

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 5 NOVEMBER 2016 (SABTU)

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Malaysia Fully Prepared To Face Tsunami - Madius

KOTA KINABALU, Nov 5 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is always prepared to face natural disasters such as tsunami, **says Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau.**

He said the country had the technology and expertise for early detection of tsunami to enable the issuing of timely warning to the people.

"From the aspect of technology, we are prepared, we will know, we can detect not just 'live' here but also all over the country. We can detect in real time," he said.

Madius was speaking to reporters after the presentation of prizes for a drawing competition, 'The Art Of Nation Building 2016' here today.

A total of 8,283 entries were received from primary and secondary schools nationwide.

However, Madius said it was important to create community awareness on the possibility of a tsunami, as well as the various mechanisms taken by the government to handle the disaster.

"We have held education programmes on tsunami in some areas. In one case, when we sounded the siren, the residents did not run to seek shelter but were in fact, looking for the origin of the sound," he said.

-- BERNAMA



Malaysia Sentiasa Siap Siaga Hadapi Ancaman Tsunami - Madius

KOTA KINABALU, 5 Nov (Bernama) -- **Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau** berkata Malaysia sentiasa bersiap siaga menghadapi bencana alam tsunami.

Beliau berkata Malaysia memiliki teknologi dan kepakaran untuk mengesan ancaman tsunami lebih awal bagi membolehkan amaran segera dikeluarkan kepada masyarakat.

"Dari segi teknologinya kita memang bersedia, kita akan tahu, kita boleh mengesan, bukan sahaja secara langsung di sini tetapi di seluruh negara. Kita boleh kesan secara 'real time' (tepat masa)," katanya.

Madius berkata demikian kepada pemberita selepas merasmikan majlis penyampaian hadiah pertandingan melukis 'The Art Of Nation Building 2016' di sini hari Sabtu.

Sebanyak 8,283 penyertaan pada pertandingan itu diterima dari sekolah rendah dan menengah di seluruh negara.

Bagaimanapun, katanya apa yang penting adalah perlu wujud kesedaran dalam kalangan masyarakat tentang kemungkinan berlakunya tsunami serta pengetahuan mengenai pelbagai mekanisme yang diambil kerajaan untuk mengendalikan bencana itu.

Beliau berkata kementerian telah dan sedang melaksanakan pelbagai program kesedaran mengenai bencana tsunami di pelbagai lokasi di Sabah seperti simulasi menghadapi bencana itu.

Menurutnya program pendidikan seperti itu perlu dilaksanakan agar masyarakat faham mengenai bencana itu dan apa yang perlu mereka lakukan sekiranya kejadian seperti itu berlaku.

"Di tempat tertentu pernah kita adakan pendidikan tentang tsunami, apabila kita bunyikan siren, bukan pula masyarakat di sana bersedia ke tempat yang selamat tetapi mereka pergi mencari di mana siren ini," katanya.

Mengenai kenyataan seorang pegawai kanan kementeriannya mengenai ancaman tsunami ke atas Sabah, Madius berkata ia masih dalam senario andaian.

"Walaupun kenyataan pegawai berkenaan berasaskan sains namun disebabkan senarionya sebagai andaian maka tsunami itu boleh berlaku dan boleh tidak berlaku".

-- BERNAMA



Increase In Rainfall Distribution This Month - Madius



KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 5 (Bernama) -- An increase in rainfall is expected in Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang and Johor from this month until December following the northeast monsoon season.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister, Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau said the monsoon season which was expected to begin in the middle of this month and ending in March next year, could result in continuous rain for three to five days and causing floods.

"According to the weather forecast for this month, Kelantan and Terengganu are expected to have between 300mm and 900mm of rainfall while some areas in the two states and east Pahang and east Johor will have 400mm to 800mm of rainfall in December.

"The temperature is also expected to drop to about 28 to 32 degrees Celsius and this is influenced by the weather condition," he told Bernama recently.

Madius said, meanwhile the northern states of Perlis, Kedah, Penang and Perak were predicted to have lesser rainfall than the East Coast states in December.

"The other states in the peninsula as well as Sabah and Sarawak are expected to have normal distribution of rainfall this month and in December," he said.

On the La Nina phenomenon, Madius said based on international weather models, a neutral condition or weak La Nina season was forecasted to occur until early next year.

"However, the formation of La Nina is currently slower in pace and the probability of it becoming weak is between 55 and 70 per cent," he said.

The phenomenon manifests when the sea surface temperatures across the east and central Pacific Ocean become lower than usual, resulting in monsoons acting erratically, among which causing extremely heavy rainfall.

Meanwhile, climatologist and oceanographer Prof Dr Fredolin Tangang from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, said the impact of La Nina on the country was hard to predict as its depended on the sea surface temperature.

"However, based on my studies, the La Nina of moderate and weak force will result in heavy rainfall in the East Coast states of the peninsula rather than a strong La Nina," he said.

