

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 31 OGOS 2015 (ISNIN)

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Ketampakan Rendah Ekoran Jerebu Di Sekitar Perairan Malaysia Sehingga Selasa

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 Ogos (Bernama) -- Ketampakan rendah kurang daripada lima kilometer ekor an jerebu di sekitar perairan Perlis, Kedah, Pulau Pinang, Perak, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, dan barat Johor dijangka berterusan sehingga Selasa.

Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia dalam kenyataannya Isnin berkata keadaan sama turut berlaku di sekitar perairan Selat Melaka dan Sarawak (Kuching serta Rejang) yang keadaan itu berbahaya kepada kapal yang tidak mempunyai navigasi pelayaran.

Selain itu, ribut petir di perairan Tioman dan Reef South dijangka berterusan sehingga Isnin malam.

Menurut kenyataan tersebut, keadaan angin kencang sehingga 50 kilometer sejam dan laut bergelora dengan ombak berketinggian sehingga 3.5 meter (11 kaki) itu adalah berbahaya kepada bot-bot kecil.

-- BERNAMA

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEW STRAITS TIMES (PRIME NEWS): MUKA SURAT 22
TARIKH : 31 OGOS 2015 (ISNIN)

Haze likely to last until the weekend, says MET

KUALA LUMPUR: Haze returned yesterday with poor visibility recorded at some areas in the west coast of the peninsula and the situation is likely to last until the weekend, says the Malaysian Meteorological Department (MET).

Central forecast office senior meteorologist Dr Mohd Hisham Mohd Anip yesterday said based on MET's observation, as of 3pm, Klang Valley was the worst affected area with visibility of about 1.5km.

"This was followed by Subang and

Kuching, which recorded 3km visibility, and northern states — Penang and Kedah — which recorded about 5km visibility.

"The wind has changed its direction since yesterday (Saturday). It is blowing from Sumatera, Indonesia, to our country.

"We expect the same situation to remain until next weekend due to the wind pattern," he told the *New Straits Times* yesterday.

Hisham said the haze situation would depend on the wind direc-

tion, as well as Indonesia's effort in putting out the forest fire.

"No rain is expected in Indonesia over the next few days. Even with the rain, it will not fully help in putting out the fire."

Despite the hazy situation, no states recorded unhealthy air pollutant index (API) reading as of 3pm.

Port Klang had the highest reading at 80, followed by Petaling Jaya (74) and Shah Alam (74).

Meanwhile, Natural Resources

and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said, according to Singapore-based Asean Specialised Meteorological Centre, satellites detected 190 hotspots in Kalimantan and seven in Sumatera, as of Saturday.

"Hotspots detected in Kalimantan and Sumatra are causing trans-boundary haze to the west coast of peninsula and Sarawak.

"In addition, two hotspots were detected in Sabah and one in Sarawak.

"All detected hotspots will be investigated and appropriate action will be taken," he said.

From Jan 1 to Aug 27, 3,159 open burning cases were detected nationwide, with 1,137 of these in farming areas, he said.

"Compound fines were issued in 211 cases, while verbal warnings were given in 15 cases and written notices in 40 cases.

"Investigation papers were opened in 17 cases for legal action," he said.

BiotechCorp guna mesin layan diri pasar produk

» *Revolusi
perniagaan jimat
kos, permudah
akses pengguna*

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Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation (BiotechCorp) merevolusikan perniagaan penjagaan kesihatan menerusi pengenalan mesin layan diri dikenali sebagai BioShoppe, yang mana berpotensi memasarkan sehingga 300 produk keluaran tempatan.

Naib Presiden Sokongan Industri, Bahagian Pembangunan BioNexus, Nora Mohamed, berkata bagi tujuan itu, pihaknya kini mencari rakan usaha sama dan lokasi strategik yang berpotensi mempromosikan mesin layan diri itu.

Katanya, mesin itu adalah inisia-

tif proaktif biotech untuk membantu meningkatkan akses dan kehadiran pasaran produk BioNexus kepada pengguna di negara ini.

