

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 15 JANUARI 2018 (ISNIN)

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KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI) : MUKA SURAT 10
TARIKH : 15 JANUARI 2018 (ISNIN)

Cuaca dingin tidak turun ke paras 17 darjah Celsius

KUALA LUMPUR 13 Jan. - Suhu sejuk yang melanda negara ketika ini tidak akan turun terlalu rendah sehingga ke paras 17 darjah Celsius seperti yang tular di media sosial sejak malam tadi.

Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Meteorologi, **Alui Bahari** berkata, gambaran yang diberi dalam mesej tular tersebut seolah-olah kebanyakan bandar berada di bawah 20 darjah Celsius sedangkan suhu yang dicatatkan hari ini masih dalam keadaan selesa.

Katanya, suhu minimum sekali pun masih sekitar 21 darjah Celsius dengan yang paling rendah di Arau, Mersing dan Kuala Pilah iaitu pada 21 darjah Celsius, seperti yang boleh diperoleh menerusi aplikasi *MyCuaca*.

"Justeru saya mengingatkan orang ramai supaya tidak mudah mempercayai mesej-mesej yang tular di media sosial, sebaliknya sentiasalah memeriksa kesahihan berita tersebut dengan pihak berautoriti.

"Perkembangan cuaca di

negara ini boleh didapati di laman web rasmi Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia pada pautan www.met.gov.my dan aplikasi *MyCuaca* yang boleh dimuat turun secara percuma," katanya ketika dihubungi di sini hari ini.



ALUI BAHARI



JUSTIN SENTIAN

Sementara itu, Pensyarah Fakulti Sains dan Sumber Alam Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), **Prof. Madya Dr. Justin Sentian** berkata, langkah berhati-hati tetap perlu diambil kerana penurunan suhu secara mendadak boleh menjejaskan kesihatan orang ramai.

"Orang ramai dinasihatkan supaya menggunakan pakaian yang lebih tebal, termasuk ketika di dalam rumah kerana suhu menurun dengan agak mendadak

dan boleh melemahkan sistem tubuh, terutamanya yang memang sensitif dengan perubahan cuaca.

"Namun fenomena ini jangka tidak berlarutan, mungkin akan tamat dalam tempoh satu atau dua hari," katanya.

Fenomena cuaca sejuk kembali normal hari ini

Perlis masih dingin

Oleh MOHD. HAFIZ ABD. MUTALIB
DAN ZUHAYATI YAZID

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■ ARAU 14 JAN.

FENOMENA cuaca sejuk masih dirasakan di seluruh Perlis dengan penurunan suhu direkodkan mencecah 22 darjah Celsius pada waktu pagi dan suasana dinginnya dapat dirasakan sepanjang hari ini.

Tinjauan *Utusan Malaysia* di sekitar daerah ini dan Kangar mendapati keadaan cuaca sejuk berangin dan berkabus selain hujan renyai-renyai menyebabkan rata-rata penduduk memakai baju sejuk.

Seorang penduduk, Fauzi Mustafa, 34, yang menetap di Kampung Belat Batu di sini berkata, cuaca sejuk dirasakan hingga ke tulang pada awal pagi sejak beberapa hari lalu menyebabkan dia terpaksa memanaskan air untuk mandi.

Katanya, dia juga terpaksa memakai baju sejuk tebal ketika ke-

luar rumah terutama pada waktu pagi dan malam.

Bagaimanapun ujamnya, dia cukup teruja dengan suasana begini memandangkan Perlis sebelum ini boleh dikatakan agak panas.

"Pada sebelah malam, saya terpaksa menggunakan selimut tebal dan lebih selesa tidak membuka kipas ketika tidur. Suasana nyaman dan dingin pada ketika ini agak sukar dirasakan sebelum ini, dan saya sangat menikmatinya," katanya ketika ditemui di sini hari ini.

✓ Dalam pada itu di **KUALA LUMPUR**, **Jabatan Meteorologi** memaklumkan, fenomena cuaca sejuk yang melanda beberapa bandar termasuk di Arau, Perlis; Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan dan Kuala Krai, Kelantan dan beberapa kawasan lain dijangka kembali normal dengan bacaan asal mulai esok.

Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Meteorologi, Alui Bahari berkata, ini berikutan perubahan cuaca berlaku akibat tiupan angin timur laut kencang dari China yang se-

dang mengalami musim sejuk.

"Untuk tempoh dua hingga tiga hari ini, keadaan sejuk disebabkan litupan awan kurang di seluruh Semenanjung Malaysia yang turut membantu merendahkan suhu pada waktu malam dan awal pagi," katanya ketika dihubungi *Utusan Malaysia* di sini hari ini.

Beliau berkata, cuaca sejuk ini hanya bersifat sementara dan tiada kaitan secara langsung dengan penurunan salji di negara ini serta berharap orang ramai tidak mempercayai maklumat yang disebarkan melalui media sosial sewenang-wenangnya.

Mengulas lanjut, beliau memberitahu, suhu hari ini mencatatkan bacaan 28 darjah Celsius dan pihaknya meramalkan fenomena cuaca sejuk itu akan berakhir esok dan kembali normal.

Dalam masa sama, keadaan cuaca di dua buah negeri iaitu Pahang dan Johor bertambah baik dan tiada jangkaan hujan lebat berterusan akan berlaku dalam tempoh terdekat.



SEORANG penduduk, Zamzuri Ishak, meninjau keadaan bendangnya dengan berbaju sejuk tebal pada awal pagi di Kampung Belat Batu, Guar Sanji di Arau, kelmarin. - UTUSAN/MUHAMAD IQBAL ROSLI

KERATAN AKHBAR
BERITA HARIAN (BANJIR) : MUKA SURAT 13
TARIKH : 15 JANUARI 2018 (ISNIN)



Sultan Ibrahim melawat mangsa banjir di pusat pemindahan sementara di SK Mersing Kanan, Mersing, semalam.



ADUN Bebar, Datuk Mohammad Fakhruddin Mohd Ariff (kanan) menyampaikan bantuan keperluan harian kepada mangsa banjir di Kampung Sekor, Pekan, semalam.

Pahang, Johor diramal tiada hujan berterusan

➔ **Ramalan cuaca terkini Jabatan Meteorologi redakan banjir di dua negeri**

Oleh Syed Azwan Syed Ali, Nurul Amanina Suhani, Syaherah Mustafa dan Shahrinnahar Latib
 bhnews@bh.com.my

➔ **Kuala Lumpur**

Jabatan Meteorologi meramalkan tiada hujan lebat berterusan untuk tempoh tiga hari hingga esok, sekali gus meredakan banjir di Pahang dan Johor.

Ketua Pengarahnya, Alui Bahari, ketika dihubungi BH berkata amaran cuaca hujan lebat di Pahang dan Johor ditamatkan kelmarin.

"Kita tak jangka hujan lebat menyebabkan banjir. Ramalan cuaca terkini menunjukkan tiada hujan lebat berterusan untuk tempoh tiga hari terdekat di mana-mana lokasi di Malaysia.

"Hujan biasa dan ribut petir ada tetapi bukan hujan lebat berterusan," katanya.

Semakan di laman web Jabatan Meteorologi menunjukkan tiada amaran ribut petir dikeluarkan semalam.

Di Johor, sebuah sekolah di Kluang ditutup apabila banjir semakin buruk, dengan keseluruhan seramai 1,395 mangsa daripada 376 keluarga dipindahkan di tiga daerah.

Terputus hubungan

EXCO Alam Sekitar, Kesihatan, Penerangan dan Pendidikan negeri, Datuk Ayub Rahmat, berkata Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Punan ditutup selepas lautan ke sekolah terputus hubungan, menyebabkan tenaga pengajar sekolah itu terpaksa melaporkan diri di SK Batu 3.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, dua sekolah di Kluang iaitu SK Ladang Mutiara dan SK Seri Sedohok tetap meneruskan sesi persekolahan walaupun lautan ke sekolah itu terputus.

Sementara itu, Sultan Johor, Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, melawat Pusat pemindahan sementara di Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Mersing Kanan dan SK Air Papan di Mersing, semalam.

