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Science centre reaches out

It is holding nationwide roadshow following centre's closure for upgrading work

THE National Science Centre is conducting a nationwide roadshow offering 52 programmes for various sectors of society.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin said more than 100,000 people would be involved in the programmes.

"We have tailor-made programmes to suit students, teachers, youths, the orang asli, disabled and the public.

"We are bringing science and technology to the people because we want to create a love for this field among all levels of society," he

said when launching Trooperz — the centre's outreach initiative to raise awareness on science, technology and innovation among Malaysians.

Dr Ewon said the centre, located in Bukit Kiara, Kuala Lumpur had been closed to the public since March 20.

"This is to enable major upgrading work to be carried out and it is expected to be completed by November next year.

"It will offer visitors more comfort and double the excitement," he said, adding that the upgrading would cost RM20mil.



Science at work: Dr Ewon's hand looks like it is engulf in flames during a science experiment held during the launch of National Science Centre's Trooperz in Putrajaya. — Photos by MOHD SAHAR MISNI



Interesting: Dr Ewon observing a science experiment involving a balloon strapped to a battery-operated device.



Mosti jejak projek inovasi sosial

PUTRAJAYA - **Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (Mosti)** akan menjejaki produk-produk inovasi sosial ke peringkat akar umbi supaya aplikasinya lebih meluas dan faedah sosialnya berganda melalui program Inovasi Nasional Mosti.

Menterinya, Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin berkata, pada tahun ini melalui dana RM20 juta yang diperuntuk untuk penyelidikan, pembangunan dan komersialisasi untuk inovasi sosial, pihaknya berharap setiap inovasi mampu memberi kesan langsung kepada rakyat.

Katanya, program itu juga direncana untuk meningkatkan keupayaan individu untuk bertindak melalui jaringan kerjasama pelbagai pihak.

"Majoriti program inovasi sosial yang berjaya di dalam dan luar negeri melibatkan kerjasama erat antara individu, komuniti, kerajaan, pertubuhan dan syarikat swasta," katanya ketika berucap merasmikan Karnival Kreativiti dan Science4u Putrajaya (Zon Tengah) 2015 di sini hari ini.

Sebagai permulaan, katanya, pelaksanaan MSI akan melibatkan program 'outreach' termasuk Jejak Inovasi Mosti-Yayasan Inovasi Malaysia (YIM) bersama pelajar, badan bukan kerajaan, komuniti, pertumbuhan wanita, etnik dan komuniti terpilih.

Peringkat seterusnya ialah Cabaran Inovasi Sosial bagi mendapatkan cadangan idea atau projek yang lebih berimpak tinggi yang sesuai diletakkan di bawah MSI, katanya.

Karnival Kreativiti dan Science4u Putrajaya yang berlangsung tiga hari bermula hari ini menyaksikan sebanyak 21 aktiviti menarik dijalankan termasuk Cabaran Inklusif 2015 anjuran YIM yang menawarkan hadiah wang tunai RM27,000 kepada inovator yang berjaya menampilkan inovasi terbaik



MOSTI To Track Social Innovation Products At Grassroot Level

PUTRAJAYA, April 16 (Bernama) -- **The Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry (MOSTI)** will be tracking social innovation projects at grassroot level so that their applications become more widespread with more social benefits through the MOSTI Social Innovation (MSI) programme.

Its **Minister Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin** said this year, a RM20 million fund had been allocated for research, development and commercialisation of social innovation, and it is hoped each innovation would benefit the people directly.

He said the programme was also planned to raise individual capacity through network cooperation of various parties.

"Most of the successful social innovation programmes locally and abroad involved cooperation between individuals, communities, governments, organisations and private companies," he said when launching the 2015 Creativity and Science4u Carnival for Putrajaya (Central Zone) here Thursday.

As a start, he said, the implementation of MSI would involve outreach programmes with non-governmental organisations, communities and women organisations.

-- BERNAMA



Malaysia Eksploitasi 'STEM' Untuk Pertumbuhan Masa Depan - Muhyiddin



Timbalan Perdana Menteri Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin mendengar penerangan Pengarah International Bureau of Education (IBE-UNESCO) Dr Mmantseste Marope, ketika melawat pejabat IBE-UNESCO di Geneva

Daripada Muin Abdul Majid

GENEVA, 16 April (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin menegaskan mengenai perlunya bagi Malaysia untuk memanfaatkan kemahiran dan pengetahuan dalam Sains, Teknologi, Kejuruteraan dan Matematik (STEM) merentasi semua sektor untuk memastikan negara kekal pada landasan pertumbuhan yang memberi faedah keuntungan ekonomi dan masyarakat.

Timbalan perdana menteri berkata Malaysia telah beralih daripada ekonomi berasaskan pertanian menjadi ekonomi berasaskan sumber dan pengeluaran.

Bagaimanapun, agak menggusarkan jika dilihat negara-negara yang bermula pada tahap yang sama dengan Malaysia telah berganjak kepada kedudukan yang lebih maju ke depan.