"Menerusi mesin ini pelaburan untuk memasarkan barangan berasaskan biotech adalah jauh lebih murah berbanding pelaburan yang diperlukan usahawan bioteknologi membuka kedai sendiri.

"Inisiatif kedai BioShoppe masih menjadi nadi pengkomersialan Biotech Corp, cuma mesin layan diri ini adalah alternatif terbaik

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Mesin itu adalah inisiatif proaktif biotech untuk membantu meningkatkan akses dan kehadiran pasaran produk BioNexus kepada pengguna di negara ini”

Nora Mohamed,
Naib Presiden Sokongan Industri,
Bahagian Pembangunan BioNexus

meningkatkan jenama Bioshoppe di kawasan tumpuan ramai dan pusat beli-belah," katanya kepada BH di Kuala Lumpur baru-baru ini.

Mesin layan diri BioShoppe menggunakan platform tercanggih dengan keupayaan skrin sesentuh, hubungan internet dan interaksi video bagi menyediakan maklumat penting mempromosikan setiap produk yang ditawarkan.

Sehubungan itu juga, Nora berkata, sebanyak enam syarikat berstatus BioNexus telah melancarkan 11 produk bioteknologi baharu bagi mengambil peluang potensi pasaran yang lebih luas dan mudah menerusi mesin layan diri BioShoppe.

Produk berkenaan adalah Elixir-Noni Enzyme Extract, Clayzme, Bio-active Micro-Organism Enzymatic Surface, SPI, Quddis, Dara Harumi, Josens Spirulina Whey Protein Powder dan empat produk mandian berjenama Avera.

Semua produk terbabit, jelas Nora, dibangunkan perusahaan kecil dan sederhana (PKS) berasaskan produk semula jadi dan tidak menggunakan bahan kimia.



Pengunjung mencuba mesin layan diri yang dikenali sebagai BioShoppe.

A losing battle in Science vs Arts?

60:40 POLICY: As 2020 looms, the vision of having more students in Science stream is far from being achieved

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STUDENTS continue to stream to the Arts rather than Science field and this imbalance has raised concern among academics, who say many students wrongly believe that science is not lucrative, difficult to learn and boring.

The latest ratio of science to arts students at the upper secondary and university levels in 2013 was 43.3:56.7 — a long way from the 60:40 target set by the Planning Committee of Higher Education in 1967.

The National Council of Professors' Science and Mathematics Cluster secretary Professor Datuk Dr Abdul Razak Salleh said the declining interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects in recent years was worrying, especially if the nation de-

sired to be developed by 2020.

"The vision is now a stone's throw away, and, in no time, we will see our nation facing a shortage of science professionals."

He believed that the lack of interest in science could be traced back to the early days, when its subjects were seen as "too difficult" and "exclusively for the exceptionally brilliant".

"No one subject is tougher than the others perse, but some may require deeper understanding and more exercise than others."

"In mathematics, for example, I look at it like I look at a game of football. Without proper training and understanding of the playing positions, you will never do well in the real game."

Razak added that the so-called "difficult" notion that students and teachers placed on science and mathematics was uncalled for.

"It is not as difficult as people think it is. What is imperative though, is proper understanding of the concepts."

"When concepts are comprehended to full capacity, grasping any subject skillfully will be easier."

The logical nature of subjects, like Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Razak said, provided students the ability to excel in

anything as their mental capacities were already trained to think in logical terms.

Razak, a retired lecturer who had served in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia since 1972, said in rectifying the lack of interest in STEM subjects, all parties must make the field attractive.

"The Ministry of Education, science and mathematics societies and even the National Council of Professors ourselves must advocate STEM, and we must do this among schoolchildren. By the time they reach university level, they will already have a rough interest in the field and, hopefully, delve into it further."

Ministry of Education curriculum development division deputy director Dr Ng Soo Boon said the reason why students were uninterested to pursue STEM subjects was the lack of jobs in the field.

"The trend at the moment is of concern, especially at the university level, because places are there but there are not enough takers."

