

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN**  
**TARIKH: 14 SEPTEMBER 2017 (KHAMIS)**

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KERATAN AKHBAR  
NEW STRAITS TIMES (BUSINESS) : MUKA SURAT B6  
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BIOMALAYSIA 2017

## Partnerships to spur bioeconomy

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's biotechnological initiatives are achieving global competitiveness via the BioMalaysia and Asia Pacific Bioeconomy series that seek to boost strategic collaboration with local players.

Malaysian Bioeconomy Development Corp Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Dr Mohd Shuhaizam Mohd Zain said the agency was planning to get as many companies to venture internationally by forging synergistic business-to-business partnerships.

"This is one way for Malaysia to improve global competitiveness in Asia Pacific," said Shuhaizam at a briefing, here, yesterday.

To date, 37 of the 286



(From left) Malaysian Bioeconomy Development Corp Sdn Bhd chief financial officer Syed Agil Syed Hashim, chief executive officer Dr Mohd Shuhaizam Mohd Zain and senior vice-president for corporate affairs Adnan Baharum at a briefing of BioMalaysia 2017 in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.  
BERNAMA PIC

BioNexus-status companies had gone global, he added.

Shuhaizam said eight BioNexus companies unveiled eight new products during the BioMalaysia 2017 event.

He said three collaborations

were concluded at the event, involving six companies and organisations, which had the potential to boost the bioeconomy sector.

"The companies are Rural Asset group of companies, Oudhcom LLC, Universiti Putra

Malaysia, Malaysian Vaccine and Pharmaceuticals Sdn Bhd, Algaetech International Sdn Bhd and Watson Malaysia," he said.

The event saw the participation of 67 companies involving 120 exhibition booths. **Ooi Tee Ching**



## BioMalaysia2017 Concludes Partnerships and Collaborations to Boost Economic Growth in the Asia Pacific Region

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Sept. 13, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- Malaysia's premier biotechnology event BioMalaysia & Asia Pacific Bioeconomy 2017, ended today, after 3 days of Forums and Exhibition at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. The event was officiated by the Secretary General of Science, Technology & Innovation (MOSTI), Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Azhar bin Yahaya on 11 September 2017 on behalf of the MOSTI Minister, Datuk Panglima Wilfred Madius Tangau.



*(From left) Chief Financial Officer of Bioeconomy Corporation, Tuan Syed Agil Syed Hashim; Chief Executive Officer of Bioeconomy Corporation, Dr. Mohd Shuhaizam Mohd Zain; and Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Bioeconomy Corporation and Project Director of BioMalaysia 2017, En. Adnan Baharum with some of the BioNexus products featured in BioMalaysia 2017*

BioMalaysia & Asia Pacific Bioeconomy 2017 was jointly organized by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysian Bioeconomy Development Corporation Sdn Bhd (Bioeconomy Corporation) an agency under the purview of MOSTI and MyEvents International. Themed "Bioeconomy: Driving Growth and Prosperity of the Nation", the biotechnology annual forums and exhibition attracted more than 6,000 visitors and featured discussion topics related to bioeconomy, bioplastics, bioagropreneur, biologics, funding and expansion of businesses to the global markets, as well as the way forward for bio-based industries for Asia Pacific.



The forums showcased biotechnology experts who presented their findings, latest opportunities, business methods, market access and funding opportunities within the bio-based and biotechnology industry. Among the speakers at BioMalaysia 2017 were Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Azhar Haji Yahaya, Professor Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid and Dr

Mohd Shuhaizam Mohd Zain. Presentations were carried out during the 3-day event from RQuest Convergent, BioAlpha, Blubear Holdings & Melaka Biotech. The event fostered partnerships among industry players to establish stronger bioeconomy ties in the region, and served as a catalyst to position Malaysia as the prime bioeconomy and biotechnology center in the Asia Pacific region.

