

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
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Bil	Tajuk	Akhbar
1.	Delivering the bioeconomy promise	New Straits Times
2.	Sains untuk keamanan	Utusan Malaysia
3.	Sucie bantu buat ibadah	Utusan Malaysia
4.	What is Dacsee's business model	New Straits Times



TAN SRI
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SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION

DELIVERING THE BIOECONOMY PROMISE

The growing bio-based sector has positioned Malaysia well as an investment destination

BIOECONOMY refers to the production of renewable biological resources for food, feed, chemicals, energy and healthcare wellness products via innovative and efficient technologies. And, in 2005, Malaysia began a drive to make bio-based industry a key economic driver, launching the National Biotechnology Policy (NBP) under the stewardship of then visionary minister of science, technology and innovation, the late Tan Sri Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis.

The ambitious target set for the sector: contribute five per cent to the nation's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2020. The NBP, a well-crafted, 15-year masterplan, provides a comprehensive roadmap to that destination, one that helps foster a conducive ecosystem for accelerated industry growth.

Since 2005, strategies have been implemented in three five-year phases:

PHASE I — Capacity Building (2005 – 2010);

PHASE II — Science to Business (2011 – 2015); and,

PHASE III — Global Business (2016 – 2020).

We are midway through Phase III, positioning Malaysia's bio-based industry on the world stage, consolidating our strengths and capabilities in developing home-grown bio-based innovations, boosting commercialisation and penetrating international markets. Malaysia aims to produce at least 20 global companies to spearhead the value creation process for the bio-based industry beyond 2020. Two of them are on the way there:

PURE CIRCLE SDN BHD — manufacturer of stevia sweeteners for the food and beverage industry, and listed on the London Stock Exchange; and,

BIO ALPHA HOLDING BHD — food and supplement products listed on the Bursa Malaysia.

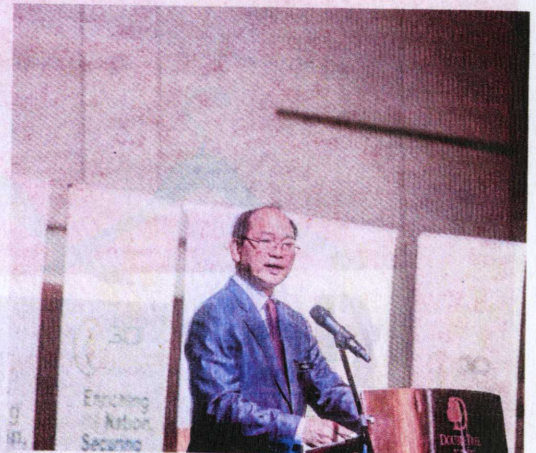
On Bioeconomy Day (Jan 11), Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti) Minister Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau revealed some encouraging figures.

As of December last year, the Malaysian Bioeconomy Development Corporation (BioEcorp) has 77 trigger projects under the Bioeconomy Transformation Programme (BTP).

Together, the projects are expected to provide more than 26,700 job opportunities, with cumulative approved investments of more than RM17 billion in 2020. BioEcorp has also implemented 37 Bioeconomy Community Development Programme (BCDP) projects, involving more than 2,800 participants. These projects will impact more than 13,000 residents around the project areas.

The minister pointed out that bio-based companies continued to be the main pillar in catalysing holistic changes encompassing economic, governance, and social development.

From 2016 to last year, there has been an increase of RM150 millions of total approved investments captured by 283 BioNexus companies (from RM6.66 billion to RM6.81 billion). The companies created 10,665 jobs, an increase of 4.2 per cent compared with 2016 (10,238). Furthermore, the BioNexus companies recorded an average annual growth rate of 18 per cent in terms of revenue gen-



Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau speaking at the launch of the Bioeconomy Corp Progress Report 2016/2017 in Kuala Lumpur on Bioeconomy Day recently. PIC BY HAFIZ SOHAIMI

eration from 2008 to December last year.

Madius said the growing bio-based sector had positioned Malaysia well as an investment destination.

"Biotechnology has been transforming the industry from commodities to value-added products. Malaysia has also been a favoured investment destination due to biotechnology developments, such as the Palm Oil Industrial Cluster in Lahad Datu, Sabah, as well as Bio-XCell Malaysia in Nusajaya, Johor."