According to Tangang, attention should be given to the occurrence of weak or moderate La Nina in these states, expected to happen in November and December, while for Sabah and Sarawak it was estimated to occur in January and February.

He said, heavy rainfall, especially in the East Coast during the monsoon season in November and December would not only be caused by the La Nina phenomenon but also by the cold surge and the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) phenomenon.

He explained that the collision between the cold surge and MJO could intensify the humidity concentration and the convection process on the East Coast, resulting in rainfall.

"However, the extreme rain and floods of December 2014 was not caused by La Nina but the presence of a strong cold surge as well as its clash with the MJO phenomenon then," he commented.

MJO is a large-scale climate variability occurrence that is generated by changes in temperature at the Indian Ocean which influences the humidity of the atmosphere and moves from there to the Pacific Seas, across Malaysia and Indonesia.

When the MJO is in its third phase, with an extensive convection centre on the west of Sumatra, the amount of rainfall in the East Coast of the Malaysian peninsula could double on the average.

Tangang reminded that the most critical condition for the East Coast states would be if both the MJO third phase and the cold surge occur concurrently, increasing the amount of rain in several areas.

However, he said, the MJO phenomenon and cold surge could not be predicted earlier by a month or two by agencies like the APEC Climate Center (APCC) as they did not have accurate information of the phenomenon.

-- BERNAMA



Beberapa Negeri Bakal Alami Peningkatan Taburan Hujan Bulan Ini - Madius

Oleh Fatin Nabihah Marzuki

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 Nov (Bernama) -- Tiga negeri pantai timur iaitu Kelantan, Terengganu dan Pahang serta Johor dijangka menerima peningkatan taburan hujan sekitar bulan ini hingga Disember, berikutan Monsun Timur Laut.

Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Datuk Seri Madius Tangau berkata monsun tersebut yang diramal bermula pada pertengahan bulan ini dan berakhir Mac tahun depan boleh menyebabkan hujan lebat berterusan selama tiga hingga lima hari pada tempoh tertentu, sekali gus boleh menyebabkan banjir.

"Sekitar bulan ini, Kelantan dan Terengganu dijangka menerima jumlah hujan antara 300 dan 900 milimeter (mm) manakala beberapa kawasan di Kelantan, Terengganu, timur Pahang dan timur Johor dijangka menerima jumlah hujan antara 400 dan 800mm pada Disember.

"Suhu juga dijangka turun sekitar 28 hingga 32 darjah celsius dan ianya dipengaruhi keadaan cuaca yang berlaku," katanya kepada Bernama, baru-baru ini.

Madius berkata negeri di utara Semenanjung iaitu Perlis, Kedah, Pulau Pinang dan Perak pula diramal menerima taburan hujan yang rendah pada Disember depan.

"Negeri lain di Semenanjung serta Sabah dan Sarawak pula dijangka menerima taburan hujan yang normal pada bulan ini dan Disember," katanya.

Mengulas mengenai fenomena La Nina, Madius berkata model iklim antarabangsa menjangkakan keadaan neutral atau La Nina lemah akan berlaku sehingga awal tahun depan.

"Bagaimanapun, pembentukan La Nina kini lebih perlahan dan kebarangkalian berlakunya keadaan La Nina lemah adalah sekitar 55 hingga 70 peratus sahaja," katanya.

Fenomena La Nina berlaku apabila suhu permukaan laut di tengah dan timur Lautan Pasifik menjadi lebih rendah daripada biasa yang akan memberi kesan kepada monsun untuk bertindak di luar jangkaan, antaranya menyebabkan hujan ekstrem.



Malaysia Faces Serious Undersupply Of Science Students



KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is facing a serious undersupply of science stream students which may hamper efforts to propel the country into a developed nation.

Academy of Sciences Malaysia president Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali noted that presently there were only 90,000 science students sitting for the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) examination, much less than the

270,000 needed annually.

The concern is that this would translate into insufficient number of scientists in the country.

"To move our country forward, we need more scientists and engineers coming from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)," he told a press conference after the opening of the Kuala Lumpur Engineering Science Fair (KLESF) here today.

It was opened by **Deputy Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Dr Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah** who represented minister Datuk Seri Madius Tangau.

Also in attendance were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri, Bernama chairman Datuk Seri Azman Ujang and general manager Datuk Zulkefli Salleh.

Ahmad Tajuddin, who is also Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) chairman, said the decline in number of students taking STEM subjects was not only happening in Malaysia.

Commenting on the same issue, Dr Abu Bakar said the reason for the low figures was due to students lacking interest in taking up STEM subjects, particularly in rural

areas.

He said that relevant ministries were working hand in hand to come out with various measures to overcome the problem.

Among them were his ministry's 'Kimia to Desa' programme in 2013, tailored to enhance awareness and the 'fun' of STEM subjects among students in rural areas.

