

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

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■ AT THE DEWAN RAKYAT YESTERDAY

Condisoil yet to get **green** light

> Lynas jumped gun on approval as tests on soil conditioner ongoing: Minister

BY **KAREN ARUKESAMY**
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KUALA LUMPUR: Sirim has yet to give the green light for condisoil, a soil conditioner derived from residue produced by rare earth mining company Lynas Corporation.

Science, Technology and Innovations Minister Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau (pix) said Sirim had not completed its tests on condisoil.

He added that Lynas had jumped the gun in saying that Sirim had given safety confirmation.

"The tests are still ongoing.

"It is better to leave it to Sirim to complete its work and let the Environment Department announce the results," Wilfred told Fuziah Salleh (PKR-Kuantan) during question time.

Fuziah said Lynas, in an email to "Save Malaysia, Stop Lynas"

chairman, stated that "condisoil is non-toxic, non-radioactive".

"I think this is jumping the gun as you said the test is still under way," she told Wilfred.

Wilfred said Lynas has appointed Sirim as the standard certification consultant for condisoil.

"The safety confirmation test is still being conducted by Sirim.

"The final report will be released by end of August," he said.

It was reported that Lynas said the Atomic Energy Licensing Board and Nuclear Malaysia had confirmed that condisoil is non-radioactive and that Sirim confirmed it to be non-carcinogenic and non-ecotoxic.

Lynas aims to process residue from its production operations for commercial use next year.

In an interview last year, Lynas Malaysia Sdn Bhd vice-president Datuk Mashal Ahmad said 211,454

tonnes of residue are being stored at its advanced material plant and it is collaborating with two institutions to turn the waste into material for use in agriculture.

He said Universiti Putra Malaysia and the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development

Institute are running

field tests on a soil conditioner derived from its water leach purification residue.

"Researchers from both institutes have tested this conditioner, called 'condisoil', on various crops including corn, kenaf, padi, coconut and cattle-grass," he said.

"After two harvest seasons, the initial results are amazing, with the growth rate of plants doubled using condisoil."



Menjana masa hadapan

ExxonMobil teruskan sokongan mencari dan mengasah bakat-bakat dalam STEM

ExxonMobil meneruskan sokongannya untuk inisiatif-inisiatif Sains, Teknologi, Kejuruteraan dan Matematik (STEM) di Malaysia dengan menyumbang sebanyak RM250,000 kepada Cabaran Sains Kebangsaan (NSC) 2017, sebuah usaha sama dengan **Akademi Sains Malaysia**, serta memberi tajaan sebanyak RM120,000 kepada delegasi Malaysia yang akan bertanding di International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) pada tahun ini di Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Menurut pengerusi baharu dilantik untuk subsidi-subsidi ExxonMobil di Malaysia, Edward Graham, penekanan diberikan adalah dalam mencari dan mengasah bakat-bakat yang berpotensi.

"Dalam industri tenaga di mana permintaan terus meningkat, pakar-pakar STEM sangat diperlukan untuk mencipta penyelesaian-penyelesaian di masa hadapan. Tenaga adalah asas kepada kehidupan kita dan penting untuk ekonomi Malaysia yang sedang membangun," kata Graham.

ExxonMobil telah lama menerajui pelbagai program dan inisiatif mendedahkan bakat-



Graham dan Kamalanathan (baris depan, tengah) bersama wakil IPT dan alumni yang terlibat.

bakat terpinjar dari Malaysia kepada aktiviti-aktiviti STEM, kerana syarikat ini sedar tentang manfaat melabur dalam pembangunan modal insan untuk melahirkan generasi pakar dan pemimpin industri baharu.

Rangka Tindakan Pendidikan Malaysia

2013-2025 telah mengenal pasti bahawa pendidikan STEM mestilah dijadikan titik tumpuan.

Dengan trend pasaran dan corak permintaan dan bekalan yang semakin berubah, landskap pekerjaan berevolusi

dengan pantas dan terdapat lebih keperluan untuk menjangka dan bersedia untuk keperluan kemahiran pada masa hadapan.

Hadir untuk memberi sokongan kepada acara tersebut ialah Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan Datuk P Kamalanathan Panchanathan bersama barisan panel yang terdiri daripada Prof Yang Farina Abdul Aziz (FASc); Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pemandu NSC dan delegasi Akademi Sains Malaysia; Prof Datuk Dr Noriah Mohd Ishak, Pengarah Sekretariat IMO di Permata Pintar; Profesor Emeritus Datuk Dr Mazlan Othman (FASc) serta alumni NSC Muhamad Amir Mohd Fadzi dan alumni IMO Hanissa Shamsuddin.

Panel tersebut membincangkan kepentingan STEM kepada masa hadapan Malaysia, termasuklah kebergantungan kepada pakar-pakar STEM untuk pembangunan negara, keperluan untuk lebih ramai rakyat Malaysia mengambil subjek-subjek STEM, dan peluang kerjaya pada masa hadapan yang perlu dijangka sebelum kewujudannya, serta jawatan-jawatan yang mungkin perlu diisi.



