

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 29 JANUARI 2018 (ISNIN)

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TAN SRI
DR ZAKRI
ABDUL
HAMID

VISION BUILDING

POLICYMAKERS NEED FORESIGHT

This skill set is needed to deal with complex, multi-dimensional issues

In an increasingly volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous world, changes are happening at an unprecedented speed.

Therefore, public and private organisations are employing approaches to understand and plan for the future.

This ability to explore the future with imagination and wisdom can be achieved through a structured approach called foresight. Imagine driving a car; the faster you drive, the further ahead you need to see. That ability to look further ahead is foresight.

As a discipline, foresight could be defined as the systematic, participatory, future intelligence gathering part of a medium- to long-term vision-building process.

The effort is conducted to inform present-day decisions and mobilise joint action. Foresight encourages decision-makers – whether in public or private organisations – to think and plan for the long term so that negative futures are avoided (or at least anticipated), as positive alternative futures are identified and promoted.

What futures do we want, do we need, and which do we want to avoid (the “disowned future”)?

With this understanding, we can identify opportunities, risks and threats, thus allowing us to innovate, to capitalise on opportunities, to minimise risks and nullify threats.

The future is not linear, a simple continuation of the past. If we could go back 20, 10 or even just five years, how many of the things we have, of the developments happening now, could most of us imagine?

Such insights require the best understanding of the drivers of change and megatrends. This skill set is needed by policymakers who now have to deal with



Foresight activities in Malaysia have gained further traction, fuelled by Transformasi Nasional 2050 and the global phenomenon of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. FILE PIC

complex, multi-dimensional issues, many of them interconnected and interdependent.

Despite critical uncertainties, foresight has a vital role in policymaking, where governments are trying to keep up with the growing complexity of their operating environments and the rapidly changing demands of their citizens.

Developed countries such as the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Korea, and Japan have emphasised the importance of foresight in strengthening their ability to be agile against the changes and disruptions caused by social, technology, economy, environment and political forces.

Since the 1990s, Malaysia's use of systematic foresight techniques has been largely in the realm of technology and industrial development, conducted by the likes of Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry and the Malaysian Industry Government Group for High Technology.

However, to expand the use of foresight approaches, the Malaysian Foresight Institute (myForesight) was created in 2012 to build the national capacity to use these tools and mainstream their use for better decision-making.

Since its creation, myForesight

has been involved with various national initiatives and public institutions.

As part of the Public Service Transformation Programme, a joint initiative of the Public Service Department and the United Nations Development Programme, aptly titled “Future of Public Service 2020 and beyond” was conducted to increase the awareness and knowledge about the foresight methodology and its benefits.

A training module was developed at the National Institute of Public Administration to equip the public sector with foresight and futures thinking capacity.

Working with the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit, a set of guidelines was developed for the public officials on the use of scenario planning.

Today, foresight activities in Malaysia have gained further traction, fuelled by Transformasi Nasional 2050 (TN50) and the global phenomenon of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has also acknowledged the importance of foresight in realising TN50 – providing plausible scenarios after taking into consideration the interplay between major social, technological, economic, environmental and

political trends.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) is bound to create massive uncertainties and bring many disruptions. Government, business enterprises and educational institutions now looking at how best to respond will be well served by sophisticated foresight methodologies.

Malaysia is one country which has taken serious note of the 4IR and how it would affect our national wellbeing in the future.

Numerous ministries are in various stages of deliberating the kind of actions to be taken to mitigate its impacts. Our efforts have not gone unnoticed.

In a publication released by the World Economic Forum in Davos last week entitled, “Readiness for the Future of Production Report 2018”, Malaysia is listed among 25 “Leading Countries” well-positioned to benefit from Industry 4.0.

All the leading countries are high-income countries except for China and Malaysia.

This assessment corroborates the findings in the 2016 Global Manufacturing Competitiveness Index, a report published by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and the US Council on Competitiveness.

The latter report predicts that by 2020, Malaysia is expected to pierce the top 15 nations in the index, based on its ability to provide competitive labour, agile manufacturing capabilities, favourable demographic profiles, market and economic growth.

To move the country forward, however, foresight alone is not enough.

To meet the transformative challenges, to grasp opportunity, to realise our preferred future, we must also take many necessary actions to build our national capacity, especially our human capital.

To quote Joel A. Barker, futurist, filmmaker and author: “Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world.”

zakri@pmo.gov.my

The writer is science adviser to the prime minister and chairman of the Malaysian Foresight Institute

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'Super Blue Blood Moon' to appear on Jan 31

> Phenomena can be viewed to the east from coastal areas, tall buildings, hilltops and highlands

KUALA LUMPUR: The Super Blue Blood Moon, which was last seen more than 150 years ago on March 31, 1866, will be visible on Jan 31.

It is a combination of the Supermoon, Bluemoon and Bloodmoon phenomena.

The phenomenon occurs when a full moon is at the nearest position to earth in its orbit, making it appear larger than normal.

The Bluemoon phenomenon is the full moon phase that takes place on the same date, which is the second full moon phase in January, while the Bloodmoon is the lunar eclipse, where the moon appears reddish after light from the sun is filtered through the earth's atmosphere.

Those who want to get a view of the "Super Blue Blood Moon" on Jan 31 can do so at the **National Planetarium**.

The planetarium said in a statement several telescopes will be provided for the lunar eclipse, that will be visible from 7pm to midnight.



AFPPIX

Skygazers in western Germany were treated to a rare astronomical event when a supermoon and lunar eclipse occurred on Sept. 28, 2015.

It would also hold a briefing on the phenomenon, an astro-photography session and lunar eclipse prayers.

"The eclipse phase of the moon will begin at 7.48pm and last until 11.11pm and the total eclipse will begin at 8.51pm before reaching its

maximum phase at 9.29pm and end at 10.07pm."

According to the planetarium, other ideal locations to observe the Super Blue Blood Moon are from coastal areas facing the sea on the east side, hilltop areas, highlands, on top of tall buildings or anywhere

with an unobstructed view of the sky to the east.

For more information, the public can contact the National Planetarium at 03-2273 5484 or email info@planet.gov.my or log on to www.planetariumnegara.gov.my or their Facebook page.

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEW STRAITS TIMES (NEWS) : MUKA SURAT 7
TARIKH : 29 JANUARI 2018 (ISNIN)



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Lynas' water discharge has
been measured to be
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KERATAN AKHBAR
NEW STRAITS TIMES (NEWS) : MUKA SURAT 5
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Rare Earths are a
**gift from
mother nature**
these are the materials that producers of
progressive technologies need to create
products that enhance our lives
whilst caring for the environment

AMANDA LACAZE
Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director
Lynas Corporation Ltd.

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Radiation levels at our plant are well below the required permissible levels and are measured by us and the **AELB**. There has been

no

radiation increase

at 1km, 5km, 10km or 20km from the Lynas Gebeng plant in Kuantan since the Lynas plant commenced operation.

AELB - Atomic Energy Licensing Board

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PROF DR ISMAIL BAHARI

*General Manager, Radiological Safety
Lynas Corporation Ltd.*

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