

UCAPAN OLEH

**YB DATUK SERI PANGLIMA MADIUS TANGAU¹
MENTERI SAINS, TEKNOLOGI DAN INOVASI**

**PERASMIAN
“BIOETHICS DIALOGUE 1:
GERMLINE GENETIC MODIFICATIONS”**

**HOTEL SERI PACIFIC, KUALA LUMPUR
SELASA, 27 OKTOBER 2015**

Terima kasih Pengacara Majlis

Salutation akan dimuktamad berdasarkan status kehadiran

YBhg. DATO' DR. MOHD AZHAR HJ. YAHAYA
Deputy Secretary General (Policy), MOSTI

YBrs. DR. ZULKIFLI MOHAMED HASHIM
Deputy Secretary General (Science), MOSTI

Ms. SUE VISE
Regional Adviser for Social and Human Sciences
UNESCO, Bangkok

Head of Departments

Distinguished guests

Media representatives, ladies and gentlemen

Salam Sejahtera dan Salam 1Malaysia

¹ Disampaikan oleh YBhg. Dato' Sri Dr. Noorul Ainur Mohd. Nur
KSU, MOSTI

Bagi memanfaatkan kehadiran tetamu antarabangsa, izinkan saya meneruskan ucapan dalam Bahasa Inggeris.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

2. I would like to extend a warm regards from the Honourable Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Datuk Seri Panglima Madius Tangau for not being able to join us this morning and has requested me to deliver his message as follows.

3. This past decade can be regarded as the **Molecular Biology Decade** with major scientific breakthrough, especially in molecular genetics. In 1996, for example, the world's most famous sheep, Dolly was born and stunned the world that cloning intact animals from adult somatic cells was feasible.

4. Since then there have been many other discoveries including our topic today, **Germline Genetic Modification** which is **a sophisticated form of genetic engineering involving the changing of genes in eggs, sperms or very early embryos**, and these modified genes are **inheritable**.

5. I have been informed that when we say inheritable, it means that the particular modified gene or genes **will appear not only in any organisms or children that resulted from the procedure, but in all succeeding generations**. This would of course engender controversies, not least, in ethics as this technique has the potential to create designer human babies.

6. **So what are the boundaries we should accept to safeguard human dignity and humanity, and how should this be emplaced?**

There are no easy answers to these and other related questions, hence the need for more dialogues and sharing of experiences and expertise.

7. Today's Bioethics Dialogue is aimed at **creating awareness amongst the Malaysian public specifically on what Germline Modification is all about and the relevant bioethical issues** pertaining to this particular scope of scientific research and to the society at large.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Science in total without appropriate ethics is dangerous. **Ethics allow us to form boundaries in our research** be it in research objectives or research methodology. This boundary is **crucial in maintaining and respecting both the environment and human dignity.**

9. In this regard, I would like to quote UNESCO, ***“...while it is true that bioethics today includes medical ethics issues, its originality lies in the fact that it goes much further than the various professional codes of ethics concerned. It entails reflection on societal changes and even on global balances brought about by scientific and technological developments.”***

Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. **The Malaysian National Bioethics Council** was established in the year 2012 as an advisory body to manage **bioethics issues** that may

have an impact on the **environment, health, culture, laws, religions and society in general.**

11. Through this Council, MOSTI is determined to ensure all research and technological developments will bring positive benefits and value addition to societal well-being, thus Malaysians can reap the benefits of scientific discoveries without jeopardising social norms, culture and the biosphere whilst adhering to the international standards.

12. I have been informed that efforts are currently being carried out to consolidate various legislations, procedures and guidelines to ensure a seamless and holistic approach in this field. The roles of **Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)** in research institutes, for example, will ensure that the use of animals is justified and incorporates the principles of **Replacement, Reduction and Refinement.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. Since the signing of **the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between MOSTI and UNESCO on bioethics training collaboration on 21st December 2012**, there has been a number of workshops conducted by the UNESCO together with the National Bioethics Council.

14. I am indeed pleased to note that this relationship is very much alive and active, and this Dialogue today can be seen as part of that effort. I would also like to stress that Malaysia remains committed in its involvement in **the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC)** and as a member of **the International Bioethics Council UNESCO.** More importantly, Malaysia is also vying for a seat in the Executive Board of the

UNESCO for the 2015-2019 term. I am sure Malaysia's social and economic development experience will add strength to the UNESCO if elected this November.

15. And on that note, I now have the pleasure of declaring this **BIOETHICS DIALOGUE 1: GERMLINE MODIFICATIONS**, officially open.

Sekian. Terima kasih.