UK Lanjutkan Kerjasama Tabung Newton-Ungku Omar

Tarikh kemaskini: 25/07/2017

CYBERJAYA, 25 Julai (Bernama) -- United Kingdom (UK) bersetuju untuk melanjutkan kerjasama Tabung Newton-Ungku Omar dari 2019 kepada 2021, dengan tambahan pembiayaan dan sumber sehingga 50 peratus.

Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri berkata tabung itu yang diasaskan pada 2015, merupakan platform yang penting untuk membentuk kerjasama dalam sains, teknologi dan inovasi (STI) antara Malaysia dan UK.

"Ia mewujudkan peluang untuk memecah masalah, penyelesaian dan akhirnya membangunkan teknologi serta inovasi dalam menangani isu-isu global seperti perubahan iklim dan pembangunan lestari," katanya ketika berucap pada Rumah Terbuka Tabung Newton-Ungku Omar hari ini.

Majlis itu dianjurkan secara bersama oleh Kumpulan Industri Kerajaan Malaysia bagi Teknologi Tinggi (MIGHT) dan Pesuruhjaya Tinggi British di Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia adalah antara 18 negara membangun yang dipilih untuk mengambil bahagian dalam Tabung Newton, yang memberi fokus bagi perkongsian saintifik dan inovasi untuk menyokong pembangunan ekonomi dan kebajikan negara-negara rakan kongsi termasuk memajukan keupayaan penyelidikan dan kapasiti inovasi bagi pertumbuhan jangka panjang yang mampan.

Di Malaysia, tabung itu dinamakan sempena saintis terkenal, Prof Datuk Dr Ungku Omar Ungku Ahmad bagi memperingati jasa beliau dalam penyelidikan perubatan dan sains kesihatan dengan tujuan meningkatkan taraf kesihatan penduduk, termasuk penghapusan malaria dikalangan penduduk miskin.

Menurut Nancy, tabung berkenaan mempunyai lebih daripada 250 kerjasama dalam pelbagai bidang STI antara kedua-dua negara merangkumi program dan aktiviti seperti pautan institusi, penyelidikan, inovasi dan penyelidikan.

"Sekurang-kurangnya lapan teknologi dan inovasi sedang dibangunkan secara bersama. Produk dan inovasi ini mempunyai signifikan, potensi kesan dan hasil pengkomersilan serta penyelesaian untuk cabaran-cabaran global bagi faedah masyarakat antarabangsa," katanya lagi.

Sementara itu, Presiden **Akademi Sains Malaysia (ASM)** Prof Datuk Dr Asma Ismail menyampaikan geran penyelidikan sebanyak kira-kira £4.6 juta (£1 = RM5.57) kepada

12 projek di bawah program 'Kesihatan dan Perubatan Dua Hala dalam Penyakit Tidak Berjangkit' pada majlis tersebut.

Geran tersebut ditanggung oleh ASM dan Majlis Penyelidikan Perubatan UK. Para penyelidik dari Malaysia dan UK bekerjasama dalam program dua tahun bagi menangani penyakit-penyakit tidak berjangkit yang tersebar luas di seluruh negara.

-- BERNAMA

KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI) : MUKA SURAT 3
TARIKH : 26 JULAI 2017 (RABU)

Meningkat kepada RM3.1 trilion separuh pertama 2017

Pasaran modal naik 9% - PM

Oleh **NUR NAZLIN NADZARI**
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■ KUALA LUMPUR 25 JULAI

PASARAN modal negara meningkat sembilan peratus kepada RM3.1 trilion dalam tempoh enam bulan pertama tahun ini dan kini menduduki tempat kelima di Asia sejajar dengan Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK).

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak berkata, Malaysia terus menarik minat pelabur dalam dan luar negara dengan jumlah aliran masuk bersih pasaran ekuiti sebanyak RM11 bilion pada separuh pertama tahun ini berbanding RM3 bilion aliran keluar bagi keseluruhan 2016.