"During BioMalaysia 2017, we saw potential trade and cooperation in various areas to benefit the society. 8 BioNexus companies unveiled 8 new products at our event. From the 286 BioNexus status companies, 37 companies have gone global. We would like to get as many companies as possible to venture out globally in terms of partnerships, building business-to-business relationships, and getting the products to those countries and vice versa. This is a way for Malaysia to improve our global competitiveness in the Asia Pacific region and this is the spirit we are looking to bring next year," said Dr Mohd Shuhaizam Mohd Zain, Chief Executive Officer of Malaysian Bioeconomy Development Corporation during the wrap up press conference of BioMalaysia 2017.

BioMalaysia has always been used as a platform to announce collaborations involving various industry participants. This year 3 significant collaborations involving 6 companies and organisations were made during the opening ceremony, which have the potential to boost the bioeconomy sectors in Malaysia. Among the strategic collaborations and partnership exchanged during the opening ceremony were with Rural Asset Group of Companies & Oudhcom LLC, University Putra Malaysia & Malaysian Vaccine & Pharmaceuticals Sdn Bhd and Algaetech & Watson Malaysia.

Meanwhile, the BioMalaysia Exhibition saw the participation of 67 companies involving 120 exhibition booths. In conjunction with BioMalaysia, several sideline events were held by Bioeconomy Corporation to strengthen the bioeconomy ecosystem and bio-entrepreneurial efforts in Malaysia, as well as to encourage the commercialisation of local innovative bio-based products and increase human capital in the sector.

Another highlight of the event was the Bioeconomy Innovation Awards 2017 which gave out 30 awards to research institutes and universities for their excellence. Held on 12<sup>th</sup> September, the award ceremony provided a platform to promote the latest biotechnology achievements as well as the commercialisation of biotechnology research findings, products and services. With the 15<sup>th</sup> year of BioMalaysia 2017, the award ceremony was an opportunity to highlight the success and achievements attained in the bio-based industries. For more details on participation at BioMalaysia 2017 or to register attendance for talks and forums, visit <http://www.biomalaysia.com.my>

#### **Sideline Events:**

- The launch of 8 BioNexus products by the Secretary General of Science, Technology & Innovation, Datuk Seri Mohd Azhar Haji Yahaya on 11th September 2017. These products are generated



by 8 BioNexus Status companies - Algaetech International, Tropical Bioessence, Ligno Biotech, Hopematic, Ganofarm R&D, Airestec, Careena & Elescaid and Bio Tree Biotechnology. The products generated by BioNexus Status Companies will play a role in enhancing consumers' confidence in local products to promote national economic activity and provides the chance to highlight the quality of Malaysian bio-based products, while offering consumers safe and cost-effective alternatives to foreign products, while increasing the BioNexus status companies' presence in the market.

- **Bioeconomy Excellence Awards** is a recognition given to qualified BioNexus Status companies and BTP project owners for their excellence contribution to the bio-based industry. The awards provided a platform to promote the latest biotech achievements as well as the commercialization of biotech research findings, products and services.
- **Bioplastics Forum**, launched on 11th September was a platform to highlight the latest Bioeconomy Transformation Programme (BTP) achievements and raise awareness about BTP and its opportunities to the private sectors involved in the bio-based industries. The event attracted 200 participants and additionally, about 70 people from Sabah delegates joined the breakout sessions. From this event, new potential projects were identified to be part of the BTP ecosystem, including fish oil extraction, biomass and biodegradables.
- United Nations **Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** urged countries in Asia and the Pacific to adopt a more holistic approach and consider the wider range of low to high-tech solutions present in the biotechnology toolbox. FAO was carried out for three-days which saw meetings of Asia Pacific governments, scientists, academia, civil society and the private sectors. They gathered to share experiences of agricultural biotechnologies and examine opportunities for their use to meet the needs of smallholders in the region. The FAO meeting is hosted and co-organised by the Government of Malaysia.
- **Bioagropreneur** Forum on 12<sup>th</sup> September benefitted from the assistance and incentives provided by Bioeconomy Corporation and Ministry of Agriculture including technical advisory, intensive training, in-kind contributions, Special Financing Packages under Agropreneur Muda and the Biotechnology Commercialisation Fund (BCF) under Bioeconomy Corporation. Agropreneur Muda and BCDP increased the involvement of youths to rural communities in the agricultural sector thereby reducing migration to the city. These programmes helped enhance social mobility, ensure consistent food supply and raw materials for the country and maximize economic opportunities to the locals.
- The **Bioeconomy Innovation Awards 2017 (BIA 2017)** on 12<sup>th</sup> September, was jointly organised by Bioeconomy Corporation, Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation and FAO. The BIA acknowledged the innovative bio-based solutions by outstanding players from universities, research institutions and private companies. Awarded since 2008, the BIA also matches participants with prospective business partners and investors. Among the winners of BIA 2017 were from University Teknologi Malaysia, University Malaya, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) and more.
- **BioCareer** was a platform for students and jobseekers as well as the general public to explore the opportunities in the industry. The



