KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 16 JUN 2015 (SELASA)

Bil	Tajuk	Akhbar
1	Malaysia tarik pelaburan RM5 Bilion daripada Industri Bioteknologi AS	Bernama.com
2	Industri bio dijangka tarik RM5b modal AS	Berita Harian
3	Malaysia aims for RM5bil biotech investments from US	The Star
4	Politeknik Banting meterai kerjasama mantapkan program pengajian, kebolehpasaran graduan	Bernama.com
5	Gempa bumi sederhana berlaku di kepulauan Talaud, Indonesia	Bernama.com
6	Mitigating disaster risks via science	New Straits Times

BERITA ONLINE
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TARIKH: 16 JUN 2015 (SELASA)

Malaysia Tarik Pelaburan RM5 Bilion Daripada Industri Bioteknologi AS

Daripada Siti Radziah Hamzah

SAN FRANCISCO, 15 Jun (Bernama) -- Industri berasaskan bio dan bioteknologi dijangka menarik pelaburan RM5 bilion dari Amerika Syarikat (AS) di antara 2016 dan 2020.

Ini berikutan pembukaan pejabat utama **Malaysian Biotechnology Corp (BiotechCorp)**, BiotechCorp International Inc (BII) di sini.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif, Datuk Dr Mohd Nazlee Kamal berkata, sumbangan pasaran AS itu adalah sebahagian daripada unjuran pelaburan RM15 bilion di bawah fasa ketiga Dasar Bioteknologi Negara di antara 2016-2020.

Dasar itu diwujudkan pada 2005 bagi menjadikan sektor bioteknologi Malaysia sebagai pemacu utama ekonomi negara.

"BII bukan sahaja memberi tumpuan kepada pelaburan dari AS ke Malaysia. Kami juga mahu syarikat Malaysia mengambil peluang dengan adanya pejabat di San Francisco untuk melabur di AS," katanya.

Mohd Nazlee berkata demikian kepada wartawan Malaysia selepas pelancaran BII oleh **Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI), Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin** pada Jumaat.

Antara mereka yang hadir ialah Pengarah Pembangunan Ekonomi dan Tenaga Kerja Pejabat San Francisco, Todd Rufo, serta pengurusan kanan MOSTI dan BiotechCorp.

Misi Pelaburan Khusus San Francisco turut dianjur sempena pembukaan rasmi pejabat berkenaan.

Sejak ditubuhkan pada 2005, BiotechCorp telah melaksanakan pelbagai inisiatif pembangunan perniagaan bagi menarik pelaburan langsung asing berpangkalan di AS ke Malaysia.

Setakat ini ia menarik RM2.63 bilion dalam pelaburan agregat daripada syarikat berpangkalan di AS.

BiotechCorp juga telah menganjurkan inisiatif pembangunan perniagaan dan kerjasama dengan California Institute for Quantitative Bio Sciences, Larta Institute serta syarikat seperti Abbott Medical Optics dan Verdezyne Inc.

Pejabat BiotechCorp terletak berhampiran Mission Bay, kawasan tumpuan syarikat bioteknologi dan sains hayat.

Ia akan menjadi titik hubungan sektor berasaskan bio dan bioteknologi di AS, kerana negara itu adalah hab modal teroka bioteknologi dan pembiaya.

"Empat syarikat berminat untuk beroperasi di San Francisco bersama dengan BiotechCorp.

"Mereka akan menjadi syarikat awal Malaysia untuk memanfaatkan teknologi dan kepakaran dari San Francisco," kata Mohd Nazlee.

Menurutnya, agensi itu merancang untuk memperkembang operasi ke pasaran Eropah.

"Eropah adalah sasaran penting untuk kami. Kami telah berjaya tetapi bukan di benua ini. Itali, Jerman dan United Kingdom akan menjadi rakan kongsi strategik dan pelaburan untuk lima tahun akan datang," tambahnya.

BiotechCorp adalah sebahagian daripada misi perniagaan dan pelaburan ke Milan, Itali pada 9 Jun.