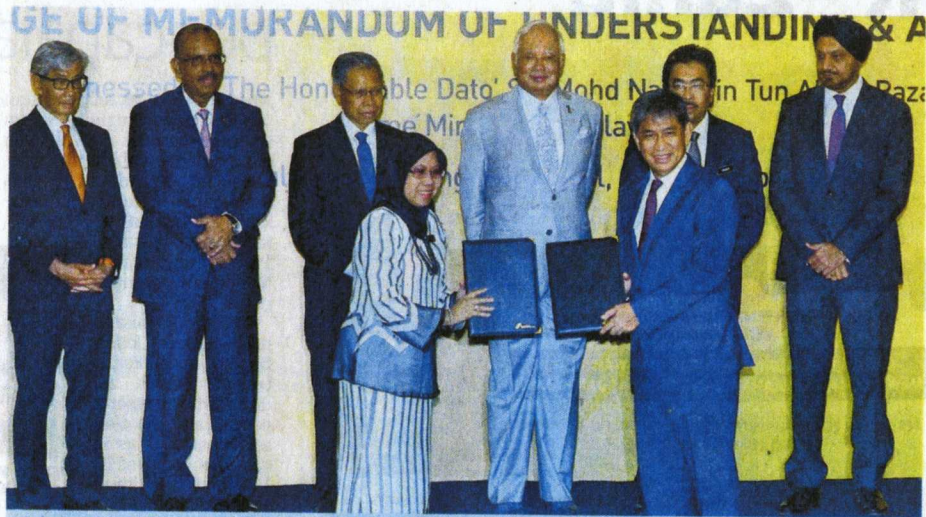
Katanya, negara juga menjadi lokasi utama kepada syarikat tersenarai di ASEAN dan Bursa Malaysia juga telah mencatatkan dana sebanyak AS\$29 bilion (RM124.2 bilion) yang diperolehi dalam lima tahun lepas, dana tertinggi dalam kalangan 10 anggota perkumpulan itu.

Tambah beliau, angka lain yang menyokong keyakinan di Malaysia termasuk perdagangan pada suku pertama meningkat 24.3 peratus kepada RM430.5 bilion berbanding tempoh sama tahun lalu, dengan eksport RM82.63 bilion pada Mac adalah angka bulanan tertinggi pernah direkodkan.

"Mata wang ringgit juga digambarkan oleh Bloomberg baru-baru ini sebagai mata wang Asia utama yang terkuat bagi suku ini, naik dua kali seperti mata wang terbaik seterusnya iaitu yuan China.

"Semua ini dapat disimpulkan bahawa ekonomi kita terus maju dan lebih kuat dari sebelumnya hasil daripada pembaharuan dan program yang telah dilaksanakan oleh kerajaan.

"Di bawah kerajaan ini, kami sedang berusaha mengatasi kapitalisme kroni, Tiada lagi urusan niaga pilih kasih. Tiada lagi keputusan kurang bijak untuk memenuhi ego seorang individu. Tiada lagi syarikat nasional yang dianggap sebagai harta persendirian."



NAJIB TUN RAZAK bersama Johari Abdul Ghani, Mustapa Mohamed, Ali Hamsa (dua dari kiri), Amirsyam Abdul Aziz (kiri) dan Ranjit Ajit Singh (kanan), menyaksikan pertukaran dokumen persefahaman dan perjanjian antara Tajuddin Atan (depan, kanan) dan Hafsa Hashim (depan, kiri) selepas menyampaikan ucapan utama dalam program Invest Malaysia Kuala Lumpur (IMKL) 2017 di Kuala Lumpur, semalam. - UTUSAN/AMIN FARUJ HASAN

gap sebagai harta persendirian," katanya dalam uaputama Invest Malaysia Kuala Lumpur (IMKL) 2017 di sini hari ini.

Yang turut hadir, Menteri Kewangan II, Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani; Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri, Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed; dan Ketua Setiausaha Negara, Tan Sri Dr. Ali Hamsa.

Selain itu ialah Pengerusi Bursa Malaysia, Tan Sri Amirsyam Abdul Aziz; Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Bursa Malaysia, Datuk Seri Tajuddin Atan; Pengerusi Eksekutif Suruhanjaya Sekuriti, Tan Sri Ranjit Ajit Singh; Ketua Eksekutif Kumpulan CIMB, Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Aziz dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif SME Corporation, Datuk Dr. Hafsa Hashim.

Pada majlis sama, Najib melancarkan Pasaran Platform Pemecut Usahawan Utama (LEAP), pasaran baharu di Bursa Malaysia bagi memperkasakan perusahaan kecil dan sederhana (PKS).

Najib berkata, pasaran tersebut menawarkan saluran alternatif kepada PKS untuk meraih dana bagi mengembangkan perniagaan mereka ke peringkat seterusnya. Katanya, perkembangan tersebut sejajar dengan Pelan Induk PKS yang menyasarkan peningkatan sumbangan sektor itu dalam KDNK, jumlah pekerja mereka dan jumlah eksport.

"PKS meliputi 97 peratus perniagaan di Malaysia dan pentadbiran saya menyokong dan menggalakkan sektor ini menjadi tulang belakang kepada ekonomi," ujarnya.

Pada pelancaran itu, beliau menyaksikan pertukaran memorandum persefahaman (MoU) antara Bursa Malaysia dan empat rakan strategik bagi Pasaran LEAP iaitu Perbadanan Ekonomi Digital Malaysia (MDEC), Perbadanan Pembangunan Teknologi Malaysia (MTDC), SME Corporation (SME Corp) dan Unit Peneraju Agenda Bumiputera (Teraju).



Di bawah kerajaan ini, kami sedang berusaha mengatasi kapitalisme kroni, Tiada lagi urusan niaga pilih kasih. Tiada lagi keputusan kurang bijak untuk memenuhi ego seorang individu. Tiada lagi syarikat nasional yang dianggap sebagai harta persendirian."