Dalam satu kenyataan dimuat naik di laman sosial Facebook (FB)

rasmi Sultan Johor di sini, baginda berkenan meninjau keadaan mangsa banjir yang ditempatkan di situ sejak kelmarin.

Pada kunjungan itu, Sultan Ibrahim turut menyampaikan barangan keperluan, selain beramah mesra dengan mangsa banjir di pusat pemindahan banjir di kedua-dua sekolah terbabit.

Mangsa banjir berkurangan

Di Pahang, jumlah mangsa banjir di empat daerah di negeri itu berkurangan kepada 1,658 orang daripada 425 keluarga setakat jam 10 pagi, berbanding 1,665 orang daripada 426 keluarga malam kelmarin.

Pengarah Angkatan Pertahanan Awam (APM) Pahang, Kolonel (PA) Zainal Yusoff, berkata Pekan masih daerah paling ramai mangsa iaitu 1,299 orang daripada 326 keluarga yang ditempatkan di 11 PPS.

Selain itu, tiga sungai turut melepasi paras amaran iaitu Sungai Lepar di Jambatan Gelugor, dengan bacaan 29.42m (30m paras bahaya), Sungai Pahang di Lubuk Paku, Maran 18.12m (19m meter paras bahaya) dan Kuala Sungai Chini, Pekan 14.59m (14.9m paras bahaya).

Di Kelantan, paras air Sungai Golok melebihi paras bahaya sejak malam kelmarin selepas hujan lebat selama tiga hari.



Sekolah Kebangsaan Temai, Pekan ditenggelami banjir



Mangsa banjir meniti jambatan kayu yang dibina untuk melintasi banjir yang melanda rumahnya di Kampung Benta Langgar, Pekan.

Fakta nombor

1,395 MANGSA

dipindahkan di tiga daerah Johor setakat semalam

425 KELUARGA

mangsa banjir di empat daerah Pahang setakat jam 10 pagi semalam



Angin kencang, laut bergelora hingga esok

KUALA LUMPUR: Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (MetMalaysia) memberi amaran situasi angin kencang dan laut bergelora dijangka berlaku di beberapa kawasan sehingga esok pagi.

Dalam kenyataannya berkata, amaran angin kencang Timur Laut dan laut bergelora kategori ketiga dengan kelajuan melebihi 60 kilometer sejam (km/j) dan ketinggian ombak melebihi 4.5 meter, dijangka berlaku di kawasan perairan timur laut Tioman, utara Bunguran, Condore dan barat laut Reef North sehingga esok.

Situasi itu berbahaya kepada semua aktiviti pantai dan perkapalan, termasuk pekerja di pelantar minyak.

Sementara itu, angin kencang Timur Laut dengan kelajuan 50 hingga 60 km/j dan ombak mencapai ketinggian sehingga 4.5 meter, turut dijangka berlaku di kawasan perairan tenggara Samui, tengah Reef North, Layang-layang, barat laut Palawan, perairan Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang dan Johor Timur sehingga esok.

Keadaan itu berbahaya kepada semua aktiviti perkapalan dan pantai, termasuk menangkap ikan dan perkhidmatan feri.

MetMalaysia berkata, angin kencang kategori pertama dengan kelajuan 40 hingga 50 km/j dengan ombak mencapai ketinggian sehingga 3.5 meter dijangka berlaku di kawasan perairan Samui, tenggara Bunguran, tenggara Reef North, Reef South, Labuan, Palawan dan Sulu serta perairan Sarawak, Sabah dan Wilayah Persekutuan (WP) Labuan.

Ia berbahaya kepada bot kecil, rekreasi laut dan sukan laut.

Selain itu, ribut petir di perairan Tioman, Bunguran, Reef South, Layang-layang, Labuan, Sulu dan Palawan serta perairan Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Johor Timur, Sarawak dan WP Labuan dijangka berterusan sehingga lewat pagi ini.

Keadaan itu boleh menyebabkan angin kencang sehingga 50 km/j dan laut bergelora dengan ombak mencapai ketinggian sehingga 3.5 meter. Keadaan itu berbahaya kepada bot kecil.

