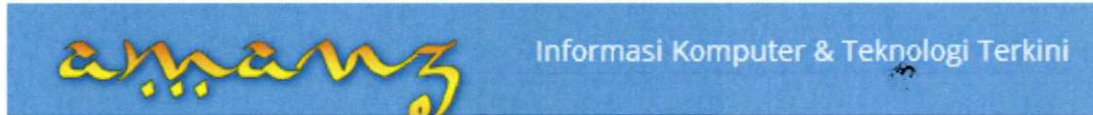
Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI), Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin berkata, pihaknya yakin sasaran 60 produk baru pada tahun ini akan dicapai selaras hasrat MOSTI menjadikan 2014 sebagai tahun komersial.

Menurutnya perkembangan membanggakan itu juga berupaya menyumbang kepada

matlamat MOSTI yang menyasarkan 360 produk menjelang 2020.

"Kita bangga dengan penghasilan produk ini yang dilihat berupaya memenuhi keperluan sama ada di peringkat akar umbi sehingga kepada keperluan industri.

"Sebahagian besar produk ini juga sudah mendapat permintaan daripada industri dan berada di pasaran. Selain itu beberapa produk dikenal pasti mempunyai potensi untuk pasaran ke luar negara," katanya.



Pameran Pengkomersilan MOSTI 2014 Diadakan di SACC Mall Shah Alam



Kementerian Sains Teknologi & Inovasi (MOSTI) dalam memeriahkan dan mengkomersilkan industri sains teknologi dan inovasi pada hari ini telah memulakan Persidangan dan Pengkomersilan MOSTI 2014 di Shah Alam Convention Centre. Pameran yang bermula dari 13 Ogos sehingga 15 Ogos ini berperanan untuk mengetengahkan produk-produk baru serta keupayaan produk penyelidikan kepada umum.

Pada hari ini juga **Menteri Sains, Teknologi & Inovasi YB Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin** turut melancarkan Direktori Produk dan Perkhidmatan Penyelidikan, Pembangunan dan Pengkomersilan bertujuan untuk menyenaraikan dan memudahkan pencarian keatas

produk hasil tempatan. 18 produk baru juga turut dilancarkan pada hari ini dan terdiri daripada pelbagai kategori seperti Teknologi Maklumat dan Perisian, Pertanian, Kimia, Kejuruteraan, Bioteknologi, Perubatan serta Kesihatan dan Alam Sekitar. Selain 18 produk baru tersebut, terdapat 40 produk hasil penyelidikan dan pembangunan telah berjaya dikomersilkan sehingga Julai 2014.



Pameran ini juga turut menampilkan produk hasil kajian yang menerima dana dari MOSTI serta agensi dibawahnya seperti Technology Park Malaysia, Yayasan Inovasi Malaysia, dan banyak lagi. Seramai 17 tokoh usahawan dan industri yang akan berkongsi tips inovasi dan kreativiti serta 75 pempamer telah mengambil bahagian didalam pameran ini. Tapak pameran khas juga diwujudkan bagi mereka yang ingin mencari maklumat mengenai dana yang disediakan MOSTI serta jabatan dan agensi dibawahnya.

Sekiranya anda seorang yang minat akan sains, teknologi, dan inovasi dan mencari peluang serta produk baru, maka pameran ini seharusnya tidak dibiarkan berlalu begitu sahaja. Hadirkan diri anda ke Shah Alam Convention Centre dari 13 Ogos sehingga 15 Ogos ini.

Twice daily cloud seeding ops for Sungai Selangor dam

By RAHIMY RAHIM
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PETALING JAYA: Cloud seeding operations have begun over catchment areas for the Sungai Selangor dam with twice-daily runs since Aug 1.

State exco in charge of infrastructure and public amenities Dr Ahmad Yunus Hairi said the operations, which were carried jointly by the Selangor water management board (Luas), **Meteorological department** and the air force, were carried out using salt or sodium chloride solution.

"Based on records, the amount of rain over the dam has improved to 181.65mm from 69.52mm in June and 73.05mm in July. This is a positive development," he said in a statement here yesterday.

Other mitigation measures, added Dr Ahmad, included reducing the rate of release of water from the Sungai Selangor dam and the Sungai Tinggi dam from 700 million litres to 500 million litres daily.