NAJIB TUN RAZAK
Perdana Menteri

Sehingga kini, terdapat 11 PKS yang sudah berhubung dengan firma penasihat bagi membantu mereka dalam proses penyertaan di Pasaran LEAP.



LEAP Market To Take SME Growth To Next Level - Najib

Last update: 25/07/2017

KUALA LUMPUR, July 25 (Bernama) -- Bursa Malaysia Bhd's new Leading Entrepreneur Accelerator Platform (LEAP) Market will help take the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to the next level, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Through LEAP, which was officially launched by Najib today at the Invest Malaysia 2017 here, wealthy investors can lend money via the capital market to the SMEs.

He said LEAP is a new qualified market which offers an alternative for SMEs to raise funds and grow their business to the next level.

"SMEs make up 97 per cent of businesses in Malaysia, and one of the hallmarks of my administration has been its support and encouragement for this backbone of our economy.

"It is in line with the SME Masterplan which aims to raise the share of gross domestic product (GDP) contribution by SMEs, their number of employees and volume of exports.

"It is also another of the many initiatives put in place in pursuit of transformation, and prove our trustworthiness as a business-friendly government of a vibrant economy," Najib said in a keynote address at the Invest Malaysia 2017 opening, prior to LEAP's launch.

The new market aims to provide SMEs with an alternative and efficient fund raising platform and visibility through the capital market where wealthy investors can lend money via the capital market to the SMEs.

Bursa Malaysia Bhd Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Seri Tajuddin Atan at the launch, meanwhile said, LEAP is designed to address the funding gap for SMEs and provides investors with a new investable asset class.

"The availability of such a platform will further aid the development of SMEs and support broader economic activities.

"Trading on the LEAP market is limited to sophisticated investors, according them an opportunity to broaden their investment options in a transparent and regulated environment," he added.

During the launch of LEAP, the prime minister also witnessed the exchange of Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) between Bursa Malaysia and its four strategic partners, namely the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC), **Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC)**, SME Corporation and the Bumiputera Agenda Steering Unit (TERAJU).

The strategic partners will support in the identification of potential SMEs to be listed on the LEAP market and also collaborate to jointly develop the SME financing eco-system and capacity building.

To date, eleven SMEs have engaged LEAP's approved advisors to assist them with the listing process.

Potential issuers, according to Bursa's circular at the launch include, Cloudaron Pte Ltd, Agrofresh International Group Sdn Bhd, Red Ideas Holdings Sdn Bhd and Polymer Link Sdn Bhd.

-- BERNAMA

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BUSINESS / News

RAISING CAPITAL

11 COMPANIES HOPE TO LIST ON LEAP MARKET

New platform will help SMEs take businesses to next level, says Tajuddin

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INVEST
MALAYSIA 2017

BURSA Malaysia's Leading Entrepreneur Accelerator Platform (LEAP) Market, essentially the exchange's third board for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), could see an initial 11 companies being listed.

Clouardon Pte Ltd, Agrofresh International Group Bhd, Red Ideas Holdings Sdn Bhd and Polymer Link Sdn Bhd are among the 11 that have engaged advisers to help them with the listing.

The others are Trustgate Bhd, Accent Wellness Global Sdn Bhd,

East West One Group Sdn Bhd, Macfeam Sdn Bhd, Upstream Downstream Process & Services Sdn Bhd, ProEight Sdn Bhd and Safetyware Sdn Bhd.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak revealed the companies at the launch of LEAP during Invest Malaysia 2017, here, yesterday.

Bursa Malaysia also announced the approved advisers for LEAP, which are Kenanga Investment Bank Bhd, M&A Securities Sdn Bhd, Mercury Securities Sdn Bhd, TA Securities Holdings Bhd,



Bursa Malaysia chief executive officer (CEO) Datuk Seri Tajuddin Atan (third from right) exchanging documents with SME Corp CEO Datuk Hafsa Hashim at the signing of the memoranda of understanding in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak (centre). Also present are (from left) Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani and Securities Commission chairman Tan Sri Ranjit Ajit Singh. PIC BY MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI

Crowe Horwath Advisory Sdn Bhd, DWA Advisory Sdn Bhd and WYNCorp Advisory Sdn Bhd.

Bursa Malaysia chief executive officer Datuk Seri Tajuddin Atan said LEAP was the first alternative capital raising platform for SMEs in Asean.

"It is designed to address the funding gap for SMEs and make it easier for them to take their businesses to the next level by raising funds in the capital market. It also provides them with a new investable asset class.

"The availability of such platform would further aid the development of SMEs and support

broader economic activities."

LEAP trading is limited to sophisticated investors, according to them with an opportunity to broaden their investment options in a transparent and regulated environment.

Najib said Bursa Malaysia had established LEAP with the realisation SMEs formed the backbone of the nation's economy, as the segment made up 97 per cent of businesses in the country.