KERATAN AKHBAR
KOSMO (NEGARA) : MUKA SURAT 12
TARIKH : 15 JANUARI 2018 (ISNIN)

Pakar akui perubahan iklim timbulkan mood positif, persekitaran selesa

Cuaca sejuk pengaruhi hubungan

Oleh MANIRAH OTHMAN

KUALA LUMPUR – Cuaca sejuk di Malaysia sekarang dijangka menggiatkan lagi aktiviti luar bersama keluarga dan kawan-kawan serta mungkin disukai oleh pasangan bercinta kerana badan tidak berpeluh sehingga boleh mengganggu kesejahteraan.

Malah, penurunan suhu antara 21 hingga 24 darjah Celsius di beberapa kawasan di negara ini sejak beberapa hari lalu dipercayai turut mewujudkan perasaan lebih tenang dalam kalangan masyarakat.

Pakar Psikologi Universiti Malaya, Prof. Madya Dr. Mariani Mohd. Nor (**gambar**) memberitahu, cuaca sekarang mewujudkan persekitaran lebih selesa berbanding sebelum ini yang lebih panas menyebabkan orang ramai mudah berpeluh.

"Dalam keadaan cuaca sejuk kalau tidak pakai pewangi seka-

li pun, badan tidak akan berbau. Selain itu, badan juga tidak melekit sebab peluh, jadi ia menimbulkan rasa selesa untuk melakukan sebarang aktiviti.

"Jadi ramai dalam kalangan kita termasuk pasangan bercinta boleh melakukan aktiviti luar bersama secara lebih kerap.

Bukan hanya keluar bersama tetapi hendak makan di luar pun lebih selesa," katanya ketika dihubungi *Kosmo!* semalam.

Beliau bagaimanapun memberitahu, "perasaan untuk bercinta bukan hanya wujud ketika cuaca sejuk tetapi suhu seperti sekarang boleh menyebabkan sesuatu hubungan dapat diertatkan dengan memperbanyakkan aktiviti bersama.

Sementara itu, Pengarah Pusat Kaunseling Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Dr. Fauziah Mohd. Saad memberitahu, waktu sekarang adalah masa yang baik untuk mengukuhkan



KERATAN Kosmo! 13 Januari 2018.

hubungan kerana ia memberi kesan positif kepada perasaan.

"Mengikut kajian, cuaca memainkan peranan penting kepada ketenangan hati dan ramai dalam kalangan masyarakat dunia mengalami perubahan mood yang ketara berkaitan perubahan cuaca.

"Cuaca di negara ini sekarang selesa menyebabkan mood seseorang adalah stabil dan interaksi hubungan antara pelbagai pihak seperti keluarga juga dapat diperkukuhkan," katanya.

Jelasnya, lagi, jika seseorang menghabiskan masa di luar ketika cuaca baik, dia akan jadi ceria dan memberi kesan positif untuk mengeratkan hubungan.

Kosmo! kelmarin melaporkan, beberapa kawasan di negara ini terutama di selatan Seme-



CUACA sejuk di negara ketika ini merupakan masa terbaik untuk menggiatkan aktiviti luar bersama keluarga selain dapat memberi kesan positif kepada hubungan peribadi. – Gambar hiasan

nanjung mengalami penurunan suhu dengan Kuala Pilah di Negeri Sembilan merekodkan suhu paling rendah pada 21 darjah Celsius sejak tengah malam hingga awal pagi kelmarin.

Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia

memberitahu, fenomena itu berlaku akibat cuaca mendung, hujan berterusan dan tiupan angin sejuk Monsun Timur Laut menyebabkan suhu menurun terutamanya di kawasan pedalaman dan daratan.

Rainy days are just not cool

Cold, wet spell could slow output of veggies and flowers

By NELSON BENJAMIN
and YIMIE YONG
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PETALING JAYA: It is not the cold that is bothering farmers much in Cameron Highlands, although temperatures have dropped to 13°C, but the incessant rain and lack of sunshine for their vegetables.