participants had the opportunity to interview for open positions, listen to free educational seminars and network with companies to discuss possible career options and requirements. From 11th to 13th September, the BioCareer attracted visitors which will help fuel Malaysia's professional talent pool of highly skilled and educated workforce in the bio-based industries.

- **BioChat** is a continuous conversation for everyone interested in Biology, Biomass, Biogas, Biochar, Biofuels, & Biotech.
- **Share Your Thoughts Contest** saw visitors at BioMalaysia 2017 winning mystery gifts when they shared their opinions at the BioChat area. Visitors posted their thoughts with their name and numbers, liked Bioeconomy Corporation's Facebook and won prizes for their contributions.
- **Build Your Own Product (BYOP)** provided a unique chance for participants to work directly with bio-based manufacturers including BioNexus Status companies. Participants leveraged on this program to build their own brands and products by receiving expert advice and consultation. BYOP also served as a one-stop center for those who wanted to venture into health supplement and the cosmetic business, while providing a platform for companies to do business and connect with potential buyers and distributors.
- **Catch The Fund!** presented the latest information on MOSTI R&D Fund and other funds by relevant agencies, emphasizing on the SMART Challenge Fund, Facilitation Fund and InnoFund. The programme also provided consultation sessions for interested companies with MOSTI's Bahagian Dana's evaluation team. The objectives of the programme are to promote funds available under MOSTI, to clarify requirements, eligibility and application process for the funds and to build pipeline of eligible applicants for MOSTI's funds.
- **Biologics Forum** on 13<sup>th</sup> of September featured a panel discussion to highlight the current state of the biologics industry in Malaysia. The discussion also focus on identifying areas of improvement, and challenges facing the industry, and how the country can strike a balance between ensuring innovation is not hampered, while still providing the most accessible medications to the public. The objective of the event is to encourage local pharmaceutical companies to venture into the biosimilars sector while maintaining the inflow of innovator biologics into the country.

## About Bioeconomy Corporation

Malaysian Bioeconomy Development Corporation Sdn Bhd (Bioeconomy Corporation) is the leading economic development agency for the bio-based industry in Malaysia. Bioeconomy Corporation is under the purview of Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and is owned by the Minister of Finance Incorporated and Federal Lands Commissioner, providing support, facilitation and advisory services for bio-based and life sciences companies in Malaysia.

Bioeconomy Corporation has been facilitating the development of BioNexus Status companies in Malaysia. BioNexus Status is an accreditation given to international and Malaysian bio-based companies that qualify them for fiscal incentives, grants and guarantees administered by Bioeconomy Corporation. For further details, visit [www.bioeconomycorporation.my](http://www.bioeconomycorporation.my).

Bioeconomy Corporation is also the implementation agency for the Bioeconomy Transformation Programme (BTP), which is a platform provided by the Malaysian government for the private sector to channel and maximise commercial opportunities in bio-based industries. The BTP is designed as a Transformation Programme based on biotechnology's potential to cut across various industries and transform Malaysia into a high income, inclusive and sustainable nation.

Through the BTP and the facilitation of BioNexus Status companies, the society and nation will benefit from bioeconomy via the breakthroughs in agricultural productivity, discoveries in healthcare and the adoption of sustainable industrial processes, thus enriching our society and nation through wealth creation besides securing our future. For further information, visit [www.bioeconomy.my](http://www.bioeconomy.my).