LEAP was in line with the government's SME master plan to raise the SMEs' share of gross domestic product, he added.

Najib also witnessed the sign-

ing of memoranda of understanding between Bursa Malaysia and four strategic partners — Malaysia Digital Economy Corp, Malaysia Technology Development Corp, SME Corp and Bumiputera Economic Empowerment Unit. They will help identify potential SMEs to be listed on LEAP and develop the SME financing ecosystem.

MIDF Research head Redza Rahman said the most important appeal of SMEs was the potential growth.

"Starting with a small base, the upside is huge should the business turn out well," he said.

11 SMEs prepare to take major LEAP

> First few listings on new market will take 'extra' time as Bursa wants to ensure quality, credibility

BY EVA YEONG

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KUALA LUMPUR: Eleven small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have engaged approved advisers to assist them with the listing process on the newly launched Leading Entrepreneur Accelerator Platform (LEAP) of Bursa Malaysia.

The 11 potential issuers are Cloudaron Pte Ltd, Agrofresh International Group Sdn Bhd, Red Ideas Holdings Sdn Bhd, Polymer Link Sdn Bhd, Trustgate Bhd, Accent Wellness Global Sdn Bhd, East West One Group Sdn Bhd, Macfeam Sdn Bhd, Upstream Downstream Process & Services Sdn Bhd, ProEight Sdn Bhd and Safetyware Sdn Bhd.

Bursa Malaysia Bhd CEO Datuk Seri Tajuddin Atan said the listing process is expected to take three to four months on average, and hopes to see the first two listings on the new market this year.

"I hope it will be soon, given the fact that this LEAP market, which is for SMEs, is supposed to have a different facilitation. It has a one-stop approval process from the exchange and, on top of that, there is no need for prospectus or information memo and we are all subjected to the advisers who will go



SME Corp CEO Datuk Dr Hafsa Hashim exchanges MoUs with Tajuddin after the launch of LEAP at Invest Malaysia Kuala Lumpur 2017 yesterday. Witnessing the exchange are Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak (third from right), and (from left) Bursa Malaysia Bhd chairman Tan Sri Anissham Abdul Aziz, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani and Securities Commission Malaysia chairman Tan Sri Ranjit Ajit Singh.

through the suitability of the companies to be listed. Given that timeline, we would expect the turnaround time to be short," he told reporters at the launch of LEAP yesterday.

The approved advisers for the 11 potential issuers are Kenanga Investment Bank Bhd, M&A Securities Sdn Bhd, Mercury Securities Sdn Bhd, TA Securities Holdings Bhd, Crowe Horwath Advisory Sdn Bhd, DWA

Advisory Sdn Bhd and WYNCorp Advisory Sdn Bhd.

Tajuddin said the first two listings would take a "little extra" time as the exchange wants to populate the market with good, credible companies especially for the first few listings.

"We need to start right to ensure that the companies that get listed are of

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New fundraising avenue for SMEs

► FROM PAGE 15

certain credibility, quality and ensuring it is transparent so that once it builds that level, the market gets to be recognised as a credible market. That is the aspiration. The exchange is working towards a long-term plan of developmental role of building this market and, hopefully, these companies will become the pipeline for the future companies that get listed on the ACE or the Main Market," he added.

Launched at Invest Malaysia Kuala Lumpur 2017, LEAP aims to provide SMEs with an alternative and efficient fundraising platform and visibility through the capital market. It is designed to address the funding gap for SMEs and make it easier for them to take their businesses to the next level through the capital market. It also provides investors with a new investable asset class.

Trading on LEAP is limited to sophisticated investors, namely accredited investors, high net-worth entities and high net-worth individuals. Tajuddin said it may open trading to other investors in the future once the market is familiar with the risk reward appetite of the SME market.

At the same event, Bursa Malaysia exchanged memorandums of understanding with four strategic partners, namely Malaysia Digital Economy Corp, Malaysia Technology Development Corp, SME Corp and Unit Peneraju Agenda Bumiputera. These strategic partners will provide support in identifying potential SMEs to be listed on LEAP as well as collaborate to jointly develop the SME financing ecosystem and capacity building.

International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said it is important to have a pipeline of companies that can be listed and LEAP is an additional avenue to increase the number of SMEs listed on Bursa Malaysia.

"We want regional champions. Some SMEs may lack confidence but with such programmes, we can build up their confidence to penetrate the overseas market," said Mustapa, who was also at the launch yesterday.

KERATAN AKHBAR
THE STAR (NEWS) : MUKA SURAT 4
TARIKH : 26 JULAI 2017 (RABU)

Prime Minister launches Bursa's Leap Market

By CECILIA KOK

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak officially launched Bursa Malaysia's Leading Entrepreneur Accelerator Platform (Leap) Market at Invest Malaysia Kuala Lumpur 2017 here yesterday.

The new market aims to provide small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with an alternative and efficient fund-raising platform and visibility through the capital market.