The BioNexus and BTP-status companies will have to establish themselves as pioneers of leading edge bio-based businesses. Malaysia is well-primed to excel by focusing on high-impact, high-growth and high-technology areas capable of driving the continuous development of home-grown technologies.

In the long run, the sector is expected to generate new economic opportunities and create a broad spectrum of novel bio-based sectors in the country. Bioeconomy, being at the heart of many technological advances, has the potential to address some of the most pressing challenges, such as feeding a growing population and offering alternatives to dwindling natural resources. It is a game changer for Malaysia's economic growth.

Tapping into and sustainably using the country's vast biodiversity has the potential to increase the country's economic competitiveness, creating jobs, enhancing health, food security while addressing environmental con-

cerns. With three years to go until 2020, the challenge lies in increasing the number of bio-based industry players and to have a stronger global presence for locally-produced products.

A few notable programmes designed to achieve that are already in place. For instance, the BCDP will focus on enhancing the socioeconomic wellbeing of the rakyat by providing opportunities for higher income rural employment.

BTP participants and BioNexus-status companies, meanwhile, will focus more on the downstream industries and using bio-based technologies to manufacture value-added products. Bio-based companies will be supported with mentoring and commercialisation programmes, such as BioNext and BioShopee that help our bio-based products penetrate the international market. And, BioEcorp will continue to be the lead bioeconomy development agency.

In arguing for the realisation of Transformasi Nasional 2050, which he launched last year, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had this to say: "Bioeconomy — through innovation and technological advancement — has the potential to make a significant contribution towards our country becoming a knowledge-based, high income nation."

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Malaysia is well-primed to excel by focusing on high-impact, high-growth and high-technology areas capable of driving the continuous development of home-grown technologies.

KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (MEGA SAINS) : MUKA SURAT 19
TARIKH : 22 JANUARI 2018 (ISNIN)

Sains untuk keamanan

PENGALAMAN terapan buat kali pertama di Laut Mati, Jordan begitu mengujakan sekali. Air di Laut Mati mengandungi kepekatan garam yang begitu tinggi (34 peratus), lantas menyebabkan kepadatan air Laut Mati lebih tinggi berbanding daripada air di tasik lain. Oleh kerana badan kita kurang padat berbanding air, maka lebih mudah untuk kita terapung di atas Laut Mati.

Namun, kegembiraan tidak bertahan lama oleh kerana suasana aman dihari pagi dicemari beberapa bedilan meriam yang boleh didengari dari Israel yang terletak di seberang Laut Mati sahaja.

Dimaklumkan oleh kakitangan hotel bahawa Israel kadangkala melakukan ujian senjata. Tentera Jordan juga didapati kerap melakukan rondaan bot di sekitar

Laut Mati. Selain itu, Jordan sekarang mengalami krisis air yang meruncing, tidak mempunyai sumber semula jadi seperti minyak berbanding negara-negara di benua Arab yang lain dan memasukkan pendatang Syria menambahkan krisis yang sedia ada.

Menurut **Putera El Hassan bin Talal**, selaku Pengerusi, Majlis Tertinggi Bagi Sains dan Teknologi Jordan dan pengasas *Royal Scientific Society of Jordan*, negara itu memerlukan sains untuk menyelesaikan krisis-krisis tersebut.

Ini merupakan sebab utama kenapa Jordan dipilih sebagai tuan rumah untuk *World Science Forum (WSF) 2017*. Buat pertama kalinya, WSF membuat penampilan di Asia.

Pengunjung melibatkan Pertubuhan Pendidikan,

DR. MICHIO KAKU sewaktu pelancaran forum bersama **Pepper**, satu robot humanoid pertama Jordan untuk membantu mempertingkatkan penyelidikan robotik di negara itu.

Saintifik dan Kebudayaan Bangsa Bangsa Bersatu (UNESCO), *The Hungarian Academy of Sciences* bersama beberapa organisasi antarabangsa lain berkaitan sains, seperti *Royal Scientific Society of Jordan*, selaku tuan rumah dan *International Council for Science (ICSU)*, manakala *Akademi Sains Malaysia (ASM)* merupakan organisasi bersekutu bawah ICSU.

Kira-kira 3,900 delegasi hadir ke forum tersebut, dan majoriti mereka terdiri daripada pemenang Anugerah Nobel, pembuat dasar berkaitan sains dan teknologi, tokoh industri dan juga komuniti penyelidik, termasuklah saya yang mewakili Malaysia melalui *Young Scientists Network (YSN)-Akademi Sains (ASM)*.