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## BioMalaysia 2017 Platform Tambah Baik Daya Saing Global

KUALA LUMPUR, 13 Sept (Bernama) -- BioMalaysia dan Bioekonomi Asia Pasifik 2017, pameran dan persidangan tahunan berasaskan bio utama dan terbesar di rantau ini menyediakan platform bagi Malaysia untuk menambah baik daya saing globalnya.

**Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Malaysian Bioeconomy Development Corporation Sdn Bhd Dr Mohd Shuhaizam Mohd Zain**, berkata agensi itu berhasrat mendapatkan sebanyak mungkin syarikat untuk meneroka ke pasaran global di segi perkongsian, membina hubungan perniagaan kepada perniagaan dan mengeksport produk ke negara-negara di rantau ini dan sebaliknya.

"Ini adalah cara bagi Malaysia untuk meningkatkan daya saing global di rantau Asia Pasifik dan ini adalah semangat yang kami ingin kekalkan tahun depan," katanya dalam satu kenyataan hari ini.

Setakat ini, katanya, daripada 286 syarikat berstatus BioNexus di negara ini, 37 telah meneroka ke peringkat global.

Mohd Shuhaizam berkata lapan syarikat BioNexus melancarkan lapan produk baharu semasa pameran BioMalaysia 2017 yang berlangsung dari 11-13 Sept itu.

Selain itu, katanya, tiga kerjasama utama dimuktamadkan semasa acara tersebut yang melibatkan enam syarikat dan organisasi yang mempunyai potensi untuk meningkatkan sektor bioekonomi di negara ini.

"Syarikat dan organisasi itu adalah Rural Asset Group of Companies, Oudhcom LLC, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysian Vaccine and Pharmaceuticals Sdn Bhd, Algaetech International Sdn Bhd dan Watson Malaysia," katanya.

Pameran dan persidangan itu yang berakhir hari ini disertai 67 syarikat melibatkan 120 ruang pameran.

-- BERNAMA



**KERATAN AKHBAR**  
**KOSMO (NIAGA) : MUKA SURAT 15**  
**TARIKH : 14 SEPTEMBER 2017 (KHAMIS)**

## TPM Biotech sasar pertumbuhan perniagaan 30%

**KUALA LUMPUR** – TPM Biotech Sdn. Bhd. (TPM Biotech), anak syarikat **Technology Park Malaysia Corporation Sdn. Bhd.** menyasarkan pertumbuhan perniagaan sebanyak 30 peratus dalam tempoh dua hingga lima tahun akan datang.

Ini bakal dicapai melalui program pengembangan penguasaannya ke pasaran domestik dan serantau dengan lebih agresif.

Pengurus TPM Biotech, Ema Ukhtiah Zakaria berkata, dengan mengidaptasi pendekatan tersebut, ia akan membolehkan syarikat meningkatkan kesedaran serta mempercepatkan pertumbuhan para usahawan dalam sektor bioteknologi.

"TPM Biotech akan terus mem-

bantu komuniti akar umbi dalam merebut peluang perniagaan bernilai berbilion ringgit, yang banyak ditawarkan oleh industri berasaskan herba, bermula dari peringkat bahan mentah hingga ke produk siap.

"Dengan prospek produk bioteknologi berasaskan herba yang terus kukuh di peringkat pasaran tempatan dan global, syarikat komited untuk mengukuhkan dan mempertahankan kedudukan kami di pasaran dengan mempromosikan pelbagai produk Herbs Gardens pada acara BioMalaysia 2017 ini," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian dalam satu kenyataan akhbar yang dikeluarkan di sini semalam.

TPM Biotech merupakan salah



GERAI pameran TPM Biotech pada acara BioMalaysia 2017 yang berlangsung di Kuala Lumpur baru-baru ini.

satu syarikat yang mengambil bahagian dalam pameran BioMalaysia dan Asia Pacific BioEconomy (BioMalaysia 2017) dengan mem-

pamerkan jenama produk berasaskan herba, Herbs Garden Garcinia Plus, Herbs Garden Peria dan Herbs Garden Smilax Plus.