With the addition of the Leap Market, the three markets on Bursa Malaysia would create a complete range of investment opportunities in the country.

"The Leap market is an alternative capital-raising platform for SMEs and it is the first of its kind in Asean.

"It is designed to address the funding gap for SMEs and make it easier for them to take their businesses to the next level through raising funds in the capital market.

It also provides them with a new investable asset class," Bursa Malaysia chief executive officer Datuk Seri Tajuddin Atan said.

Tajuddin said the availability of the Leap platform would further aid the development of SMEs and support broader economic activities.

Trading on the Leap Market, however, would be limited to sophisticated investors, according to them with an opportunity to broaden their investment options in a transparent and regulated environment.

During the launch, Najib also witnessed the exchange of memorandum of understanding between Bursa Malaysia and its four strategic partners - Malaysia Digital Economy Corp, Malaysia Technology Development Corp, SME Corp and Unit Peneraju Agenda Bumiputera.

The strategic partners would support the identification of potential SMEs to be listed on the Leap Market as well as collaborate to jointly develop the SME financing

ecosystem and capacity building.

Najib said the launch of the Leap Market was in line with the government's SME Masterplan, which aims to raise the share of gross domestic product contributed by SMEs, their number of employees, and their export volume.

"It is another of the many initiatives that my government has put in place in pursuit of our transformation, and that proves our trustworthiness as the business-friendly government of a vibrant economy," Najib added.

SMEs at present make up 97% of businesses in Malaysia.

To date, 11 SMEs have engaged approved advisers to assist them with the listing process on the Leap Market. These potential issuers are Cloudaron Pte Ltd, Agrofresh International Group Sdn Bhd, Red Ideas Holdings Sdn Bhd, Polymer Link Sdn Bhd, Trustgate Bhd, Accent Wellness Global Sdn Bhd, East West One Group Sdn Bhd, Macfeam Sdn Bhd, Upstream Downstream Process & Services Sdn Bhd, ProEight Sdn

Bhd and Safetyware Sdn Bhd.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Associated Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry president Tan Sri Kenneth Eswaran said Leap is ideal for SMEs, which are currently underserved in the market.

"This programme allows them to raise funds and enhance their profile in an efficient and cost-effective way," he said.

"Currently, 96% of SME funding comes from the banking sector while the remaining 4% is from the capital market.

Kenneth commended Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who launched Leap yesterday, for his constant support of and encouragement to SMEs in the country.

He added that Leap is part of the SME Masterplan which aims to raise the share of gross domestic product contributed by SMEs, the number of employees and export volume, which is in line with Najib's vision of turning Malaysia into a gateway to Asean and the region.

Prepping for a STEM-pede: Igniting interest in the education pipeline

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MUCH has been said about how STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) is critical for the nation in terms of wealth creation and global competitiveness.

Defined as disciplines of knowledge consisting of science (physics, chemistry and biology) and mathematics with the integration of various technologies and engineering, STEM incorporates all the technologies collectively considered core underpinnings of an advanced society.

The strength of the STEM workforce is often viewed as an indicator of a nation's ability to sustain itself and Malaysia, in its Education Blueprint 2013-2025 (Preschool to Post-Secondary Education), has set the roadmap for strengthening delivery of STEM across the education system.

This is being done via three measures: raising student interest through new learning approaches and an enhanced curriculum; sharpening skills and abilities of teachers; and building public and student awareness.

Despite the plan and efforts put into various STEM programmes since 1967, the 60:40 ratio for Science/Technical and Arts Policy has never been achieved — neither at school nor, subsequently, tertiary level.

There is also the STEM paradox where many believe despite having a STEM-based qualification, there is no guarantee there will be suitable jobs requiring their skills in the employment market upon graduation.

The National STEM Movement, headed by representatives of several universities in Malaysia as well as those from the Education, Higher Education and Science, Technology and Innovation Ministries, aims to drive the passion in fundamental subjects in STEM, nurture excellent scientists for the country and develop a career path for scientists.

Its chairman, Professor Datuk Dr Noraini Idris, who is the deputy vice-chancellor (research and innovation) of Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, said currently — like the rest of the world — Malaysia is faced with various challenges in the STEM issue.

"Young children are no longer keen on science. This leads to a decreased number of students taking up science at secondary school level. With a poor population at secondary school, by the time they get to university there isn't enough supply of good and talented science students to be trained in STEM fields," she said.

Today only 27 per cent of students in the entire education system in Malaysia are in the science stream, said Noraini. "We are lagging far behind in science and mathematics at secondary school level as observed in international assessment studies. Math and science encourages logical thinking — what concerns us is the poor critical thinking skills among students. While UPSR is trying to encourage it through a different exam format, the results are still wanting. How are we then to have the talents with exploratory minds that could harness knowledge in STEM to transform the country into a high income nation," she shared.

And why the ardent concern on producing a STEM workforce?