Hari pertama forum menyaksikan ucapan tama oleh tokoh yang tidak asing dalam dunia sains, Prof. Dr. Michio Kaku, seorang ahli fizik teori yang terkenal dalam mempopularkan sains dan teknologi menerusi penulisan dan penampilan dalam media massa.

Salah satu buku beliau yang saya minati ialah *Physics of The Future*. Michio Kaku mengetengahkan idea beliau bagaimana kemajuan dalam sains dan teknologi mampu mencapai keamanan.

Sebagai contoh, lebih mudah untuk memulakan peperangan dengan mereka yang kita tidak kenali, namun dengan perkembangan Internet Kebendaan (*Internet of Things*), maklumat di hujung



SALAH satu sesi pada *World Science Forum* di Jordan membincangkan strategi mempertingkatkan keupayaan saintis muda dalam mencapai keamanan dunia.

jari membantu kita untuk memahami sesuatu budaya asing dan bertoleransi sesama sendiri.

Malaysia turut dijemput untuk berkongsi pengalaman dalam forum berkaitan kesepaduan menerusi pendidikan sains.

Menurut Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI), Datuk Madius Tangau, hasil kajian *Malaysia Outlook* yang dijalankan oleh ASM mendapati punca kemerosotan minat sains teknologi, kejuruteraan, matematik (STEM) dalam kalangan pelajar sekolah berpunca daripada penyampaian pengajaran yang begitu tradisional.

Beliau turut berkongsi usaha dilakukan untuk memperbaiki kaedah pengajaran STEM melalui pendekatan *Inquiry-Based Science Education (IBSE)* yang sedang dilaksanakan di negara ini.

Forum juga membincangkan isu berkaitan hijrah bijak pandai (*brain drain*). Salah seorang wakil Malaysia, Prof. Dr. Cheong Sok Ching dari *Cancer Research Malaysia* berkata, dana penyelidikan yang semakin terhad, tempoh projek penyelidikan yang singkat dan tugas pentadbiran merupakan

cabaran utama kepada penyelidik.

Ia bukan sahaja menyumbang kepada hijrah bijak pandai, malah boleh menyebabkan topik penyelidikan pupus, lantas mengurangkan bilangan pakar bidang di sesebuah negara ini untuk tempoh panjang.

Penghargaan perlu diberikan kepada penaja, *Inter Academy Partnership (IAP)*, sebuah pertubuhan sains antarabangsa kerana memberi peluang kepada saya untuk menghadiri forum ini.

Banyak perkongsian ilmu dan amalan terbaik dipelajari sewaktu menghadiri forum ini.

Pengalaman berguna ini bakal dimanfaatkan dalam mempromosi sains di negara ini menerusi kerja sukarelawan di YSN-ASM, *Majalah Sains* dan juga Institut Jurutera Elektrik dan Elektronik (IEEE) ComSoc Malaysia.

Sebagai penyelidik, masih banyak usaha perlu dilakukan supaya hasil penyelidikan komuniti saintis mampu menyentuh hati rakyat Malaysia.

■ PROF. MADYA, IR. DR. ROSDIAH NORDIN ialah Ahli *Young Scientists Network (YSN)-Akademi Sains Malaysia (ASM)*.



PENULIS (dua dari kiri) bersama Dr. Cheong Sok Ching (dua dari kanan) dan dua delegasi dari Thailand.

INFO

● *Young Scientist Network - ASM* merupakan badan bawah naungan *Akademi Sains Malaysia (ASM)*, sejak Disember 2012

● Merupakan pertubuhan bukan bertujuan mencari keuntungan dan terlibat dalam Siri Persidangan *Young Scholar Network 2017*.

● YSN-ASM tidak terlibat dan tidak mengesyorkan sebarang aktiviti dengan *Young Scholar Network*

● Mula diasaskan selepas Mesyuarat Pertama Program Alumni Lindau di UPM pada 2011.

● Diasaskan oleh empat ahli yang menubuhkan YSN bawah ASM.

KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (MEGA SAINS) : MUKA SURAT 18
TARIKH : 22 JANUARI 2018 (ISNIN)

18 Mega sains f mega sains dan teknologi



Sucie bantu buat ibadah



DALAM ibadah, kesempurnaan pastinya menjadi keutamaan. Namun dalam mencari kesempurnaan itu, banyak perkara perlu diambil kira, dan tidak menimbulkan kesangsian atau ragu-ragu.