The three-day KLESF at the MINES International Exhibition & Convention Centre until Sunday features various programmes and activities targeted at primary and secondary school students to raise interest in STEM, among others.

-- BERNAMA

KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (UTUSAN BIZ) : MUKA SURAT 17
TARIKH: 5 NOVEMBER 2016 (SABTU)

Chembio ambil alih RVR RM15.7j

Oleh **AKMYR SYAHAR AZWAR**
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■ KUALA LUMPUR 4 NOV.

SYARIKAT yang disenaraikan di Nasdaq, Chembio Diagnostic Inc. (Chembio) mengambil alih 100 peratus pegangan dalam RVR Diagnostics Sdn. Bhd. (RVR) dengan pembayaran bernilai AS\$3.75 juta (RM15.7 juta).

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Chembio, John Sperzel III berkata, pengambilalihan itu adalah sebahagian daripada usaha syarikat untuk menjadikan Malaysia sebagai hab perkembangan utama bagi pasaran rantau Asia Tenggara.

Jelas beliau, menggabungkan kepakaran dan teknologi daripada kedua-dua entiti itu akan membantu mengkomersialkan ujian penjagaan inovatif (POC) penyakit utama seperti HIV, sifilis dan demam denggi.

"Malaysia mempunyai sokongan infrastruktur industri yang sangat hebat dan berkesan. Pengambilalihan ini adalah tepat pada masanya mengambil kira kepakaran tempatan yang berjaya dibangunkan dalam tempoh masa hanya dua tahun.

"Terletak di tengah-tengah Asia Tenggara, kami percaya usaha ini akan memacu sektor sains dan teknologi dengan potensi besar yang ditawarkan di rantau



JOHN SPERZEL III (dua dari kanan) bersalaman dengan Mac Vajuram sambil disaksikan Norhalim Yunus (tiga dari kiri) selepas majlis menandatangani perjanjian pengambilalihan RVR Diagnostics Sdn. Bhd. di Kuala Lumpur, semalam. - UTUSAN/ABDUL RAZAK LATIF

ini," katanya selepas menandatangani perjanjian bersama RVR di sini hari ini.

Yang turut hadir Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Perbadanan Pembangunan Teknologi Malaysia (MTDC), Datuk Norhalim Yunus dan Pengarah Urusan RVR, Mac Vajuram.

RVR merupakan syarikat permulaan bioteknologi yang ditubuhkan oleh MTDC bagi membangunkan ujian POC dan

penyelesaian terhadap penyakit-penyakit utama yang menjadi ancaman kepada Malaysia, Asia dan seluruh dunia.

Chembio pula berfungsi untuk membangun, mengeluarkan, melesen dan memasarkan ujian diagnostik serta teknologi POC bagi mengesan penyakit berjangkit dengan sasaran meningkatkan taraf kesihatan.

Tambah Sperzel, Chembio mempunyai teknologi dan kepa-

karan yang boleh digunakan untuk membendung penularan penyakit berjangkit utama seperti denggi, malaria dan Zika jika tersebar ke Malaysia.

Sementara itu, Norhalim berkata, pengambilalihan daripada entiti yang disenarai di pasaran asing tersebut mencerminkan keupayaan syarikat bioteknologi tempatan untuk berkembang menjadi syarikat bertaraf dunia.

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEW STRAITS TIMES (NEWS) : MUKA SURAT B6
TARIKH: 5 NOVEMBER 2016 (SABTU)



(From left) MTDC director **Datuk Dr Azhar Yahaya**, RVR Diagnostics Sdn Bhd managing director **Mac Vajuram**, MTDC CEO **Datuk Norhalim Yunus**, RVR Diagnostics Sdn Bhd director **Dr Avijit Roy** and Chembio Diagnostics Inc CEO **John Sperzel III** at the signing ceremony between RVR Diagnostics and Chembio Diagnostics in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Pic by Hafiz Sohaimi

Nasdaq-listed Chembio makes Malaysia its regional hub

AMIR HISYAM RASID

KUALA LUMPUR: Nasdaq-listed Chembio Diagnostics Inc (CDI) has chosen Malaysia to be the main hub for its manufacturing of point-of-care diagnostic tests and technology.

This follows the company's 100 per cent acquisition of RVR Diagnostics Sdn Bhd — a Malaysian Technology Development Corp (MTDC)-funded company — for US\$3.75 million (RM15.7 million).

CDI chief executive officer John Sperzel III said Malaysia will be its

first point of expansion in Southeast Asia, before making further investments in other parts of the region.

"Malaysia will be our hub for Southeast Asia and we intend to grow in this region via our partnership with RVR Diagnostics. We are also making investments in other regions of the country but those are for commercial and marketing.

"In terms of manufacturing and technology, this acquisition is a very important strategic investment for Chembio. Malaysia has an extraordinary and well-functioning industry support infrastructure and RVR

is a timely investment for the company," he said, here, yesterday.

