

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 26 APRIL 2017 (RABU)

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1.	Jumlah pelajar ikuti program sains, teknologi di IPT kurang	BERNAMA
2.	Science for sustainability	New Straits Times
3.	Gempa bumi sederhana landa Pulau Jawa	BERNAMA



Jumlah Pelajar Ikuti Program Sains, Teknologi Di IPT Kurang

TANJUNG MALIM, April (Bernama) -- Jumlah pelajar yang mengikuti program dalam bidang sains dan teknologi di Institusi Pengajian Tinggi (IPT) di negara ini berkurangan berbanding sasaran kerajaan iaitu daripada nisbah 20:80 kepada 60:40.

Timbalan Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi Datuk Dr Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah berkata merujuk kepada laporan Hala Tuju Modal Insan Sains dan Teknologi: Menjelang 2020, situasi itu dilihat amat membimbangkan kerana bidang berkenaan merupakan elemen penting untuk memacu pertumbuhan ekonomi khususnya dalam menyumbang tenaga pekerja mahir di negara ini.

Beliau berkata secara dasarnya adalah penting untuk memperkenalkan mata pelajaran berkaitan Sains, Teknologi, Kejuruteraan dan Matematik (STEM) kepada pelajar seawal pendidikan di peringkat rendah.

Ini kerana mentaliti untuk merancang masa depan secara teratur sejak dari awal perlu diterapkan dalam diri pelajar agar dapat membuka minda mereka meminati subjek berkenaan.

Bidang pekerjaan serta kepakaran berkaitan STEM seperti ahli saintis, jurutera, pakar teknologi maklumat perlu diserapkan ke dalam minda pelajar agar mereka dapat merancang masa hadapan, katanya ketika berucap pada Majlis Perasmian Program Celik Minda STEM Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) 2017 di Kampus Sultan Azlan Shah, Proton City di sini hari ini.

Abu Bakar berkata adalah wajar semua pihak berkepentingan untuk bersama-sama memikirkan permasalahan utama bagi mengatasi masalah kekurangan pelajar dalam bidang tersebut bagi memastikan kaedah dan pendekatan baharu untuk menarik minat mereka.

Beliau berkata mengambil contoh mata pelajaran berkaitan STEM merupakan subjek yang menarik kerana pelajar dapat mengaplikasikan pembelajaran teori dalam kehidupan seharian.

Sebagai contoh, eksperimen dalam subjek sains dapat memberi pengalaman baharu kepada pelajar melihat tindak balas atau keputusan dari perspektif yang berbeza dan pelajar dapat menganalisis serta berfikir secara kreatif dan inovatif.

Justeru itu, saya berpendapat adalah penting kerjasama daripada pelbagai pihak untuk duduk berbincang serta memikirkan kaedah yang berkesan dalam menyampaikan pengajaran STEM secara kreatif dan inovatif, katanya.

-- BERNAMA

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEW STRAITS TIMES (OPINION) : MUKA SURAT 19
TARIKH : 26 APRIL 2017 (RABU)



DR AHMAD
IBRAHIM



People participating in the March for Science in Washington on Saturday. Scientists the world over have come out in full force to voice concerns over what is now developing into global politics which they claim does not augur well for the future. AP PIC

FUTURE CHALLENGES

SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Investment in the field is for the long term good of the nation

APRIL 22 marked an important day for science. We, at the Academy of Sciences Malaysia, had our annual general meeting (AGM) that day. For scientists in Malaysia, especially fellows of the academy, the AGM is always an important occasion for the year. This is the time when we, which now number more than 300, elect the office bearers for the academy from the position of vice-president down to the ordinary council members.

Since the academy was first established about 21 years ago, the position of president has always been decided by the government. At this year's AGM, there was a suggestion that it is time for the position of president to also be decided by votes from the fellows, as is normally practised by other science academies around the world. The AGM also provides the opportunity for fellows to share some of their concerns on issues related to science in the

country. This time around, one issue discussed was on the declining popularity of our local science journals. This, unless adequately addressed, does not bode well for the future of science in the country.

We, as a nation, are not alone facing the many challenges of science. Low interest among students, low funding, low priority accorded and low appreciation in the usefulness of science are some of the main concerns. Lately, science has emerged as an agenda which has attracted world attention. Many countries face similar concerns including even the developed West. Even the United States, which many recognise as among the world leaders in the pursuit of science, is seen taking a back seat.

A recent budget of the US signalled possible drastic cuts in the support given to some of their science entities. It has been cited that agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, are expected to see serious cuts in their allocation.

Some research funding programmes have also been cut. Most affected will be those engaged in climate change research.

Apparently, the new US administration is sceptical about global warming and climate change.

They say the claim by world scientists about the rise in global temperature is all a hoax. Or fake news, using the jargon that has become popular in the current administration. They say the climate change hypothesis is used by environmental groups to create public sympathy for their cause. Since the US is among the leading contributors to greenhouse gas emission, such policy retraction will be a serious setback in the global fight against climate change. That is not going to be welcome news for many low-lying islands around the world. With the expected rise in sea levels as a consequence of climate change, the population there will have to look for other land mass to live. Inadvertently, it will create another refugee problem for the world. In addition, those countries exposed to the regular landing of climate disasters, including hurricanes and typhoons, will experience not only the increasing frequency of such calamities, but also more extreme climate disasters.

The future of our earth is therefore under serious threat. It is no wonder that on this year's Earth Day, we had scientists the world over have come out in full force to voice concerns over what is now developing into global politics

which they claim does not augur well for the future. It has been reported that from the Washington Monument to Germany's Brandenburg Gate and even to Greenland, scientists, students and research advocates rallied on Earth Day, conveying a global message about scientific freedom without political interference, the need for adequate spending to drive future breakthroughs and just the proven socio-economic value of science. For the first time, they came in numbers which many describe as quite astronomical.

We Malaysians are still fortunate that at home, the support of science has not waned much. Though off and on, we do hear voices of disillusionment with science, many are still convinced that investment in science is for the long term good of the nation. And, most important of all, our country is still committed to the desire to help reverse the climate change phenomenon. But, we scientists must not stop engaging the policymakers and the society at large.

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Gempa Bumi Sederhana Landa Pulau Jawa

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 April (Bernama) -- Satu gempa bumi sederhana berukuran 5.3 pada skala Richter melanda pulau Jawa, Indonesia pada 2.01 pagi tadi.

Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia dalam satu kenyataan di sini hari ini berkata lokasi gempa itu adalah 1,011 kilometer barat daya Tebedu, Sarawak.

Kenyataan itu berkata gempa bumi itu bagaimanapun tidak membawa ancaman tsunami.

-- BERNAMA