When we do sciences, we don't necessarily become doctors or engineers — we can become entrepreneurs, successful corporate heads, innovators, policy makers and more with the knowledge of sciences."

DR NORAINI IDRIS

Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris deputy vice-chancellor (research and innovation)



University students can help inspire interest in STEM among school children.

Data from Academy of Sciences Malaysia show that a total of 1 million people are required by 2020 to be in the science and technology fields: 500,000 in support and services comprising technicians, those in the vocational field, science officers, nurses and ICT personnel; 470,000 implementors like engineers, doctors and architects as well as well as scientists, technologists and applied scientists; and 30,000 in research.

"The type of nurses that we want, for example, is not those who obtained a diploma or degree — they must be thinker nurses also. Doctors will not be able to observe patients every second as they'll focus on the critical cases first. So, nurses need to have a strong science base to think critically and be good at problem solving. With a workforce of a high knowledge base like these, they will be able to help the department, the organisation or the country move to greater heights," she illustrated.

The pipeline for STEM starts from the cradle right up to career, Noraini highlighted.

"So that means as academics at tertiary level, we lecturers have to go down and carry out campaigns on STEM to educate our people. When we talk about science, we must learn about physics, chemistry and biology even at kindergarten and the primary school level. We must be strong in math. Of course, the focus will be different at those levels. STEM provides the basis for inquiry, exploration, innovation... When we do sciences, we don't necessarily become doctors or engineers — we can become entrepreneurs, successful corporate heads, innovators, policy makers and more with the knowledge of sciences. This is the thing we want to impart — through knowledge of STEM, we can do a lot of things," she said.

The National STEM Movement has introduced numerous initiatives.

"We are now in the midst of designing a STEM Career Portal. The general public — parents and students — need to know there are a variety of

NATIONAL STEM MOVEMENT PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

- National STEM Mentor-mentee Program
- Career STEM Portal
- Malaysian Young Scientist Competition
- National STEM Network
- Malaysian STEM Colloquium
- In-service training for STEM lecturers and teachers
- STEM Modules (Adopt Teachers TryScience modules, IBM)
- National STEM Movement website
- Olympiad in STEM (Work with MOHE, MOE and MOSTI to send representatives to participate STEM Olympiad)

careers in STEM other than the traditional ones. For example, Malaysia is surrounded by the ocean — we can learn a lot of things from our environment and turn this learning into a future career based on marine sciences," she said.



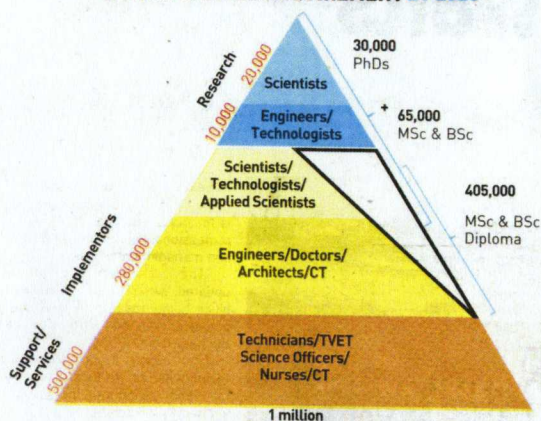
Dr Logendra Ponniah

The National STEM Movement have already begun to organise the Malaysian Young Scientist Competition fashioned after the US Science Competition. "This is carried out at every state. Other than teachers, university students play a role as advisors or coaches. We want more collaborators to help to encourage and inspire people to take up science," Noraini said.

The movement has also organised the Malaysian STEM Colloquium in a number of states with the next one to be held in Johor in September. "Although there is a university coordinator for the event in every state, we welcome others to join. These colloquium do not only high-

KERATAN AKHBAR NEW STRAITS TIMES (HIGHER ED) : MUKA SURAT 7 TARIKH : 26 JULAI 2017 (RABU)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HUMAN CAPITAL REQUIREMENT BY 2020



Source: Academy of Sciences Malaysia

STEM MENTOR-MENTEE PROGRAMME

Zone	States	Number of Secondary schools		Public University (1 mentor to 5 mentees)
		Urban	Rural	
1.	Selangor	202	73	UKM + UPM + UiTM + UNISEL
2.	Kuala Lumpur	101	0	UTMKL + UPNM
3.	Kedah	87	103	UUM + UiTM
4.	Penang	72	55	USM + UiTM
5.	Perak	118	127	UPSI + UTP + UiTM
6.	Kelantan	52	121	UMK + UiTM
7.	Terengganu	56	88	UMT + UNISZA + UiTM
8.	Johor	163	110	UTM + UTHM
9.	Negeri Sembilan	62	59	USIM + UiTM
10.	Sabah	63	159	UMS + UiTM
11.	Sarawak	67	119	UNIMAS + UiTM
12.	Melaka	74		UTeM
13.	Pahang	190		UMP
14.	Pertis	29		UniMAP

Source: National STEM Movement

light pure sciences, we also link STEM to the arts and social science. In Kelantan, STEM dikir barat was performed and in Melaka, STEM was featured in a Hang Tuah setting," said Noraini.