Menurut Ema Ukhtiah, TPM Biotech yakin pameran itu akan membuka peluang kepada syarikat untuk mencapai sasaran pasaran dalam negara dan peringkat serantau yang lebih meluas.

"Ia juga akan menyediakan platform yang diperlukan untuk mempromosikan pelbagai kemudahan serta perkhidmatan bertaraf antarabangsa yang ditawarkan oleh TPM Biotech kepada perniagaan sedia ada dan berpotensi dalam bidang bioteknologi," ujarnya.

Produk Herbs Garden TPM Biotech dihasilkan di kilangnya di Raub, Pahang yang mana kemudahan tersebut dilengkapi mesin yang mampu menawarkan khidmat pembuatan kontrak kepada perusahaan kecil dan sederhana.

# LESSONS FROM THE LYNAS EPISODE

**M**ANY may remember the Lynas issue and its rare earth business that was raised at the last general election.

The issue of Lynas almost took centre stage then.

The opposition made all kinds of claims on rare earth, all in the interest of securing votes.

One claim was that the processing of rare earth would be disastrous for the public, especially those living near the Lynas plant.

They produced fake evidence linking rare earth to cancer and other side effects. Their exaggerated claims somehow caused some unease among the people there.

The public took the opposition's bait mainly because they were ignorant.

Rare earth processing is a new business in the country, although rare earth itself is not entirely new. During the era of tin mining, waste from tin processing comprised rare earth.

And, children, including some among the vocal critics of Lynas, used to run around such tin mining waste, including a few of our colleagues at the Academy of Sci-



*The Lynas rare earth processing plant in Gebeng, Kuantan. Rare earth processing is a new business in Malaysia. FILE PIC*

ences. They are all fine despite the exposure.

It was a pity such an issue was exploited at great cost. It was, to some extent, a waste of public money. At the academy, we spent time and money building factual information on rare earth.

I was sent to visit a thriving rare earth facility in La Rochelle, France. The aim was to gather evidence on the safety aspects of rare earth processing. To my surprise, the facility has been operating for decades with no harm

inflicted on the environment.

In fact, La Rochelle itself was, and still is, a thriving tourist destination, attracting visitors from the European Union and the world.

Fellows of the academy appeared on television and radio to explain to the public that rare earth waste was not like nuclear waste. The radioactive level was extremely low, oftentimes lower than the natural background levels around Kuantan.

There are lessons that we can

learn from the Lynas incident. We should never take things for granted when it comes to bringing in investment to the country.

Rare earth processing is a good example where those opposed to the government's well meaning intention to bring in foreign direct investments and jobs twisted facts to confuse the public.

They hoped to derail the project. That would have been unfortunate because the demand for rare earth in the new digital economy is expected to continue rising.

At the academy, we have even produced a report urging the government to initiate our own rare earth industry.

Our studies have shown that we do have healthy deposits of the more expensive heavy rare earth that is ready to be mined.

We have even drawn up a plan on how to move that industry as another source of revenue for the country.

Admittedly, the nation needs to diversify its revenue streams. Though the government has, over the years, done much to diversify the economy, moving away from total reliance on oil, we need to be on the constant look-

out for emerging opportunities.

With the advent of the new global economic order revolving around Industry 4.0, the rare earth business will, undoubtedly, be prominent in the coming years.

The other lesson from the Lynas incident is that we need to monitor scientific claims in the media. Many errant parties are spreading fake scientific information to dupe the public to buy their products.

The palm oil industry is aware of such tactics. There are also those peddling all kinds of medicines, spreading false science. We need to have a group of scientists working closely with the media to monitor such fake information.

The academy can host this group. With the 14th General Election looming, the government should monitor the emergence of fake claims, as was the case with Lynas.

For matters related to science, the academy has the expertise to do so.

**PROFESSOR DATUK DR AHMAD IBRAHIM**

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