The Sungai Selangor dam's water level continues to hover near the critical level despite rain

over the past few days, with water levels only increasing from 32.03% of the reservoir's storage capacity on Tuesday to 32.10% yesterday, a mere increase of 0.07%.

Sungai Selangor supplies raw water that meets some 60% of the Klang Valley's needs. The Sungai Selangor dam as well as six other dams in the state are managed by Luas.

The treatment of raw water is conducted by plant operators including Puncak Niaga and Syarikat Pengeluar Air Selangor Sdn Bhd.

Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd is in charge of the water supply distribution systems in Selangor and the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

Malaysia Meteorological Department spokesman Dr Hisham Mohd Anip said there would be isolated rain throughout the month as the country was facing the southwest monsoon, which typically brings hot and dry weather.

On Tuesday, the Selangor government had announced that water rationing would not be imposed.

The answer to Mecca's traffic woes

LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT:

The situation in the holy city has reached a level where authorities have to start considering a train system

MUSLIMS go to Mecca throughout the year either to perform the haj or umrah. During the peak of the haj season, the number of pilgrims can hit almost three million or more.

Close to the same number would be there during Ramadan, especially on the last ten days of the month. Travel agencies involved in the umrah business are known to enjoy lucrative profits.

The Saudi government has, no

doubt, earned healthy revenue from haj and umrah visitors. Both are key pillars of the country's economy, apart from oil, of course.

One can see evidence of this in the many businesses thriving in Mecca. The food business is especially profitable. Also the clothing business. In fact, there is no real need to show good service to sell food there.

The reason is obvious. There are more people buying than selling. In fact, unlike the norm, the customer is not the king in Mecca. On the contrary, customers have to show patience when buying food there. The food vendor is king. They decide when to serve. There is no need to smile to attract customers; it is the other way round. Customers have to smile more to be served.

Despite recent restrictions imposed on the umrah visa because of ongoing construction work in Mec-

ca, traffic congestion is still a major issue there. It has not shown any signs of abating. Buses and cars still fight for space on the roads.

The constant honking by drivers is indicative of the level of patience

they endure as they painfully negotiate crowded streets to reach their destinations. Delays are common. Journeys into and out of Mecca have to be properly planned to avoid delays.

Though the Saudi government has invested heavily in new highways and other traffic dispersal systems, the city's traffic woes have remained problematic.

What Mecca desperately needs is an efficient rail system. The situation has reached a level where the authorities in Mecca have to seriously consider investing in the latest railway technology, like the Light Rail Transit (LRT), which is now a common feature of Kuala Lumpur's public transport system.



Dr Ahmad Ibrahim
Fellow, Academy of Sciences Malaysia

There are many reasons why a rail network would be good for Mecca. Relieving traffic congestion is one. But the other important contribution is to help disperse the construction of new hotels in Mecca.

At the moment, construction is very much focused on the area closest to the Masjidil Haram. This is understandable considering the fact that in general, pilgrims prefer to stay as close as possible to the mosque to minimise travel time for prayers and other rituals.

Given the chance, all would like to stay at the doorstep of the mosque. This is so that they would still have time to reach and pray in the mosque even after the azan is called. Of course, Mecca's familiar summer heat is another factor why many prefer to stay in hotels closest to the mosque. Depending on the time of the year, temperatures can reach higher than 45°C at times!

And because of the high demand to stay as close as possible, hotel rates near the mosque are high.

Often, only the very rich can afford them. This is not consistent with the Islamic principle of all enjoying equal access despite the differences in wealth status.

A good LRT network will change all this. This is because if, by using the train, one could arrive at the mosque in a matter of five to 10 minutes, then staying at hotels close to the mosque is no longer crucial. Provided, of course, that there are stations built close to the main gates of the mosque.

With an efficient air conditioned rail travel, one can stay even near the Tanaim mosque and still reach the Masjidil Haram fresh and on time for prayers. That would also make performing umrah much easier if your hotel is right at the Miqat.

Because of all the plus points, it is time to seriously consider constructing an efficient LRT system for Mecca. In fact, with a good LRT network, more pilgrims can be accommodated to perform the haj or umrah. More pilgrims mean more business for the economy!