With 2,000 farms in Cameron Highlands, making it the country's largest production centre for vegetables, farmers are worried the wet, gloomy weather will affect their production by 10% to 15%.

In Johor, farmers are reporting a 30% drop in yield, which has resulted in the prices of some vegetables going up by 50% to 100%.

Things are not looking up for them, with the Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia) forecasting rain in Johor's vegetable production areas such as Tangkak, Johor Baru, Simpang Renggam and Pulai for most of the week, except for two sunny days today and tomorrow.

Temperature in those areas is forecast to range from 22°C to 30°C.

Daily afternoon showers are expected for the week ahead in Cameron Highlands (see graphic).

Cameron Highlands Vegetable Growers Association secretary Chay Ee Mong said recent cold weather might slow the growth of vegetables and flowers, but prolonged rainy and cloudy weather is a greater concern as it can affect vegetable production by 10% to 15%.

"Too much rain and less sunlight will affect production," he said.

However, Chay said it is too soon for consumers to worry about prices during Chinese New Year, as the festive season is still a month away.

He said this is not the first time Cameron Highlands has experi-



7-day weather outlook for Cameron Highlands

	SUNDAY 15° 18°	MONDAY 16° 19°	TUESDAY 16° 22°	WEDNESDAY 16° 22°	THURSDAY 16° 23°	FRIDAY 16° 23°	SATURDAY 16° 21°
Morning	No rain	No rain	No rain	No rain	No rain	No rain	No rain
Afternoon	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain
Night	No rain	No rain	No rain	No rain	No rain	Rain	Rain

enced lower temperatures than usual (according to Wikipedia, the mean annual temperature is 18°C).

"People are more concerned about the cold weather now because it is the first time that the temperature in certain low-lying places has also dipped to a low of 22°C," he added.

"The impact will not be significant for now but still, we have to see how things go, moving forward."

Temperatures across the country have dipped below the norm in recent days.

On Saturday, the temperature in Cameron Highlands fell to 13°C, raising concerns that the colder-than-usual weather could affect vegetable and flower production.

"Farming activities are still going on as usual here. Workers will just need to wear more clothes to keep warm," Chay said.

Cameron Highlands Floriculturists Association president Lee Peng Fo said prolonged cold weather with temperatures lower than 15°C could also slow the growth of flowers and affect their blooming time.

"If the cold weather continues for more than 10 days, the impact will be significant. Production could be 10% to 20% lower," he added.

"But for now, we have to wait and see how long the colder weather lasts. It has been colder than usual for about a week."

In Johor Baru, Federation of Malaysian Vegetable Farmers Association president Tan So Tiok said the cold weather was not good for leafy vegetables.

"Vegetables need a warmer climate with lots of water. My area, Ledang, is experiencing temperatures of 22°C, which is not suitable,"

he said, adding that Johor is one of the country's top vegetable producers after Cameron Highlands.

Among the vegetables that have gone up in price is brinjal, at RM7 per kilo compared with RM3 previously.

Leafy vegetables that cost more now include bayam, kangkung, kailan and sawi.

Asked if there is a shortage of vegetables in the market, he said there is no major shortage so far, nor has there been any disruption in exports to Singapore.

"We hope the weather will improve. It has been raining for almost a week with no sunshine. In Ledang, the daily vegetable output is down from 70 tonnes to 50 tonnes," he said.

To added he is optimistic that the situation will return to normal before Chinese New Year.

TOUGH TIME FOR THE HOMELESS

They don't have proper clothing
for the colder-than-usual weather

TEOH PEI YING
AND FERNANDO FONG
KUALA LUMPUR
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THE homeless had a tough time during the cold weather phenomenon over the last week, having no choice but to face the wet spell and low temperatures out in the open.

Mohd Anwar Shah Abdullah, 48, said without blankets or thick clothes, he found it hard to bear the colder-than-usual weather.

"I've had a fever for the past few days following the continuous rain. I have been sleeping in wet and cold weather. I have nowhere to go," he said when met in Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman.

Anwar, who has been homeless for 35 years, owns only a short-sleeved shirt and a pair of pants, and said that he had no money to see a doctor.