Sebagai contoh, sebelum mengerjakan solat, diwajibkan mengambil wuduk terlebih dahulu sebagai satu daripada syarat sahnya.

Namun bagi golongan wanita mereka berdepan sedikit masalah kerana terpaksa menanggalkan alat solek sebelum berbuat demikian.

Dalam masa sama, mereka juga perlu memastikan alat solek berkenaan mestilah diperbuat daripada bahan-bahan yang tidak meragukan dari aspek halal atau dengan kata lain, tidak ada ramuan yang diperbuat daripada bahan haram.

Bagi mencari mengatasi masalah itu, sebuah syarikat tempatan Flik Synergy Sdn. Bhd.,

yang beroperasi Technology Park Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. (TPM) Bukit Jalil menawarkan penyelesaian dengan memperkenalkan produk penjagaan diri yang dihasilkan daripada bahan yang tidak meragukan dari sudut halal.

Produk berkenaan dihasilkan selepas pengasasnya, **Lynn Alias** yang beberapa kali mengerjakan umrah, mendapati ada keperluan untuk membantu masyarakat Islam yang mengerjakan ibadah terutama untuk mengambil wuduk.

Apatah lagi beliau mendapati mereka yang mempunyai kulit sensitif dan tidak tahan kepada cuaca kering menyebabkan masalah kerengsaan dan merekah.

Justeru, melihat kepada keadaan itu, Lynn terfikir mengeluarkan produk yang kini diberi nama jenama Sucie. Jenama itu merupakan beberapa jenis produk antaranya termasuk perapi rambut (*conditioner*), pencuci muka, sabun mandian berkonsepkan sahif wuduk iaitu



kerana menggunakan ramuan yang dibenarkan serta telap kepada air.

"Meskipun saya terlibat dengan aktiviti khidmat nasihat dan pembimbing dalam penubuhan syarikat selain perniagaan dalam talian, idea tercetus selepas beberapa kali mengerjakan umrah bagi membantu umat Islam menggunakan produk seperti ini," ujarnya ketika ditemui *Mega Sains* di TPM Bukit Jalil, Kuala

Lumpur baru-baru ini.

Produk jenama Sucie itu boleh terus digunakan tanpa perlu ditanggalkan kerana ia telap air dan diperbuat daripada bahan-bahan yang mendapat kelulusan dari Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (Jakim) dan telah mendapat sijil halal dari jabatan tersebut baru-baru ini.

Ramuan utamanya adalah aloe vera, vitamin E dan minyak *arghan* tanpa mencampurkannya dengan sebarang bahan pengawet.

Beliau berkata, kilang pengeluaran produk berkenaan juga mendapat pensijilan Jakim.

Untuk tujuan yang sama, beliau juga mendapatkan sijil kelulusan dari Kementerian Kesihatan bagi membolehkan pengguna tidak ragu-ragu menggunakan produk berkenaan.

Saya juga melakukan ujian kestabilan bagi memastikan sama produk ini bertukar warna (dalam tempoh masa tertentu) atau sebaliknya.

"Saya tidak memasukkan ramuan daripada sumber haiwan, merkuri (raksa) bagi memastikan ia betul-betul *halalan toyyiban*," ujarnya.

Berkongsi lebih lanjut Lynn berkata, Sucie diwujudkan ekoran kekurangan produk seumpamanya di pasaran, yang dapat memenuhi keperluan

CIRI CIRI DAN KELEBIHAN SUCIE

Penggunaan bahan bahan semula jadi yang didaftarkan sebagai 100 peratus halal, tiada allergik, tiada bau, tiada alkohol dan tiada ekstrak haiwan.

Boleh dibeli menerusi Facebook dan Instagram
www.sucie.com
 atau e-mel: admin@halalsucie.com

Seratus peratus ekstrak alami yang tidak mengandungi bahan kimia dan pengawet yang dilarang oleh Kementerian Kesihatan dan tidak mempunyai kesan sampingan yang berbahaya kesihatan.

