

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
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Kongres himpun penyelidik universiti

Bangi: Dalam usaha membu-
dayakan penyelidikan dan inovasi
pada peringkat pendidikan tinggi,
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
(UKM) menganjurkan Kongres
Penyelidikan dan Inovasi yang
menghimpunkan penyelidik serta
pelajar daripada pelbagai universiti,
baru-baru ini.

Naib Canselor UKM, Prof Datuk Dr
Noor Azlan Ghazali, berkata seba-
gai universiti penyelidikan (RU),
pihaknya sudah menggerakkan pel-
bagai sumber untuk mencapai misi
menerusi enam bidang keberhasilan
utama terutama dalam aspek penye-
lidikan dan inovasi berimpak tinggi.

"Sehingga November 2015, kami
berjaya memperoleh geran penye-
lidikan sebanyak RM54 juta dengan
693 projek penyelidikan yang dipero-

leh daripada pelbagai sumber anta-
ranya, Kementerian Sains, Teknologi
dan Inovasi (MOSTI). Pembiayaan
dana ini juga banyak membantu
dalam meningkatkan prestasi penye-
lidikan universiti ini.

"Kami juga memperkenalkan
konsep bicara tuntas pada pengan-
juran kongres kali ini yang mana
pelajar diberi peluang untuk mem-
persembahkan hasil penyelidikan
mereka selain memperkukuh hu-
bungan wakil pelajar dari pelbagai
universiti," katanya pada majlis
perasmian Kongres Penyelidikan
dan Inovasi, baru-baru ini.

Bicara tuntas

Bertema Inspirasi Pemangkin Ino-
vasi, kongres itu dirasmikan oleh
Timbalan Menteri MOSTI, Datuk Dr



Abu Bakar (dua dari kanan) beramah mesra dengan pemenang pertandingan Bicara Tuntas.

Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah.

Dalam perkembangan berkaitan,
Abu Bakar berkata, penyelidik perlu
bersedia untuk memastikan setiap
inovasi dan penyelidikan yang diha-
silkan dapat dikomersialkan seiring
dengan Tahun Pengomersialan

Produk, tahun depan.

Bersempena dengan kongres itu,
program lain turut diadakan termasuk
sesi forum, bicara tuntas pelajar dan
penyelidik universiti, pameran kesiha-
tan, gerai jualan dan pameran inovasi.

Pada pertandingan Bicara Tuntas,

Tan Niu Jin dari Universiti Putra
Malaysia (UPM) dipilih sebagai
pemenang utama dengan membawa
pulang hadiah RM3,000 manakala
Mohd Izwan Md Yusof dari UKM di
tempat kedua dan Dr Siti Aimi Sarah
Zainal Abidin (UPM) di tempat ketiga.



El Nino Dijangka Beri Kesan Kepada Hasil Dan Mutu Beras

PUTRAJAYA, 20 Jan (Bernama) -- Keadaan suhu yang tinggi ekoran fenomena El Nino yang melanda negara buat masa ini dijangka menjejaskan mutu beras yang dihasilkan dalam bentuk biji beras retak dan berkapur, kata Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Asas Tani.

Dalam satu kenyataan hari ini, kementerian itu menyatakan bahawa peningkatan suhu dan pengurangan hujan dalam tempoh yang panjang akan menjejaskan hasil pengeluaran padi.

"Bagaimanapun, ini bergantung kepada varieti yang diusahakan dan kawasan penanaman.

"Secara umumnya, suhu optimum penanaman padi adalah di antara 24C hingga 34C dan hujan tahunan melebihi 2000 mm," katanya.

Menurut [Jabatan Meteorologi](#), fenomena El Nino akan menyebabkan peningkatan suhu sebanyak 0.5 ke 2.0 darjah Celsius dan pengurangan hujan di antara 20 hingga 60 peratus menyebabkan cuaca panas dan kering dijangka melanda negara bermula Januari hingga Mac ini.

