

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 28 APRIL 2015 (SELASA)

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J-Biotech Sasar RM500 Juta Pelaburan Bioteknologi, Biodiversiti Tahun Ini

JOHOR BAHRU, 27 April (Bernama) -- Perbadanan Bioteknologi dan Biodiversiti Johor (J-Biotech) menyasar untuk menarik RM500 juta pelaburan dalam kedua-dua industri itu tahun ini, berbanding hanya RM37.5 juta tahun lepas.

Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin berkata, ia sejajar dengan hasrat kerajaan yang mahu menjadikan Johor negeri yang bukan setakat menekankan industri minyak dan gas serta pendidikan, tetapi juga bioteknologi.

Menurut Mohamed Khaled, menjelang 2020, nilai pelaburan bagi kedua-dua industri juga sepatutnya mencecah RM3 bilion dan menyediakan peluang pekerjaan kepada penduduk tempatan, terutama graduan universiti.

"Kita tahu potensi sektor bioteknologi dan Johor mahu menjadi pemain utamanya.

"Sehubungan itu, pada awal tahun, kita telah mewujudkan Johor Bio Talent Development Centre bagi menjayakan sektor ini, khususnya berkaitan modal insan," katanya pada sidang media selepas merasmikan Forum Inovasi dan Perindustrian Majlis Profesor Negara (MPN) Berkenaan Industri Bioteknologi, di sini Isnin.

Turut hadir Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif J-Biotech, Wan Amir Jeffery Wan Abd Majid dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif MPN, Profesor Datuk Dr. Raduan Che Rose.

Sementara itu, semasa ucapan perasmianya, Mohamed Khaled berkata, Johor Bio Talent ditubuhkan pada Februari lepas dengan tujuan memudahkan pembangunan bakat untuk industri bioteknologi dan berasaskan bio dengan perkongsian ilmu dan teknologi, pembangunan usawahan serta penyelidikan dan pembangunan sebagai komponen utamanya.

Sejak penubuhannya, Johor Bio Talent telah menjalin perkongsian dengan 11 syarikat, termasuk Biocon Sdn Bhd, Stelis Biopharma Sdn Bhd, Syarikat Wen ken Drug Sdn Bhd, Palsgaard (M) Sdn Bhd, Eonlipids Sdn Bhd, Natural Speciality Sdn Bhd dan Super Food Specialists (M) Sdn Bhd.

"Berdasarkan rakan kongsi industri Johor Bio Talent, ia dijangka mewujudkan 2,000 peluang pekerjaan menjelang 2018.

"Dengan itu, saya bangga untuk mengumumkan Johor Bio Talent kini beroperasi sepenuhnya untuk mudah dan menghasilkan modal insan yang kompeten untuk industri bioteknologi yang akan mengukuhkan lagi kedudukan Johor sebagai destinasi menarik bagi pelaburan bioteknologi serta berasaskan bio," tambahnya.

Johor Bio Talent adalah kerjasama J-Biotech dengan Perbadanan Bioteknologi Malaysia (BiotechCorp) dan Kementerian Pendidikan melalui Program Kebolehpekerjaan Siswazah kementerian itu, iaitu Pusat Kecemerlangan Industri Bioteknologi.

Sementara itu, Wan Amir menegaskan, tumpuan J-Biotech adalah untuk membawa masuk teknologi biopertanian bagi dijadikan bahan mentah pertanian yang dihasilkan masyarakat setempat sebagai produk bernilai tinggi di pasaran antarabangsa.

"Ini kerana Johor merupakan pengeluar terbesar pertanian dan ia akan menjadi tumpuan kita bagi tiga atau empat tahun akan datang sebelum diikuti bioindustri, bioperubatan dan sebagainya," tambahnya.

-- BERNAMA



KETTHA Sedia Beri Pinjaman Buka 'Kedai Hijau'

PETALING JAYA, 27 April (Bernama) -- Kementerian Tenaga, Teknologi Hijau dan Air (KETTHA) bersedia memberi pinjaman kepada syarikat yang ingin membuka kedai berkonsepkan hijau, sekali gus mempromosikan dengan meluas produk-produk mesra alam sekitar.

Timbalan Menteri Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid berkata melalui Skim Pembiayaan Teknologi Hijau (GTFS), syarikat-syarikat berkecayaan boleh diberi pinjaman untuk merencanakan pengeluaran dan penggunaan produk hijau.

"Yang penting sekali syarikat kena layak dari segi pengiktirafan contohnya daripada [Sirim](#) atau MyHijau... dan apabila syarikat itu sudah layak, syarikat itu nak minta bantuan (kewangan) kami boleh bantu," katanya kepada pemberita selepas merasmikan 'GR!N Store', di sini hari ini.