Agensi di bawah MOSTI itu juga akan terlibat dalam Konvensyen Antarabangsa BIO 2015 di Philadelphia, AS di antara 15 hingga 18 Jun.

-- BERNAMA

KERATAN AKHBAR
BERITA HARIAN (BISNES) : MUKA SURAT 6
TARIKH: 16 JUN 2015 (SELASA)

Industri bio dijangka tarik RM5b modal AS

Industri berasaskan bio dan bioteknologi dijangka menarik pelaburan RM5 bilion dari Amerika Syarikat (AS) di antara 2016 dan 2020.

Ia susulan pembukaan pejabat utama Malaysian Biotechnology Corp (BiotechCorp), BiotechCorp International Inc (BII) di San Francisco, AS.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif BiotechCorp, Datuk Dr Mohd Nazlee Kamal, berkata sumbangan pasaran AS adalah sebahagian daripada unjuran pelaburan RM15 bilion di bawah fasa ketiga Dasar Bioteknologi Negara di antara 2016-2020.

Dasar itu diwujudkan pada tahun 2005 bagi menjadikan sektor bioteknologi Malaysia sebagai pemacu utama ekonomi negara.

"BII bukan sahaja memberi tumpuan kepada pelaburan dari AS ke Malaysia. Kami juga mahu syarikat Malaysia mengambil peluang dengan adanya pejabat di San Francisco untuk melabur di AS," katanya selepas pelancaran BII oleh Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI), Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin, di San Francisco, Jumaat lalu.

Misi Pelaburan Khusus San Francisco turut dianjur sempena pembukaan rasmi pejabat berkenaan.

Tarik pelabur asing

Sejak ditubuhkan pada tahun 2005, BiotechCorp melaksanakan pelbagai inisiatif pembangunan perniagaan bagi menarik pelaburan langsung asing di AS ke Malaysia.

Setakat ini ia menarik RM2.63 bilion dalam pelaburan agregat daripada syarikat di AS.

BiotechCorp turut menganjurkan inisiatif pembangunan perniagaan dan kerjasama dengan California Institute for Quantitative Bio Sciences, Larta Institute serta syarikat seperti Abbott Medical Optics dan Verdezyne Inc. **BERNAMA**

KERATAN AKHBAR TEMPATAN
THE STAR (NEWS) : MUKA SURAT 7
TARIKH: 16 JUN 2015 (SELASA)

Malaysia aims for RM5bil biotech investments from US

Nazlee: 'BII is not just focused on investments from the United States. We also want Malaysian companies to take advantage of the office in San Francisco by investing in the United States.'

SAN FRANCISCO: The Malaysian bio-based and biotechnology industry is expected to attract investments of RM5bil from the United States between 2016 and 2020.

This follows the opening of Malaysian Biotechnology Corp's (BiotechCorp) flagship office, BiotechCorp International Inc (BII) here.

Chief executive officer Datuk Dr Mohd Nazlee Kamal said the American market's contribution is part of the projected RM15bil investments under the third phase of the National Biotechnology Policy between 2016-2020.

The policy was established in 2005 to turn Malaysia's biotechnology sector into a key economic driver for the nation.

"BII is not just focused on investments from the United States. We also want Malaysian companies to take advantage of the office in San Francisco by investing in the United States," he said.

Mohd Nazlee was speaking to Malaysian reporters after the launch of BII by Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) Minister, Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin on Friday.

Among those present was the director of the San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development, Todd Rufo, as well as senior management of MOSTI and BiotechCorp.

The San Francisco Specialised Investment Mission was also organised on the sidelines of the official opening of the office.

Since its inception in 2005, BiotechCorp has undertaken various business development initiatives to attract US-based foreign direct investments into Malaysia.

To date, it has attracted RM2.63bil in aggregate investments from US-based companies.

BiotechCorp has also organised business development and collaboration initiatives with the California Institute for Quantitative Bio Sciences, Larta Institute and companies such as Abbott Medical Optics and Verdezyne Inc.

BiotechCorp's office is situated near Mission Bay, an area which is a hotbed for biotechnology and life sciences companies.