"Science students in secondary schools with good grades are taking up law, accountancy, business and the likes because the reality is that good jobs are in those areas."

It was normal for science graduates to encounter difficulty in finding jobs, Ng said, thus it was not fair to expect them to stick to science even though they might be interested in it.

"Science graduates can work in

Science vs Arts

Total enrolment of students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects compared to non-STEM subjects at public higher-learning institutions.

Year	STEM	%	NON-STEM	%
2009	190,444	43.5	246,976	56.5
2010	204,302	44.1	258,478	55.9
2011	222,457	43.8	285,799	56.2
2012	224,217	43	297,576	57
2013	242,867	43.3	317,492	56.7



research centres but in Malaysia, we do not have many of those," she said, adding that although science was imperative for the nation, the Arts stream was also necessary for the development of a balanced society.

On whether there was a lack of interest in scientific knowledge among youths, Ng said it was a matter of seeing immediate results in today's society, which demanded everything, even success, instantly.

"I do not think that interest is waning, it's more of students wanting more immediate results and the lack of patience in doing science."

It is becoming apparent that STEM subjects must be advocated

early in school, without relying on general subjects like Science and Mathematics to be the eye-catcher for future scientists.

Both Razak and Ng agreed that the teaching of science and other STEM subjects should be enhanced in primary and secondary schools, focusing on experiments, hands on activities and exercises that students would not only gain knowledge, but develop an interest in.

If today's efforts in gaining the youths' interest in science are tripled, Malaysia would stand a chance of producing well-known individuals in the field, which could play an active role in human development.



Dr Ng Soo Boon



KERATAN AKHBAR
NEW STRAITS TIMES (PRIME NEWS): MUKA SURAT 20
TARIKH : 31 OGOS 2015 (ISNIN)

'Attraction lies in exploring, discovering new things'

KUALA LUMPUR: The sheer thrill of discovery and exploration should be the biggest plus-point in attracting the younger generation to pursue science fields, says Dr Nor Haniza Sarmin of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

"There are many branches of science that have yet to be fully studied and the notion of making the next big discovery should be the attraction for students.

"To propagate the prospect of being well-paid will only mean attracting students who work to receive a pay cheque at the end of the month without having the urge to contribute to society and expand the scope of scientific discovery," the associate professor told the *New Straits Times*.

On whether arts was more satisfying and catered to the personal

preference of students, Haniza said scientific subjects could potentially offer the same.

"It all comes down to passion and the intent of the individual. While some may find solace in poetry or art, others may find it in successfully conducting experiments, proving theorems or even just learning something new and interesting."

Haniza, who is also vice-president of the Malaysian Mathematical Sciences Society, said developing a love for science early on, instead of forcing it onto students, would be a determining factor in developing a passion for the field at higher levels.

"It is very important that students at the early stages of school be nurtured and exposed to basic scientific knowledge and everyday science. This will generate interest and as they grow, they should be exposed to

higher level scientific concepts and prospective career paths, up until they reach the end of secondary school."

The issue of salary, Haniza stressed, should not even be an issue for students as it had been proven that those in the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics had a higher employment rate and salary compared with majors in other fields.

Citing a report from the United States Department of Education last year, she said on average, STEM majors earned US\$65,000 (RM237,671.85) annually while non-STEM majors earned about US\$15,000 (RM54,847.35) less.

"The report also showed that STEM majors were more likely to be employed and hold only one full-time job rather than part-time or



Developing a love for science early, instead of forcing it onto students, will be a determining factor in developing a passion for the field.

multiple jobs. The reason for the declining number of science students can be due to them thinking the field is not marketable or lucrative. That's not the reality," she said, adding that the lack of interest in science should be of national concern as it would mean the 60:40 ratio policy that the country set out for might not be achieved.

"Science and maths graduates are invaluable. They will go on to become experts in their fields. Without them, the whole world will be victims of inaccurate dissemination of scientific knowledge.

"The country will be stunted in terms of technological progress and contributions to the scientific society will be non-existent," she said.