Katanya hasil penyelidikan oleh International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) menunjukkan bahawa kenaikan suhu pada waktu malam sebanyak satu darjah Celsius boleh mengurangkan hasil padi kira-kira 10 peratus.

"Jangkaan suhu, tahap karbon dioksida, dan kelembapan serta saling hubungkait antara faktor-faktor ini merupakan antara cabaran dalam meramal hasil padi pada masa hadapan," katanya.

Kementerian itu menjelaskan, corak hujan yang tidak teratur dan tekanan air meningkatkan intensiti beberapa penyakit padi seperti "brown spot and blast" (karah daun padi) yang menyumbang kepada pengurangan hasil padi.

Menurut kementerian pada 1998, hasil padi di kawasan Lembaga Kemajuan Pertanian Muda (MADA) didapati berkurangan daripada 4.88 tan/ha kepada 4.45 tan/ha setelah berlaku peningkatan suhu dari 28.5 darjah Celsius kepada 29 darjah Celsius.

Catatan menunjukkan El Nino pernah menyerang negara Asia Tenggara termasuk Malaysia pada 1983, 1987, 1991, 1993 dan menjadi lebih teruk bermula dari 1997, tambahnya.

-- BERNAMA

Time to forge closer ties in R&D

ASK any taxi driver about the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) and chances are he will have something to say. In the last few months, the TPPA has been in the news so much that most ordinary people already have an opinion about it.

Some taxi drivers even blame TPPA for the current encroachment into their business by the online taxi services. They are of course being misled.

The TPPA, though finalised, has yet to be fully endorsed by Parliament. In fact, all our Members of Parliament will only be briefed by the International Trade and Industry Ministry (Miti) this month. They will then debate it at the next parliamentary sitting, and subsequently vote whether Malaysia should ratify the agreement.

On the pro side, the TPPA is

viewed as an opportunity which should not be missed. We are talking about preferential market access for our export items. As an export-driven nation, we need good access to the global market.

Since the other 11 TPPA signatories offer ready destinations for our products, it would be retrogressive if we do not seize the chance.

It is also seen as an opportunity because as a country which enjoys such market access, we will also attract foreign direct investments (FDIs).

These are companies from countries which are not eligible to join the TPPA since they are not among the Pacific nations. Of course, we have to compete with the other TPPA countries for the FDIs.

While the TPPA gives us access to the market of member nations,

our domestic market would also be accessible to them. It is therefore imperative for us to compete for our market share.

Competition would necessitate greater investment in innovation and productivity. In a global economy which is increasingly driven by innovative technologies and products, investment in R&D is crucial. But the R&D has to be market-driven rather than researcher-driven.

At the moment, most of the nation's R&D is driven by researchers' interest to publish. Most are done in universities where their KPIs are mostly concerned with publication.

Currently, there is not much industry involvement in R&D. This needs to change if we are to effectively compete under the TPPA. Unless businesses allocate more resources for R&D, we will

not have a chance against most of the other TPPA countries.

For a start, businesses should collaborate more with universities and public research institutes. The Government should no longer dish out research money for R&D that do not have industry partners. The only exception is research money for basic and fundamental R&D. These are the R&D where publishing in the refereed journals is the right KPI.

There is no denying that we desperately need to strengthen the partnership between industry and academia. Innovation to improve productivity and build competitiveness is one reason.

The other compelling reason is the need for academia to produce the right skills and talents for industry.

The TPPA is an option that we should capitalise on if we as a

nation are to achieve the high income target we have set for ourselves with inclusiveness and sustainability.

But notwithstanding, the opportunities are not given. We have to work hard to realise the outcomes.

Most important of all, we need to strengthen our competitiveness. This is where the nation's investment in innovation and R&D needs to be re-strategised.

We can no longer afford to leave out industries in our R&D undertakings. Industry and academia must forge a new strategic relationship. This is the only way to benefit from the opportunities offered by the TPPA.

DATUK PROF DR AHMAD
IBRAHIM
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