It will be the contact point for the bio-based and biotechnology sector in the United States, as the country is a hub for biotechnology venture capitalists and funders.

"Four companies are keen to establish their presence in San Francisco together with BiotechCorp.

"The four will be an early start for Malaysian companies to tap into technology and expertise from San Francisco," said Mohd Nazlee. He said the agency was also looking to expand to the European market.

"Europe is an important target for us. We have been successful but not on this continent. Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom will be an in important strategic partner and investments for the next five years," he added.

BiotechCorp was part of a trade and investment mission to Milan, Italy on June 9.

The agency under MOSTI will also participate in the 2015 BIO International Convention in Philadelphia in the United States from June 15-18. — Bernama

BERITA ONLINE
BERNAMA.COM
TARIKH: 16 JUN 2015 (SELASA)

Politeknik Banting Meterai Kerjasama Mantapkan Program Pengajian, Kebolehpasaran Graduan

KUALA LANGAT, 15 Jun (Bernama) -- Politeknik Banting Selangor (PBS) hari ini memeterai nota kerjasama dengan beberapa agensi kerajaan dan swasta bagi memantapkan lagi program pengajian serta kebolehpasaran graduan politeknik itu.

Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Pendidikan Politeknik (JPP) Datuk Mohlis Jaafar berkata nota kerjasama itu dilakukan di antara PBS dengan Tentera Udara Malaysia (TUDM), **Agensi Nuklear Malaysia (Nuklear Malaysia)**, D'viation Solution Sdn Bhd dan Uni10 Energy Sdn Bhd.

"Nota kerjasama ini adalah sebagai salah satu langkah diambil oleh PBS untuk memantapkan lagi program Diploma Kejuruteraan Mekanikal dan Diploma Kejuruteraan Penyelenggaraan Pesawat di politeknik berkenaan.

"Melalui nota kerjasama ini, tenaga pengajar PBS akan mendapat maklumat dan input secara terus serta bertukar-tukar idea dan ilmu berkaitan teknologi serta permintaan industri terhadap tenaga kerja. Jalinan kerjasama ini juga secara langsung dapat meningkatkan lagi tahap kebolehpasaran pelajar lepasan PBS di pasaran kerja," katanya dalam sidang media selepas menyaksikan pertukaran nota kerjasama berkenaan di sini hari ini.

PBS diwakili pengarahnya, Zulkifli Md Salleh manakala TUDM diwakili Penolong Ketua Staff Kejuruteraannya, Mejar Jeneral Datuk Ab Razak Mohd Khairan.

Nuklear Malaysia pula diwakili Ketua Pengarahnya Datuk Dr Muhamad Lebai Juri, D'viation Solution diwakili pengarah operasinya T.Ganesh dan Uni10 Energy pula diwakili pengurus operasinya Syarul Azwa Idris.

D'viation Solution merupakan syarikat penyelenggaraan kapal terbang dan helikopter yang beroperasi di ibu negara sementara Uni10 Energy pula adalah syarikat yang mempunyai kepakaran dalam kajian dan pengkomersialan produk-produk berteknologi hijau.

Sementara itu, Zulkifli berkata tahap kebolehpasaran graduan PBS merupakan antara yang tertinggi di antara politeknik-politeknik di Malaysia.

Katanya bagi tahun 2012, tahap kebolehpasaran graduan PBS adalah pada 92 peratus dan meningkat kepada 93.6 peratus pada 2013 serta 97.5 peratus pada tahun lepas.

"Saya percaya dengan termeterainya kerjasama ini, tahap kebolehpasaran para graduan PBS boleh meningkat ke tahap yang lebih tinggi pada tahun-tahun akan datang," katanya.

-- BERNAMA

BERITA ONLINE
BERNAMA.COM
TARIKH: 16 JUN 2015 (SELASA)

Gempa Bumi Sederhana Berlaku Di Kepulauan Talaud, Indonesia

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 Jun (Bernama) -- Gempa bumi sederhana berukuran 5.8 pada skala Richter dilapor berlaku di Kepulauan Talaud, Indonesia pada pukul 5.04 pagi Selasa.