"Adalah jelas menunjukkan negara-negara ini telah menggunakan sepenuhnya STEM untuk meraih kejayaan," katanya semasa menjelaskan usaha Malaysia untuk memacu STEM ke hadapan.

Beliau berkata demikian dalam ucapannya semasa melawat International Bureau of Education (IBE) di sini dan membentangkan pandangannya mengenai "Peranan STEM dalam Menyuburkan Pembangunan Lestari - Pengalaman Malaysia." Geneva merupakan bandar raya kedua yang dikunjungi Muhyiddin selepas lawatan kerja tiga hari ke Paris berhubung usaha Malaysia untuk menduduki kerusi Lembaga Eksekutif UNESCO bagi penggal 2015-2019.

Muhyiddin berkata untuk memastikan Malaysia berada dalam kurungan ekonomi maju berpendapatan tinggi, model ekonomi masa depan negara haruslah berasaskan sektor terbaik industri yang didorong terutamanya oleh pengetahuan dan inovasi.

Muhyiddin, yang juga Menteri Pendidikan, menarik perhatian bahawa adalah jelas pembangunan modal insan dalam STEM amat penting untuk proses transformasi negara.

"Satu strategi merangkumi beberapa siri pelan tindakan haruslah berupaya untuk menyokong kadar pengeluaran yang diperlukan bagi menjana modal insan STEM yang berkemahiran pada dua tahap, iaitu sekolah menengah dan institusi pengajian tinggi, untuk mencapai sasaran 500,000 graduan STEM menjelang 2020," katanya.

Timbalan perdana menteri berkata adalah perlu untuk memikat pelajar supaya meminati sains dan kelas sains, dan bagi Malaysia, terutamanya dalam kalangan kanak-kanak lelaki.

"Kita perlu menjadikan mata pelajaran sains menarik, mudah difahami, lebih praktikal dan berbentuk meneroka," katanya.

Hadir pada majlis itu ialah Pengarah IBE Mmantsetsa Marope.

IBE merupakan institut di bawah Pertubuhan Pendidikan, Saintifik dan Kebudayaan PBB (UNESCO) khusus untuk kandungan, kaedah dan struktur pendidikan.

-- BERNAMA

500,000 STEM grads by 2020

HUMAN CAPITAL:

Science, technology, engineering and math graduates key to becoming advanced economy, says Muhyiddin



ZAIDI ISHAM ISMAIL

GENEVA

MALAYSIA is going all out to produce 500,000 science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduates by 2020 to ensure it is on track towards becoming an economically advanced country.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said by 2020, about one million, or six per cent of the country's 15 million workforce, would be in STEM fields.

"Based on the six per cent targeted annual economic growth, it is envisaged that Malaysia needs about 500,000 STEM graduates by 2020.

"We know that a skilled and innovative workforce is key towards achieving high income and an advanced-economy status, and it is apparent that human capital development in STEM is vital in our national transformation process," said Muhyiddin, who is also education



Deputy Prime Minister **Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin** receiving a souvenir from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's International Bureau of Education director **Mmantsetsa Marope** in Geneva yesterday. *Bernama pic*

minister, at the end of his working visit here at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (Unesco) International Bureau of Education.

His visit was part of Malaysia's bid to win a seat in Unesco's executive board membership for the 2015 to 2019 term. Muhyiddin was making his remarks on "the role of STEM in steering sustainable development: the Malaysian experience".

"STEM human capital is expected to be the main driver of our economic growth, underpinned by value creation activities through technological inventions and innovations,

which in turn, create a broad, rippling wealth and employment generating effect across the country."

Muhyiddin, however, said the supply of STEM graduates must be addressed.

"Assuming there is no intervention of the current status and based on an estimated economic growth rate of six per cent a year, Malaysia is expected to churn out 236,000 graduates in STEM fields between 2011 and 2020, which is less than half of the targeted 500,000 STEM human capital needs by 2020."

He said at that rate, it was of absolute certainty that the targeted

500,000 workforce in STEM would remain elusive unless drastic intervention measures were taken at each segment of the human capital value chain.

Meanwhile, Malaysia has lent its support to Unesco for its Strengthening STEM for girls in Africa and Asia-Pacific (phase one) programme, involving Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Indonesia.

The cost of the 18-month project comes under the Malaysia-Unesco cooperation programme: "Malaysia Funds-In-Trust", which was signed between the government and Unesco in 2011.

The Malaysia-Unesco Cooperation programme was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak during the 35th session of the Unesco general conference in 2009, with an initial contribution of US\$5 million (RM17.5 million) and a subsequent contribution of US\$1 million a year.

The purpose of the Malaysia-Unesco cooperation programme is to benefit mainly small island development states, least-developed countries, and African and Asia-Pacific countries, of which 17 projects amounting to more than US\$5 million have been approved.