Mahdzir berkata antara kriteria untuk diiktiraf sebagai kedai hijau ialah pengurusan yang mempraktikkan amalan hijau seperti cekap tenaga, pengurusan sisa efisien, mempamer dan menjual produk-produk hijau yang mempunyai pelabelan eko yang diiktiraf, dan menjalankan aktiviti promosi dan perkhidmatan hijau.

Menurut laman sesawang GTFS, sesebuah syarikat boleh mendapat pinjaman sehingga RM10 juta untuk mempromosikan produk hijau, jika layak.

Mahdzir berkata pada 2013, industri hijau menyumbang RM7.9 bilion atau 0.8 peratus kepada Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar.

Mengenai GR!N Store, Mahdzir berkata pembukaan premis itu adalah selari dengan dasar kerajaan untuk meningkatkan kesedaran akan kepentingan penggunaan produk hijau dalam kalangan masyarakat.

Beroperasi di dalam pasar raya Super Pharmacy Warehouse, GR!N Store adalah premis pertama yang seumpamanya diwujudkan di Malaysia dan merupakan kerjasama antara Green Purchasing Network Malaysia (GPNM) dan Symbion Biotech Sdn Bhd.

-- BERNAMA

**KERATAN AKHBAR TEMPATAN
BERITA HARIAN (BISNES) : MUKA SURAT B3
TARIKH: 25 APRIL 2015 (SABTU)**

Time to rethink our high-tech agenda

INITIATIVE: We can steal a march on the high-tech revolution by tapping our own varsities' expertise



**DR AHMAD
IBRAHIM**

THE implementation of the higher education blueprint should drive a new vigour in higher education. After all, the university is the place where future leaders are bred. It is where new ideas are born. There is no denying the significance of higher educa-

tion in charting the nation's future. Lately many raised concerns about the quality of tertiary education in the country. Many worry about how our universities can produce the right kind of talent to move the country's development agenda and help the nation achieve global competitiveness.

The blueprint pays serious attention to not only building talent, but also providing the right ecosystem for knowledge and research. In an era where strategic technology competency is key to competitiveness, higher education has an important role to play. Many believe universities must ferment an environment which allows active germination of new ideas. A prerequisite of constructive idea generation is, of course, more tolerance of independent thinking. There must be adequate space to disagree. Intellectual discourse must assume a new vigour. Nowadays, there is concern that such an atmosphere is lacking in universities. Low attendance at discussion forums have become common place in most universities. Are universities not promoting the right key

performance indicators?

It is encouraging to note that the blueprint plans to give greater autonomy to universities. This will undoubtedly help improve decision making, a constant grouse raised by academics. Of course, autonomy must come with responsibility and good governance.

Looking at the many initiatives spelt out in the blueprint, there is confidence all around that it truly provides a good signal for positive change in the nation's higher education. This will also present the country with the opportunity to revisit its high-technology strategy. Many among the academics are saying that we have been losing focus on the high-tech agenda.

For many years, the government has pushed hard to get more high-technology business in the economy. Sadly, we have failed to fully realise the targets set many years ago. Much of our business still languish in the low-technology commodity business. In fact, it was in the early 90s when the government set in motion a number of institutional instruments to facilitate the nation's foray into high tech-

nology. It is still not too late to reinvigorate the plan.

It started on a good footing. There were initiatives to build more business around the aerospace sector, for example. Though not all the initiatives culminated in vibrant businesses, some have been truly successful. The attempt to build our own aircraft for example has not come to fruition. But the other related businesses of supplying aircraft parts and aircraft repair and maintenance have grown big.

The latest report suggests that the sector contributes significantly to the nation's coffers. And the prediction is that this will grow even more in the coming years. The Malaysian Industry Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), which the government created in the early 90s to anchor the planning and implementation of the aerospace programme, must take credit for this success.

Aerospace is, however, about the only success story we can be proud of. In the mean time, much has happened in the hi-tech business everywhere else. Biotechnology,

for example, has led to all kinds of high-technology applications elsewhere. We still dabble in the low value plant extracts business. While we still debate on the Nanotechnology Policy here, others have already captured the businesses the technology offers.

Even Information and Communications Technology has made enormous strides, much of which we have not captured. It may be time for us to relook our hi-tech agenda. MIGHT is the right body to drive this. For one, MIGHT has to expand its highly effective industry groups. Many have not been active. The higher education blueprint provides an avenue for the establishment of MIGHT Academia-Industry Groups in high-tech areas. The truth is the universities are teeming with high-tech experts. With the right compensation there is no reason why they cannot be professionally tapped! Replicating aerospace success should then be easy.

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