RVR Diagnostics was formed to develop and commercialise innovative point-of-care tests for human diseases.

MTDC chief executive officer Datuk Norhalim Yunus said the acquisition move would accelerate the future growth of RVR Diagnostics.

"The strategic collaboration between Chembio and RVR Diagnostics would help the latter to rise to another growth level, not just in Malaysia but globally," he said.



Nasdaq-Listed Chembio Buys Malaysia's RVR Diagnostic For RM15.7 Million

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Nasdaq-listed company Chembio Diagnostic Inc is to acquire the entire stake in Malaysia's RVR Diagnostic Sdn Bhd for US\$3.75 million (RM15.7 million).

The deal entails Chembio acquiring RVR Diagnostic's expertise in developing and commercialising innovative point-of-care (POC) tests for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), syphilis and dengue fever.

"Malaysia has an extraordinary and well-functioning industry support infrastructure and RVR is a timely investment for the company," Chembio Diagnostic Chief Executive Officer John Sperzel III said after the signing of an agreement here between the two entities.

He said Malaysia will be Chembio's main hub in this region as the company intends to expand into Southeast Asia and other parts of the world.

RVR, a Malaysian Technology Development Corporation grant recipient, was formed in Malaysia to develop and commercialise innovative POC tests for diseases important to Malaysia and Asia.

RVR's mission is to develop POC diagnostic solutions in areas with high unmet needs both in the US and globally.

Chembio develops, manufactures, licenses and markets POC diagnostic tests and technology for the detection of infectious diseases.

"We have technology that applies to diseases like dengue, malaria and zika that we will bring to Malaysia," he added.

Sperzel said the company is also investing in other regions in the country mainly in commercial and marketing.

RVR Managing Director Mac Vajuram said the main attraction for the acquisition is the skills set and knowledge of the RVR team which has consistently demonstrated its ability to deliver quality products.

"We also believe that with the help of Chembio, we can train more scientists in this country, where the in-vitro diagnostic market is still young and growing," he added.

Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC) Chief Executive Officer Datuk Norhalim Yunus said RVR is the second MTDC biotech startup company to be acquired by a foreign listed entity.

"This shows that Malaysians have the capability to build world-class biotech startups," he said.

-- BERNAMA



Kemungkinan Tsunami Di Kudat Berdasarkan Simulasi Tanah Runtuh

KOTA KINABALU, 4 Nov (Bernama) -- Pensyarah Geologi Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Prof Dr Felix Tongkul menjelaskan kenyataan **Jabatan Meteorologi** berhubung kemungkinan tsunami setinggi 50 meter di kawasan Kudat, adalah berdasarkan simulasi tanah runtuh di luar pantai Brunei.

Bagaimanapun, beliau yang juga Pengarah Pusat Penyelidikan dan Inovasi UMS berkata tsunami itu boleh berlaku sekiranya tanah runtuh itu bergerak serentak pada kadar kelajuan tinggi.

"Memang terdapat bukti tanah runtuh gergasi pernah berlaku di luar pantai bahagian Barat Sabah pada masa dahulu.

"Namun kejadian begini (tanah runtuh bergerak laju) jarang berlaku. Tanah runtuh bawah laut biasanya bergerak secara perlahan dan berperingkat...maka tsunami 50 meter itu adalah hasil simulasi senario paling buruk," katanya dalam kenyataan di sini, hari ini.

Felix berkata simulasi dihasilkan gempa bumi di sepanjang Manila Trench (bahagian Barat Filipina) menghasilkan tsunami setinggi satu hingga dua meter di kawasan Kudat.

"Oleh kerana gempa bumi besar kerap berlaku di Manila Trench, maka tsunami di masa hadapan besar kemungkinan datang daripada sumber ini (gempa bumi Manila Trench).

"Namun tidak kira daripada mana sumber tsunami itu, penduduk di Kudat perlu berjaga-jaga," katanya.

-- BERNAMA



Hanif Omar Dahului Penerima Darjah Kebesaran Negeri Perak

KUALA KANGSAR, 4 Nov (Bernama) -- Bekas Ketua Polis Negara Tun Mohammed Hanif Omar mendahului senarai 333 penerima darjah kebesaran, bintang dan pingat bersempena ulang tahun Hari Keputeraan Sultan Perak Sultan Nazrin Shah.

Mohammed Hanif dikurniakan Darjah Seri Paduka Sultan Nazrin Shah (SPSN) yang membawa gelaran Datuk Seri Diraja dan merupakan penerima tunggal anugerah berkenaan.

Istiadat penganugerahan kepada 33 penerima di Balairung Seri, Istana Iskandariah, Bukit Chandan di sini, disempurnakan Sultan Nazrin Shah. Turut berangkat Raja Permaisuri Perak Tuanku Zara Salim.