"Luckily, the rain stopped to-

day. I am feeling better."

Pak Cik Razak, 75, who is also homeless, said this was the coldest weather he had experienced since he started living on the streets four years ago.

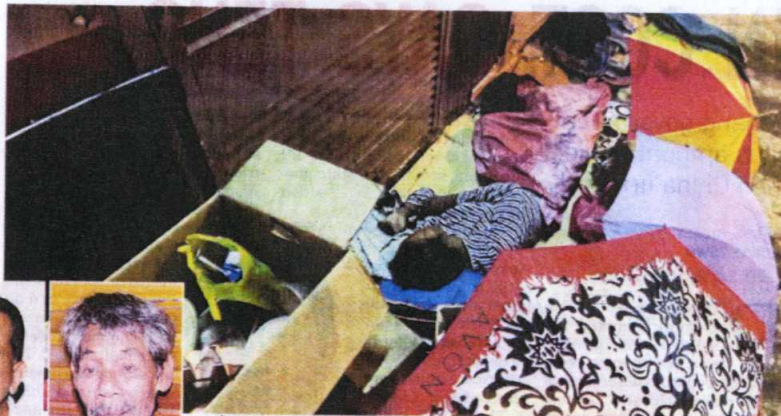
He said he wore the only jacket he owned to stave off the chill at night.

"It is cold in the morning and even colder at night. I hope the cold weather will pass soon. It is tough for me."

The Malaysian Meteorological Department said the western part of the peninsula was experiencing colder-than-usual

weather due to the northeast monsoon, which was expected to dissipate today.

Non-profit organisation Kechara Soup Kitchen (KSK) had launched a clothing drive to help



A homeless man sleeping in Jalan Raja Laut, Kuala Lumpur, on Saturday. (Inset, from left) Mohd Anwar Shah Abdullah and Pak Cik Razak. PIX BY SAIFULLIZAN TAMADI

the homeless. The National Welfare Foundation has allowed KSK to distribute clothes from Anjung Singgah.

Anjung Singgah is a free temporary shelter for the homeless in Jalan Hang Lekiu here.

KSK director Justin Cheah said jackets and shirts were needed to keep the homeless warm.

"With nowhere to go and without proper clothing, they find it difficult to warm themselves. That's why KSK is spearheading

a clothing drive to help them."

Cheah said socks and undergarments were also needed.

He said the best clothing for the homeless would be long-sleeved shirts for them to wear at night.

'Cold snap in Kedah not uncommon'

ALOR STAR: The cold weather in Kedah that saw temperatures dip to as low as 21°C is expected to end in a few days.

State Meteorological Department director Rosli Zakaria said low temperatures were common in the state due to the northeast monsoon from China.

He said, based on data, the minimum temperatures of 21°C and 22°C were common in January and February every year.

"There is nothing strange about the cold weather that has hit the state.

"The weather condition is expected to improve before the end of the week."

Rosli denied that the temperature in Kedah dropped below 20°C, as claimed on social media.

He said Kedah folk should count their blessings since the cold surge did not bring heavy rains or strong winds, which could have resulted in floods.

Checks by the *New Straits Times* yesterday morning showed many school students donning extra layers of clothing.



(From left) Nasrul Hairie Mohd Noor, Ariff Izzudin Shuhaimi, Muhd Zaid Hafizi Mohd Fisal and Dzukram Mohd Zamberi wearing sweaters to school due to the cold weather in Alor Star yesterday. PIC BY SHARUL HAFIZ ZAM

However, they said the weather condition was still bearable because the temperature would usually increase in the afternoon.

"Yes, it is a bit cold in the morning, but the weather usually improves in the afternoon," said Nasrul Hairie Mohd Noor, 16, a

student at SMK Kepala Batas.

His friend, Muhd Zaid Hafizi Mohd Fisal, 15, said he took a longer time to prepare for school in the morning due to the cold weather.

"It was freezing but I still need to shower and get ready for school," he said.