She is particularly excited about the National STEM Mentor-Mentee Programme that involves facilitators from the National STEM movement, mentors comprising science students from universities, and mentees who are students from Form 1 to 3 — with one mentor assigned to five mentees.

The programme involves both rural and secondary schools as well as public universities in all states.

"We expose the students to the wonders of science and also university environment. Our key performance indicator is that after undergo-

ing the programme, each school involved will set up more pure science classes for those interested. Because this has just started, we need more manpower from public and private universities and also industry partners to help us out," she said.

On the perceived inability of some STEM graduates to gain employment, Noraini said universities now have to relook at the courses being offered in STEM areas.

"What we see is that many universities are offering the same courses. What if the programmes that we are designing do not match with the real world situation? We have to study properly what is the area of concern and whether this suggests that multidisciplinary STEM courses should be introduced. That is why when

10 TYPES OF SCIENTISTS

- Business scientist**
 - Underpins excellent management and business skills with scientific knowledge, supporting evidence-led decision-making within companies and other enterprises.
 - Has the scientific and technical knowledge to be credible with both colleagues and competitors, as well as confidence in a business environment.
 - They are found in science and technology companies in a wide variety of roles, from R&D or marketing, and to the C-suite itself.
- Investigator scientist**
 - Digs into the unknown observing, mapping, understanding and piecing together in-depth knowledge and data, setting out the landscape for others to translate and develop.
 - They are likely to be found in a university or research centre, or in research & development (R&D) at an organisation, working in a team and likely in a multi-disciplinary environment.
- Policy scientist**
 - Uses their science and technical knowledge, as well as their understanding of government and policy making, to ensure that legislation and policy have a sound evidence base. Some policy scientists describe themselves as 75 per cent scientist and 25 per cent politician.
 - Employed and involved at many levels and in many environments including government and Parliament, NGOs, campaigning groups and charities.
- Regulator scientist**
 - Reassures the public that systems and technology are reliable and safe, through monitoring and regulation.
 - They will have a mix of skills and while they may not get involved in things like lab work, they will have a thorough understanding of the science and the processes involved in monitoring its use or application.
- Service provider scientist**
 - Provides operational scientific services in a wide range of ways.
 - Works in health service, forensic science, food science, health and safety, materials analysis and testing, education and many other areas. Rarely visible, they can be found in laboratories and other support service environments across a wide variety of sectors.
- Teacher scientist**
 - Trained in science, sharing their knowledge and understanding to train the next generation of scientists.
 - Combines application of science with pedagogic skill and passion for teaching others.
 - Works in schools, colleges, universities and other educational organisations, developing their tools and experience for teaching and learning.
- Developer scientist**
 - The developer, or translational, scientist uses the knowledge generated by others and transforms it into something that society can use.
 - Developing products or services, ideas that change behaviour, improvements in health care and medicines, or the application of existing technology in new settings.
 - They are found in research environments and may be working with entrepreneur and business scientists to help bring their ideas to market.
- Entrepreneur scientist**
 - Makes innovation happen. Their scientific knowledge and connections are deep enough to be able to see opportunities for innovation not just in business, but also in the public sector and other sectors of society.
 - They blend their science knowledge and credibility with people management skills, entrepreneurial flair and a strong understanding of business and finance, to start their own businesses or help grow existing companies.
- Explorer scientist**
 - They are on a journey of discovery "to boldly go where no one has gone before". They rarely focus on a specific outcome or impact, rather they want to know the next piece of the jigsaw of scientific understand-

Source: Professor Datuk Dr. Noraini Idris, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris

we design a curriculum, we need to discuss thoroughly with the industry partners," she said.

Dr Logendra Ponniah, Taylor's University head of School of Education, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, said when discussing STEM, many educators do not focus on its intrinsic values of problem solving ability, critical thinking ability, inquiry and so forth.

"It is the competency of the person that is acquired through a STEM-based education; an engineer, for example, will make a systematic thinker and planner who can conceive engineering design principles that are widely used in many industries.

If you look at the CEOs of today, many of them have STEM education and they subsequently moved on to management. And they attribute their thinking style to their STEM education. So parents and educators must align: constantly

emphasise that STEM is not a body of knowledge, it is a kind of thinking, and it is not a professional engagement. And if teachers can emphasise competency more than knowledge, I think we stand a second chance in the future," he said.

Professor Emerita Datuk Dr Mazlan Othman, Malaysia's first astrophysicist and the founding director of the Malaysian National Space Agency observed that unemployment among science and engineering degree holders

does exist.

"This contradicts the fact that we need more STEM graduates. It is not enough for us to produce STEM graduates, we must create the ecosystem that absorb these STEM graduates. We are not developing the capacity in the institutions that will keep them as scientists. So, the government must be consistent about this," she said.



Dr Mazlan Othman