Menteri Perusahaan Perladangan dan Komoditi Datuk Mah Siew Keong yang juga Anggota Parlimen Teluk Intan dianugerahkan Darjah Seri Paduka Mahkota Perak (SPMP) yang membawa gelaran Datuk Seri.

Dua lagi penerima SPMP adalah Anggota Dewan Negara Perak Datuk Zainal Adzam Abd Ghani serta Yang Dipertua Majlis Agama Islam dan Istiadat Melayu Perak Tan Sri Dr Wan Mohd Zahid Mohd Nordin.

Sementara itu, Panglima Pemerintah Armada Tentera Laut Diraja Malaysia (TLDM) Lumut, Laksamana Madya Datuk Pahlawan Mohamad Roslan Mohamad dikurniakan Darjah Seri Panglima Taming Sari (SPTS) yang membawa gelaran Datuk Seri Panglima, manakala Pegawai Kewangan Negeri Perak Datuk Mohd Gazali Jalal dikurniakan darjah Datuk Paduka Cura Si Manja Kini (DPCM) yang membawa gelaran Datuk.

Dalam pada itu, 23 individu dikurniakan Darjah Datuk Paduka Mahkota Perak (DPMP) yang membawa gelaran Datuk, termasuk tokoh agama Allahyarham Abu Bakar Al-Baqir dan disampaikan secara Anumerta yang diterima warisnya, Anigan Rusda serta Profesor Perubatan dan Penyakit Berjangkit Universiti Malaya Prof Adeeba Kamarulzaman.

Turut menerima DPMP ialah Setiausaha Politik kepada Menteri Perdagangan Dalam Negeri, Koperasi dan Kepenggunaan Faizul Arby Mohd Shohor, Anggota Parlimen

Bagan Serai Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali, Lean Ah Too, Pegawai Khas kepada Menteri Besar Dr Azizah Johor, Anggota Dewan Undangan Negeri Manong Mohammad Kamil Shaffie, Beh Chiew Ning, Shahul Hamid Mydin Shah.

Timbalan Ketua Eksekutif Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Perak Jamal Mohd Aris, Ketua Hakim Syarie Jabatan Kehakiman Syariah Perak Asa'ari Mohd Yazid, Pengarah Pendidikan Perak Rozi Puteh Ismail, Pegawai Daerah Larut Matang dan Selama Kamaruddin Awang, Yang Dipertua Majlis Perbandaran Kuala Kangsar Shahrom Abd Malik, Pengarah Jabatan Kerja Raya Perak Jamilol Nasir Saad.

Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Kemajuan Masyarakat (Kemas) Amiruddin Ariffin, Ahli Lembaga Universiti Sultan Azlan Shah Berhad Mustafa Mohd Nor, Ketua Pegawai Kakitangan CIMB Group Holding Bhd Hamidah Naziadin, Toh Muda Orang Kaya Seri Adika Raja Shahbandar Muda Meor Roslan Meor Ahmad Rashidi, Orang Besar Jajahan Hulu Perak yang juga **Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Cybersecurity Malaysia Dr Amirudin Abdul Wahab.**

Ketua Jabatan Otorinolaringologi Prof Dr Prepageran Narayanan, Peguambela dan Peguamcara Ang Saik Hoon dan Pengurus Besar Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) Perak Raja Abd Jalil Raja Zaid.

Sultan Nazrin Shah turut berkenan menganugerahkan Darjah Datuk Pahlawan Taming Sari (DPTS) yang membawa gelaran Datuk Pahlawan kepada empat penerima iaitu Timbalan Ketua Polis Perak Datuk Hasnan Hassan, Pengarah Markas Rejimen Askar Jurutera Diraja Brig Jen Ahmad Nasir Abd Rahman, Pegawai Memerintah Hospital Angkatan Tentera Tuanku Mizan Brig Jen Dr Md Amin Muslan dan Komander Angkatan Tugas Bersama 2 TLDM Kem Kukusan Tawau Laksamana Pertama Syed Zahrul Putra Syed Abdullah.

Sementara itu, Timbalan Ketua Pengarang Perkhidmatan Berita Ekonomi Pertubuhan Berita Nasional Malaysia (Bernama) Mikhail Raj Abdullah merupakan antara 21 penerima Darjah Paduka Mahkota Perak (PMP).

Penerjun negara kelahiran Perak yang merangkul pingat perak pada Sukan Olimpik Rio 2016 Cheong Jun Hoong dan Ketua Biro Sinar Harian Perak Saifullah Ahmad adalah antara 87 penerima Darjah Ahli Mahkota Perak (AMP).

Selain itu, tiga individu menerima Darjah Paduka Cura Si Manja Kini (PCM), sembilan Darjah Ahli Paduka Cura Si Manja Kini (ACM), 88 menerima Pingat Pekerti Terpilih (PPT), 88 Pingat Jasa Kebaktian (PJK) dan empat lagi Pingat Lama Perkhidmatan (PLP).