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEW STRAITS TIMES : MUKA SURAT 16
TARIKH : 15 JANUARI 2018 (ISNIN)



TAN SRI
DR ZAKRI
ABDUL
HAMID

MALAYSIAN CODE OF RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT IN RESEARCH

A WAY TO ENSURE HONESTY AND INTEGRITY IN RESEARCH

Code will convince peers, research enterprises and funders that research ethics are well entrenched in Malaysia

IN science work, a major badge of excellence is the acceptance of original research for publication in peer-reviewed academic journals such as *Science* or *Nature*.

Publication of a new scientific breakthrough or insight brings recognition, career advancement, and, in the most exceptional cases, starts a high achiever on a road to the ultimate award — the Nobel Prize.

Given its importance, the pursuit of publication is bound to lead sometimes to over-zealousness and elements of unethical conduct, which in recent years have involved many high-profile cases and personalities.

"Scientific fraud" describes the intentional misrepresentation of research methods, procedures, or results. Its formal definition includes "fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing scientific research, or in reporting research results".

Infamous instances in recent times include these:

IN KOREA, Hwang Woo-suk fabricated a series of stem cell research experiments. Previously considered a pioneering expert in the field, he was famous for two science articles in which he reported having cloned human embryonic stem cells. After the 2006 revelation that much of his work was faked, Hwang was charged with embezzlement and bioethics law violations, resulting in a suspended two-year prison sentence, was barred from doing stem cell research by the South Korean government, and was fired from Seoul National University.

IN AMERICA, Dr Anil Potti re-



The Malaysian Code of Responsible Conduct in Research will boost and safeguard our science and research endeavours. FILE PIC

signed from Duke University in 2010 after his credentials were debunked, including his claim of having been a Rhodes Scholar. The revelation led to the suspension of huge research grants, the retraction of nine of Potti's papers on personalised cancer treatments and suits against the university by research patients.

We have our share of unethical conduct in research in this part of the world too:

TWO YEARS AGO, three scientists affiliated with Singapore's Nanyang Technical University (NTU) and National University of Singapore claimed that suppression of myostatin — a protein that regulates muscle growth — put people in "fat-burning mode" and let them shed kilos. NTU investigations revealed that laboratory experiment data had been falsified, leading to the retraction of all related papers published in academic journals, and to reprimands.

ALSO IN 2016, an uproar at Universiti Malaya ensued when a faculty of medicine research group was found to have falsified and manipulated data published in four peer-reviewed journals. Those articles have likewise been retracted.

It is in this context that the Malaysian Code of Responsible Conduct in Research (MCRCR) was born. It will be key to boosting and safeguarding our science

and research endeavours.

Adherence and compliance with the code will ensure that research in Malaysia is pursued earnestly and honestly, with integrity and accountability. Our researchers and research entities — universities, research institutes, laboratories and research programmes — accept and embrace the code of conduct so crucial in ensuring that vigorous research efforts are conducted with propriety.

The code will help convince peers, research enterprises and funders that research ethics are well entrenched in Malaysia. It will strengthen the research culture and enterprise, and maintain public confidence in and support for this work vital to health, the environment and our economic wellbeing.

The code will enhance science governance in Malaysia and promote efficient implementation of policies and strategies through transparency and accountability in research and development. It will help avoid and manage unacceptable behaviour in research, minimise misuse of funds and simultaneously raise our standard and quality of research.

MCRCR was developed with representatives from public and private universities, research institutes, agencies and ministries to ensure a well-rounded code of ethics.

The steering committee referred to best practices from a host of distinguished international institutions, such as the Australian Research Council, US National Science Foundation, European Science Foundation, UK Research Council and Global Research Council.

The code not only enshrines the principles and practice of responsible research, it will help guide the management of breaches. It also reflects and integrates the values, culture and laws of Malaysia.

Endorsed last year by our National Science Council (NSC), it will be used by stakeholders as the main reference for ethics in research going forward.

In the words of the chairman of the steering committee, senior Professor Datuk Khalid Yusoff: "MCRCR is a statement that Malaysian researchers and research entities are committed to integrity and accountability in their pursuit of science."

In welcoming its publication, NSC chairman Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the document would be key to Malaysian science blossoming and bearing fruit earlier rather than later.

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