Menurut **Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia**, pusat gegaran ialah 67 kilometer dari barat kepulauan tersebut dan 832 kilometer tenggara Semporna, Sabah.

Tiada ancaman tsunami dikeluarkan.

-- BERNAMA

KERATAN AKHBAR TEMPATAN
NEW STRAITS TIMES (COMMENT) : MUKA SURAT 16
TARIKH: 16 JUN 2015 (SELASA)

Mitigating disaster risks via science

CUTTING LOSSES: Effective alert mechanisms key in managing calamities

DR AHMAD IBRAHIM

NATURAL disasters are becoming more rampant. There are many theories. Some blame climate change. Others blame us, man, for constantly harassing and abusing nature. So, nature is striking back.

Recently, a group proposed another theory. We have become more disrespectful to nature. The recent earthquake in Sabah, which killed many, could have been attributed to nature's displeasure at a disgraceful nudist group. It had offended nature. Whatever the reasons, natural calamities are occurring with increasing frequency and are more extreme than usual.

In the past, we in Malaysia had to contend with only floods, landslides and, on rare occasions, strong winds. We have always boasted that we are among the few countries in the world unaffected by typhoons and earthquakes. We used to experience some secondary tremors and tsunamis from earthquakes in neighbouring Sumatra and the Philippines.

But nowadays, though, things are changing. Natural disasters are encroaching into our territory. The earthquake epicentre, for example, has moved to Sabah. In fact, in recent years, we have read news reports about the appearance of tornado-like strong winds in the northern states of Kedah and Perlis. Will such winds eventually develop into something similar to the killer tornados of the Americas? Experts are not discounting such a possibility, either. The reality is that we have to be prepared.

The fact is that, as yet, there is no technology available in the world that can stop natural disasters. Even highly technologically advanced nations, such as the United States, Japan and those in Europe, are powerless when it comes to averting natural calamities. We know about the hurricane and tornado havocs in the US, of course, while devastating floods have no mercy for rich and poor countries alike.

The most that we can do is minimise the risks associated with such disasters. We want to prevent the loss of lives and minimise the damage to property and other infrastructure. In other words, we want to reduce the cost consequence of such disturbances. This is where many turn to science and technology for help.

*A **policeman sits facing Mount Kinabalu** following an earthquake in Sabah recently. **Efficient surveillance technology** goes a long way in making early-warning signals effective.* EPA pic

We are aware of the fact that disasters impact a multitude of stakeholders. Disasters also implicate many sectors. Society is impacted through the loss of lives and damage to property. The economy is affected through damage to infrastructure and manufacturing facilities. The environment is impacted through pollution and other hazardous releases. Disasters also lead to problems regarding access to water, and increase susceptibility to diseases and other health issues.

Therefore, disaster risk management calls for a systems approach to effectively analyse the many causes and impacts. The analysis would involve looking at existing data and knowledge, as well as the need to undertake research to produce new data. More often, we have to deal with a lot of data. This is where skills in analysing big data, the so-called "big data analytics", will come in handy.

At the end of the day, what the analytics would lead to are not only effective early-warning mechanisms, but also a reliable surveillance system. This is where science and technology can contribute.

Early-warning mechanisms call for the right tools to detect the trigger of a potential disaster, as well as the right instrument to disseminate the warning clearly and quickly to the public and other parties, including agencies involved in search-and-rescue operations. Of course, all parties have to be sufficiently trained to know what the warning signs are. Efficient surveillance technology would go a long way in making early-warning signals effective. Research must be done to develop the right indicators to monitor in the surveillance exercise.

However, we must not forget that there are preventive measures we can take to mitigate disaster risks. One good technology to reduce the risks related to earthquakes, for example, is the use of natural rubber-based isolation bearings for buildings and bridges. Scientists on the Malaysian Rubber Board have long lobbied to make the use of such bearings standard practice.

The Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah Bridge in Penang, fortunately, has such bearings installed. It is time that other buildings in earthquake-prone zones be equipped with such bearings.

The writer is a fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia and adjunct professor at Universiti Malaya