Istiadat penganugerahan PCM, PMP, ACM, AMP, PPT, PJK dan PLP akan diadakan 12 Nov ini.

-- BERNAMA

KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (LAPORAN SABTU) : MUKA SURAT 10
TARIKH: 5 NOVEMBER 2016 (SABTU)

Produk pemutih, antipenuaan tertinggi permintaan

FENOMENA memutihkan kulit dalam kalangan wanita bukan sahaja berlaku secara meluas di Malaysia tetapi juga sebahagian besar negara di Asia Tenggara.

India juga tidak ketinggalan mempunyai permintaan tinggi terhadap produk pemutihan kulit. Ia gara-gara persepsi zaman-berzaman yang menganggap wanita berkulit cerah lebih cantik berbanding dengan berkulit gelap.

Di samping itu, wanita di benua Afrika juga obses memutihkan kulit kerana persepsi kulit cerah itu lebih menawan.

Persepsi itu tidak salah. Tetapi apa yang membimbangkan adalah ada produk pemutih yang dihasilkan menggunakan bahan kimia terlarang memberi kesan buruk kepada kesihatan dalam jangka panjang.

Menurut Pengarah Kanan, Flagship Tenaga dan Alam Sekitar, Penyelidikan Perindustrian SIRIM Bhd., **Dr. Zanariah Ujang**, produk pemutihan dan antipenuaan



ZANARIAH UJANG

mendapat permintaan tinggi di negara ini.

“Ramai pengguna mudah tertarik dengan iklan produk kosmetik di pasaran, namun mereka kurang peka terhadap bahan kandungan dan aspek keselamatan produk. Sudah menjadi trend, rata-rata pengguna mahukan kesan pantas atau dengan sekali pakai sahaja, kesannya boleh kelihatan.

“Itu mendorong pengeluar produk kosmetik mencari cara menghasilkan produk yang boleh memberi kesan cepat sehingga tidak mempedulikan keselamatan pengguna,” katanya



SARIFAH REJAB

ketika ditemui baru-baru ini.

Menjelaskan mengenai bahan, Zanariah berkata, kebiasaannya produk pemutih mengandungi vitamin C sintetik, arbutin dan asid kojik yang tidak memberi kesan merbahaya. Namun menjadi masalah apabila terdapat penggunaan bahan kimia terlarang seperti *hydroquinone*, merkuri, asid azelaik dan *tretinoin*.

“Di Malaysia, bahan ini tidak dibenarkan dalam produk kosmetik kerana mendatangkan kesan memudaratkan seperti kerengsaan teruk, hiperpigmentasi seperti *ochronosis* dan kulit menjadi terlalu sensitif, selain kerosakan saraf dan buah pinggang,” katanya.

Beliau berkata, turut menjadi masalah apabila pengeluar tidak melabelkan bahan kandungan pada produk mereka, menyebabkan pengguna tidak mendapat maklumat lengkap.

Sementara itu, Ketua Seksyen

Kosmetik dan Produk Semula jadi, Pusat Penyelidikan Bioteknologi Perindustrian SIRIM Bhd., **Sarifah Rejab** berkata, pihaknya menasihatkan pengeluar yang datang mendapatkan khidmat runding dan kepakaran di organisasi itu agar memastikan bahan yang diguna dalam produk mereka selamat kepada pengguna.

“Mereka seharusnya bertindak secara beretika dan bertanggungjawab terhadap pengguna, bukan mencari keuntungan semata-mata,” katanya.

SIRIM katanya, menjalankan pelbagai penyelidikan dan pembangunan terhadap bahan semula jadi yang selamat dengan matlamat utama adalah memberi manfaat kepada pengeluar dan pengguna.

“Bahan semula jadi ini tidak memutihkan kulit dalam masa singkat tetapi ia mengawal penghasilan melanin pada lapisan kulit, sekali gus membuatkan kulit tidak rosak akibat pemutihan melampau,” katanya.

Kulit wanita Asia lebih cantik

SEJAK dahulu lagi, masyarakat di beberapa bahagian Asia sering memandang orang barat yang berkulit putih dan bermata biru sebagai manusia cantik serta mempunyai kedudukan lebih mulia.

Mungkin atas faktor itu, penjajah Inggeris di Asia Tenggara begitu mudah meletakkan diri mereka dalam kelas masyarakat yang lebih dihormati penduduk tempatan.

Namun, sedar atau tidak, sebenarnya kulit orang barat terutama wanita berkulit putih ini tidak secantik dan sehalus kulit wanita Asia yang mempunyai warna lebih gelap.

Jika anda masih lagi mempunyai persepsi bahawa kulit wanita barat lebih cantik, seharusnya pemikiran itu dibetulkan.

Kulit wanita barat sebenarnya lebih kasar dan jika diamati secara dekat kerana mempunyai

lebih banyak masalah berbanding kulit wanita Asia.

