

TEKS UCAPAN

**YB DATUK SERI PANGLIMA MADIUS TANGAU
MENTERI SAINS, TEKNOLOGI AND INOVASI (MOSTI)
SEMPENA**

MAJLIS PELANCARAN SCIENCE OUTLOOK 2015

**HOTEL MARRIOT, PUTRAJAYA
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[*Tertakluk kepada kehadiran*]

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Presiden Akademi-akademi Sains di ASEAN

Felo-felo dan *Associates* ASM

Tetamu Kehormat daripada sektor awam, industri, badan profesional

Rakan Media

Tuan-tuan dan puan-puan yang saya hormati

Salam Sejahtera dan Salam 1Malaysia.

Izinkan saya untuk meneruskan ucapan ini dalam Bahasa Inggeris.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here today to launch the ***Science Outlook 2015: Action Towards Vision*** report by the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM), which is one of the agencies under MOSTI.

2. I would like to commend ASM for taking this important first step to provide an independent review of the science, technology and innovation landscape in Malaysia based on the **six strategic thrusts** of the **National Policy on Science, Technology and Innovation** (NPSTI, 2013-2020) namely:

- i. **Transforming STI governance;**
- ii. **Advancing scientific and social research, development and commercialisation;**
- iii. **Developing, harnessing and intensifying talent;**
- iv. **Energising industries;**
- v. **STI enculturation; as well as**
- vi. **Enhancing strategic international alliance.**

3. On a personal note, I am pleased to have had the opportunity to participate and contribute in the strategic consultative workshop on the Governance chapter of the Science Outlook report.

4. The Science Outlook 2015 is an exemplary initiative on providing **evidence-based analysis, insights and recommendations towards inclusive and integrated STI reforms** in critical areas to boost growth and competitiveness for the nation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. As the ministry mandated to lead the Science, Technology and Innovation **(STI) agenda of the nation**, a major responsibility of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) is to develop and implement an effective STI Policy. This is a challenging task given that **STI is pervasive** and cuts across economic sectors, ministries and knowledge domains.

6. Furthermore, in the new economy, an **STI policy must be robust and inclusive, while giving the highest importance to “intangible assets” such as intellectual capital**. Appropriate and necessary infrastructure, institutional framework, collaborative platforms and incentives must be enabled and facilitated.

7. In this context, I consider the Science Outlook 2015, **a strategic document that offers timely insights into the Malaysian STI landscape and the way forward**. The findings, gap analysis, incisive perspectives, benchmarking as well as way forward prescriptions highlighted in the Science Outlook will serve as useful

references not just for policy makers, but also for other stakeholders such as the scientific community, economists and industry practitioners.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Malaysia, having transitioned from an agriculture-based economy in the post-independence era to a resource and manufacturing based economy in the eighties and nineties, is now faced with **the challenge of shifting to an innovation-led economy**. An innovation-led economy requires the **development of knowledge-intensive, high value-added, technology-enabled and adaptable industries**. Innovation from successful implementation of ideas and knowledge applied creatively will result in products and services that are unique and differentiated. They can command higher prices and produce higher returns.

9. As the world becomes more competitive and advanced, **success and prosperity increasingly go to those who have a high proficiency in STI and technological know-how**. In order to realise our vision of becoming a high income, STI-driven, developed nation by 2020, an economic, social and cultural transformation is needed. We must synergise our efforts through an integrated approach to ensure **knowledge-based development, a knowledge society and knowledge intensive enterprises**.

10. I have been made to understand that one of the core issues highlighted in the Science Outlook is the **non-availability of credible data** to ratify or reflect the gaps and formulate recommendations towards effective implementation of STI programmes and policies. The heavy emphasis on data and evidence in the Science Outlook is in line

with the government's aim to **develop a comprehensive and integrated database to facilitate stock-taking, planning and effective delivery of STI interventions to meet socio-economic needs.**

11. In this respect, MOSTI will consider establishing **a centralised, open data centre** to enable decision makers or stakeholders to make evidence-based, informed decisions particularly when it concerns the STI agenda of the nation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. Malaysia is currently at a critical juncture of its development plan. We are witnessing the full-steam implementation of the **Economic Transformation Programme (ETP)** with various strategic reform initiatives forming the basis for relevant policy measures and driving national performance. One of the encouraging indicators is our **Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, which stood at USD 10,660 in 2014.**

13. We are on track to take the final quantum leap towards becoming a high-income nation. However, **beyond numbers, we will need to demonstrate our strong capabilities as well as potential to not just achieve, but also sustain meaningful and equitable growth.** This would certainly require STI interventions.

14. More needs to be done to fully harness our STI potential. **We should focus our efforts on evaluating our STI capabilities, address the fundamental challenges or issues, build capacity and emerge as a regional model of STI excellence. Some of the prerequisites**

are quality Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, greater awareness and STI orientation amongst the youth of the country, improved STI infrastructure, better trained STI professionals, focused STI objectives, and the setting of practical, challenging yet realistic targets.

15. An **STI policy cannot be a stand-alone policy** just like science and technology cannot be considered in isolation. It must be an integral part of the national development policy to achieve socio-economic transformation. It is my aspiration to bring together all government ministries that are relevant to the STI agenda of the nation to a common platform to deliberate on relevant issues and demonstrate commitment to achieve common goals rather than just serving respective agendas.

16. Thus, I believe the establishment of the **National Science Council, chaired by YAB Prime Minister** is a step in the right direction towards charting the course for a more unified and integrated execution of the national STI Agenda.

17. I also urge ASM to **communicate and disseminate the findings, analysis and recommendations of the Science Outlook to all the relevant Ministries, agencies and other stakeholders via dialogues and roadshows**. This would provide the parties concerned with the opportunity to understand and discuss the issues at hand and take requisite action on the critical, cross-cutting areas highlighted.

18. A **periodic review of key trends in STI** should also be done to consistently know where we are as well as highlight necessary policy measures or implementation action. MOSTI is fully supportive of ASM's Science Outlook initiative and looks forward to future editions.

19. Before I conclude, let me also take this opportunity to refresh that in **an effort to turn Malaysia into a “competitive technology hub for the region,” 2016 has been declared as ‘Malaysia Commercialisation Year (MCY)’** by YAB Prime Minister in the October's Budget speech. MOSTI has been entrusted to lead this initiative and I call upon everybody's support and cooperation in delivering the expected outcome of the MCY 2016.

20. On that note, it gives me great pleasure to officially launch the **SCIENCE OUTLOOK 2015: ACTION TOWARDS VISION.**

Selamat Menyambut Maulidur Rasul, Hari Krismas, ... Season's Greetings.

Sekian. Terima kasih.