JENIS-JENIS PRODUK

- Pelembab pelindung cahaya matahari
- Salap/balsam bibir
- Balsam tumit
- Mandian badan
- Perapi rambut (*conditioner*)
- Pencuci muka

LYNN Alias menunjukkan produk jenama **Sucie TPM Bukit Jalil** ibu negara baru-baru ini. UTUSAN/ GAIE UCHEL



masyarakat Islam dari segi syariat sepenuhnya.

Justeru beliau mahukan produk ini dapat menampung permintaan terhadap produk halal yang tidak meragukan dan membantu menyelesaikan masalah tersebut.

Beliau akan bekerjasama dengan **TPM Biotech** menerusi syarikatnya agar produk Sucie dapat dipasarkan untuk kegunaan pasaran domestik dan antarabangsa.

Syarikat berkenaan berpengalaman luas dalam bidang perniagaan sejak 2010 lagi. - **LAUPA JUNUS**

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEW STRAITS TIMES (LETTERS) : MUKA SURAT 18
TARIKH : 22 JANUARI 2018 (ISNIN)

* RIDE-SHARING PLATFORM

What is Dacsee's business model?

A NEW ride-sharing platform, known as Decentralised Alternative Cabs Serving and Empowering Everyone (Dacsee), will officially launch its mobile application in Malaysia in April.

Dacsee was launched in Thailand on Dec 22 and will be expanded to China soon.

Its chief executive officer, Alexander Von Kaldenberg, is optimistic about Dacsee's potential in Malaysia, where it has been aggressively promoting the service since its launch on Tuesday.

Dacsee chief operating officer Lim Chiew Shan claims that the service's network has grown to about 4,800 people, most of whom are potential drivers for Dacsee.

Unlike other e-hailing apps, which charge drivers commissions of up to 30 per cent, Dacsee takes a minimal one to two per cent cut from drivers' e-wallet accounts.

Dacsee is also different from other e-hailing apps in that it encourages drivers to recruit other drivers as their downline, similar to the multi-level marketing system, to earn higher commissions.

It is understandable that a new player would want to be innovative to gain market share, but the service should not be too complicated for drivers and passengers.

Upon reading the report on this new ride-sharing platform, I assumed that it would be similar to Tripda, a ride-sharing app from Brazil launched in Malaysia in September 2014, and allowed those travelling outstation to share rides and costs.

But, globally, carpooling did not take off as ride-hailing for private rides. Tripda shut down in March 2016 as it failed to meet high operating costs.

Uber, too, started as a ride-sharing app called UberCab, in 2009 and allowed passengers to share rides and costs in the same Black Car Limousine, until UberX was introduced in 2012 for passengers to hail rides in private cars.

But Uber continued to call its service ride-sharing instead of ride-hailing, and those who could not distinguish between the two continued to use the wrong term.



Deputy Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Dr Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah (second from right) launching Dacsee on Tuesday. With him are Alexander Von Kaldenberg and Lim Chiew Shan. PIC BY ROHANIS SHUKRI

In Malaysia, the Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD) used the term e-hailing.

Grab has now ventured into many businesses, but its core service is e-hailing, allowing passengers to hail a private car or taxi or share rides with other passengers through GrabShare.

If Dacsee is a taxi app, it should not be called a ride-sharing platform and this should be made clear by promoters and the media. There are 20 taxi apps in the market.

Charging minimal or zero commission would appeal to taxi drivers, but not for passengers as long as charges by Uber or Grab are lower.

No new start-ups would be able

to replicate what Uber has trailblazed over the past few years, as authorities were caught flatfooted at the time.

Globally, Uber passengers paid only 42 per cent of the fare on average, and losses for the company amounted to almost US\$3 billion (RM11.8 billion) in 2016 and more than US\$3.3 billion for the first nine months of last year. By then, accumulated losses had surpassed US\$10 billion.

Its investors had been hoping for a hugely successful initial public offering (IPO), as the company's valuation skyrocketed 1,133 times from US\$60 million in 2011 to US\$68 billion by December 2015.

The IPO is a long way off, as the

perceived value of the company tumbled after the European Court of Justice ruled on Dec 20 that Uber was a transport company and must therefore comply with the region's transport rules.

If Dacsee wishes to offer private cars just like Uber and Grab, it will need to obtain an Intermediation Business Licence from SPAD in Peninsular Malaysia and the Commercial Vehicle Licensing Board in Sabah and Sarawak.

In any case, it has to be clear about its business model to get support from Malaysians.

Y.S. CHAN
Kuala Lumpur