Menurut Pengarah Kanan, Flagship Tenaga dan Alam Sekitar, Penyelidikan Perindustrian SIRIM Bhd., **Dr. Zanariah Ujang**, wanita Asia yang berkulit sawo matang atau kekuningan mahupun gelap seharusnya bersyukur kerana ia mengandungi lebih banyak perlindungan kepada kulit.

“Perlindungan seperti ini penting agar kulit tidak mudah terdedah dengan pelbagai penyakit seperti kanser dan lain-lain masalah. Yang lebih penting, kulit wanita Asia sebenarnya lebih lembut dan halus,” katanya.

Jadi, kita sepatutnya sudah boleh berhenti meletakkan persepsi berkulit putih itu menawan kerana wanita berkulit gelap juga mempunyai manis tersendiri.

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEW STRAITS TIMES (COMMENT) : MUKA SURAT 16 & 17
TARIKH: 5 NOVEMBER 2016 (SABTU)

Rethink nation's bioeconomy strategy

OVERHAUL: An integrated national programme is needed to look into business and technology strengths



DR AHMAD
IBRAHIM

IT was more than two decades ago when the country first became serious about using biotechnology as another viable platform to drive growth. Many around the world hailed the sector as the new economic wonder. The concern over climate change and the search for greener solutions were some of the factors driving global interest in biotechnology. A Directorate of Biotechnology was established under the then Science, Technology and Environment Ministry to chart the direction for the nation's bioeconomy ambitions.

In 2005, the National Biotechnology Policy was launched to drive the

nation's biotech agenda, designed to deliver another important revenue stream for the country. The end-game was to make biotechnology industry another key economic engine of growth. The nation's Biotechnology Corporation was given the task to implement the decisions articulated in the policy. Its job was to sow the seeds that would sprout into the nation's future biotechnology industry. The strategy adopted then was to attract and use foreign investments to spur the growth of domestic biotech firms. Incentives include giving bionexus status to recognised biotech companies, enabling them to enjoy access to grants and soft financing.

It all started well. Many foreign investors announced keen interest. A number promised to invest billions in the country. Many in the country became convinced of the

→ Continued next page



A booth at the **BioMalaysia and Asia Pacific Bioeconomy 2016 Exhibition** in Kuala Lumpur. A concerted effort is needed to harness biotechnology as a new economic growth engine for the country.

Biotech industry can be a key driver of growth

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bright career prospects in biotechnology, and the promise of lucrative job opportunities. As expected, many students were coaxed by their parents to take up biotechnology. Universities, both public and private, took advantage of the growing demand. The number of programmes with the biotechnology name saw noticeable increase. As expected, the number of biotechnology graduates in the country soon witnessed a big jump. Add to that, the number returning from overseas, it was no surprise that the number of graduates looking for jobs in biotechnology

literally ballooned.

Unfortunately, the demand could not be matched by an industry still in its infancy. The growth of the local biotechnology industry did not materialise as planned. Much of the promised foreign investments was not delivered. Many of the bionexus firms did not make much headway either. The promised jobs were not there. As a result, many among the biotechnology graduates ended up working elsewhere. Many in fact ended up selling credit cards!

Notwithstanding that misfortune, biotechnology is still seen as a discipline that promises new business opportunities for the world. What is needed is to rethink the nation's

strategy to build and sustain the biotechnology industry. We need a new approach.

We need an integrated national programme to build not only business leadership, but also technology strengths in the field. In the past, the focus was too much on business. Technology development was largely ignored. We were also overdependent on foreign investment. There was no concerted effort to build our own indigenous capacity for both technology and business.

Take the project on biomass, for example. Duplication is rampant. No less than four government entities are involved in the oil palm biomass project. And, they do sim-

ilar things. No wonder the progress has been poor. What we need is a national programme involving the many relevant institutions working together to build global leadership in biomass technology which we can later export.

It is not impossible. South Korea has done it for electronics, ship building, nuclear technology and many more. Biotech Corp can be the driver. But, this time, it must involve the others, especially universities, the National Institute of Biotechnology Malaysia, Malaysia Palm Oil Board and other technology centres. The national programme should not be limited to biomass. We must look at other potential

business areas, including plant based biopharma, insect biotechnology, and even bioreactor technology for producing palm oil, rubber and cocoa.

Yes, it is long term. Existing entities that struggle to be relevant, such as Inno Biologics Sdn Bhd, can be partners. A new strategic plan is needed to effect the overhaul. Only then can we truly deliver the promised jobs in biotechnology. Only then can we truly harness biotechnology as a new economic growth engine for the country.

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**KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (S2) : MUKA SURAT 19
TARIKH: 5 NOVEMBER 2016 (SABTU)**

Siap Siaga Hadapi Banjir

Oleh **ZAKKINA WATI
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Persiapan awal telahpun dimulakan, antaranya logistik, kenal pasti pusat pemindahan, jumlah anggota pasukan penyelamat dan bekalan aset seperti bot penyelamat."

