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Nuklear Malaysia and APU establish smart collaboration to expand capabilities

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- *Includes student placements for industrial training & joint research for Masters, PhDs*
- *Tap APU's expertise in advanced digital technologies and data analytics*



Malaysian Nuclear Agency (Nuklear Malaysia), under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), yesterday inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) at the Malaysian Nuclear Agency Complex at Bangi.

This MoU is a strategic collaboration between the two institutions in a broad range of areas, including research and development (R&D), sharing of expertise, joint development of training programmes, technology transfer and commercialisation, academic and educational publications and staff attachments involving Information Technology (IT) and relevant engineering fields, to address current and future needs and national development. These efforts also include student placements for industrial training and joint research collaborations for Masters' and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programmes.

Both parties were represented by their respective signatories Ts. Dr Siti A'iasah Hashim, Director-General of Malaysian Nuclear Agency, and Dr Hari Narayanan, the Vice-Chancellor of APU. The signing was witnessed by Datuk Parmjit Singh, CEO of APU.

This collaboration was initiated during the reciprocal visits of both parties on 29th November and 2nd December 2021 where both parties agreed to work together in specific areas involving data management systems on spent nuclear fuel, the use of robotics and drones to deal with radioactive materials, the application of virtual reality (VR) or augmented reality (AR) in nuclear operations and/or education, data security framework, mathematical modelling in data analytics and many more. The discussion also touched on post-academic training, upskilling and reskilling relating to IT, management, and leadership skills for the Malaysian Nuclear Agency's staff, as well as opportunities for postgraduate Masters and PhD studies at APU.

APU has invested in fore-front digital technologies and expertise to support research in technologies such as virtual reality, robotics, the internet of things (IoT), gaming and apps, and artificial intelligence. Nuklear Malaysia on the other hand, has a nuclear reactor and gamma greenhouse – the only such facilities in Malaysia. With this collaboration, both parties would be able to leverage each other's state-of-art research facilities and expertise in R&D and accelerate the commercialisation of such research outputs.

Siti A'iasah said that the Agency is always pushing new frontiers in innovation and technology.

"Nuklear Malaysia has established itself as the country's main promoter of nuclear science and technology for peaceful uses. Through this collaboration, we welcome APU's students to explore a new learning space where they can learn the benefits of nuclear power which are normally plagued with undesirable narratives. At the same time, I'm sure Nuklear Malaysia can take advantage of APU's expertise in advanced digital technologies and data analytics to enhance our R&D," she said.

"We are very pleased to work with leading higher learning institutions such as APU to lead joint programmes in IT and engineering," she said. "This move will be the aspiration and motivation for Nuklear Malaysia to continue to innovate throughout the region."

Meanwhile, Parmjit thanked the Malaysian Nuclear Agency for their foresight in forging strong public-private, industry-academia partnerships in R&D and advanced technology.

"We are optimistic that, with this collaboration, we will take a step forward in innovation and further benefit both organisations in developing viable technology solutions in support of safe and sustainable uses of nuclear science and technologies. This effort will also enhance skills and knowledge resulting in employable graduates who are smart, agile, and competitive at the national and global levels whilst making a difference in their chosen careers. We can apply our knowledge, expertise and skills in IT and engineering research into nuclear-related R&D areas through our collaboration with the Malaysian Nuclear Agency. Access to facilities in Malaysian Nuclear Agency will be an added value to our R&D," he said.