ZAITUN AB. SAMAD
Ketua Pengarah Nadma



PEPATAH Melayu ada menyatakan 'sediakan payung sebelum hujan'. Ia bermaksud sebelum berlaku sesuatu, lebih baik bersedia terlebih dahulu. Pepatah itu jelas menunjukkan perlunya persediaan awal bagi menghadapi musim banjir yang dijangka berlaku pada bulan ini sehingga Mac tahun depan.

Menjelang hujung tahun, kita sedia maklum, banjir pasti akan berlaku di Pantai Timur, melibatkan tiga negeri iaitu Pahang, Terengganu dan Kelantan. Namun, perubahan cuaca yang tidak menentu turut menyaksikan banjir besar juga berlaku di negeri-negeri lain seperti Perak dan Kedah, misalnya pada 2013. Dalam setiap kejadian banjir, pasti akan berlaku kejadian maut, selain kemusnahan harta benda, rumah, ternakan dan tanaman.

Sudah tentu nilai kerugian yang ditanggung amat besar sehingga boleh menjadikan mangsa banjir jatuh miskin. Setiap kali banjir berlaku, perkara paling



PUSAT pemindahan sementara disediakan bagi menempatkan penduduk di kawasan yang terjejas banjir. - GAMBAR HIASAN

penting yang perlu dilakukan adalah menyelamatkan diri dan keluarga terlebih dahulu. Namun, sejauh mana tahap kesedaran diri masyarakat untuk menghadapi banjir yang berlaku setiap tahun ini? Adakah mereka membuat persediaan?

Jika dilihat, bencana banjir dapat ditakrifkan sebagai satu kejadian yang berlaku secara mengejut, bersifat kompleks dan mengakibatkan kehilangan nyawa, kemusnahan harta benda dan alam sekitar serta menjejaskan aktiviti masyarakat setempat. Justeru, persiapan awal bagi menghadapi banjir perlu dilakukan. Selain itu, pihak berkuasa berkaitan bencana banjir juga perlu membuat

persiapan terutama dalam aspek peralatan dan tambahan anggota.

Mengulas isu tersebut, Ketua Pengarah Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (Nadma), Datuk Zaitun Ab. Samad berkata, pihaknya telah membuat persediaan awal bagi memastikan peringkat penyelarasan menghadapi banjir dengan beberapa agensi terlibat berjalan lancar.

Ini termasuklah membuat hebahan awal bagi memastikan masyarakat bersedia untuk menyelamatkan nyawa, ternakan, harta benda dan dokumen penting. "Kita sudah bersedia dari segi penyelarasan anggota Pasukan Mencari dan Menyelamat Khas Malaysia (SMART),

kelengkapan logistik termasuk perbincangan dengan beberapa agensi penyelamat. Malah, kita juga berharap masyarakat meningkatkan sikap ambil tahu sekiranya mendapat informasi bahawa akan berlaku banjir di kawasan kediaman mereka.

"Informasi ramalan banjir yang dikeluarkan oleh pihak Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (Met Malaysia) diperoleh lebih awal dari tarikh jangkakan banjir berlaku.

"Justeru, masyarakat perlu sedar dan membuat persiapan awal untuk menyelamatkan diri, keluarga dan dokumen penting bagi menghadapi bencana banjir," katanya ketika ditemui di pejabatnya.

Zaitun menambah, Nadma selaku agensi penyelaras bencana sentiasa memastikan persiapan pelbagai agensi penyelamat diperkemas menjelang jangkakan banjir berskala besar yang akan berlaku di Pantai Timur pada 14 hingga 17 November ini.

"Kita sudah 'turun padang' melihat persiapan di beberapa negeri seperti Kelantan dan Terengganu yang mengalami banjir besar saban tahun. Persiapan awal telahpun dimulakan, antaranya logistik, kenal pasti pusat pemindahan, jumlah anggota pasukan penyelamat dan bekalan aset seperti bot penyelamat.

"Kita tidak mahu nanti, sekiranya banjir berlaku, barulah kita nak fikir siapa yang perlu datang beri bantuan dan di mana kita nak salurkan bantuan tersebut," katanya.

Di samping itu, pihak Nadma juga telah mengadakan pelbagai program bersama komuniti di negeri terpilih untuk memberi penerangan berkaitan banjir dan tindakan awal yang perlu dilakukan penduduk sekiranya berada dalam kecemasan.

"Kita telah mengadakan program bersama masyarakat kampung untuk memberi penerangan semasa kecemasan ketika banjir.

"Nadma juga telah memberi peluang kepada komuniti untuk bersiap sedia lebih awal bagi memastikan keselamatan penduduk kampung yang terjejas dapat dipindahkan ke pusat pemindahan dengan kadar segera," katanya.