

TEKS UCAPAN

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

SEMPENA

**“2015 TOP RESEARCH SCIENTISTS MALAYSIA
&
8TH ASM GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
THE ROLES OF ACADEMIES IN A GLOBALISED WORLD”**

**CONFERENCE HALL 1
PUSAT KONVENSYEN KUALA LUMPUR (KLCC)**

SABTU, 31 OKTOBER 2015

YANG BERBAHAGIA TAN SRI DATUK DR AHMAD TAJUDDIN ALI
President of Academy of Sciences Malaysia

**YANG BERBAHAGIA ACADEMICIAN TAN SRI DATUK DR YUSOF
BASIRON**
ASM Senior Fellow and Chairman of Top Research Scientists Malaysia
Selection Panel

Fellows of Academy of Sciences Malaysia

Presidents of Science Academies

Members of Media

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Salam Sejahtera, Salam 1 Malaysia and a very good morning to all.

I would like to thank the Academy of Sciences Malaysia or ASM for inviting me to this auspicious event. It is indeed a privilege for me to be here this morning to witness **THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2015 TOP RESEARCH SCIENTISTS MALAYSIA (TRSM)** and to be given the honour to present the certificates of recognition to the recipients.

2. I am glad that ASM is championing this initiative in **recognition of the efforts by our research scientists who have contributed significantly to the economic growth of the nation via generation and dissemination of knowledge, wealth creation and productive pursuit of scientific excellence for benefits of humanity.**

3. It is my fervent hope that our pool of research scientists would diligently carry out excellent research of world standard and gain international recognition and accolades including the coveted Nobel Prize in the near future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. A dynamic innovation-led economy is founded on the readily available talent pool in Science, Technology and Innovation or STI. **Without sufficient talent pool, there will be no STI base to create and transform ideas into products, processes and solutions that improve the quality of our lives.**

5. **Global competition for talent is on the rise, and building and sustaining domestic talent must be accorded priority if Malaysia wants to build a vibrant innovation ecosystem and economy.** Without a solid base of talented people, Malaysia will find it difficult to attract global R,D&C centres to its shores. Likewise, SMEs

ability to innovate and compete, both regionally and globally, is also likely to be undermined due to the lack of sufficient talent pool.

6. In the context of our rapidly changing world, technologies that are able to fulfil basic needs, improve the quality of life, promote wealth creation with easy accessibility, are now becoming increasingly crucial by the societies. In this regard, **the translation of science, technology and innovation to meet human needs and elevate quality of life besides enhancing economic growth is paramount.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. In understanding the need to develop local technology in order to sustain national competency, **Malaysia is shifting towards a knowledge-based economy to become a fully developed and modern nation by the year 2020.** In order to achieve this goal, we need to build up our technological capabilities by investing in the development of skilled human capital.

8. Malaysia also needs to be competitive in its ability to produce, attract and retain talents. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) applauds ASM's initiative in recognising these talents through the Top Research Scientists Malaysia (TRSM) programme.

9. This initiative is also aligned with **the second strategic thrust of Third National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (NSTIP), 2013 - 2020** that addresses the importance of developing, harnessing and intensifying talents.

10. I am happy to note that **ASM through its TRSM initiative and database has to date, recognised 96 research scientists** from the institutions of higher learning (IHLs) and research institutes (RIs) as Top Research Scientists based on their outstanding research achievements and performance.

11. I was also informed that, **another 14 outstanding scientists will be announced as Top Research Scientists Malaysia for the year 2015**. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them and hope that they will continue to carry out top-notch researches and act as role model for our young scientists.

12. I would like to call upon more Malaysian researchers, to populate the TRSM database so that the Government will have an up-to-date list of researchers in various fields of expertise. This database is not confined to experienced researchers only but also for young scientists.

13. Based on the profiles and needs, young scientists can be chosen to participate in attachment programmes in centres of excellence around the world. It is important for the government to have a comprehensive database of researchers for the whole country to reflect the overall national R&D capacity. We can assess our strength and weaknesses and take necessary measures to fill the gaps, if any.

14. In this regards, I urge all Top Research Scientists Malaysia to play significant role in **mainstreaming R&D in our country, especially in the focus areas that the Government has identified under the eleventh Malaysia Plan (11th MP) such as Internet of Things (IOT), Nanotechnology, Biotechnology and Green Technology.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

15. I have been informed that **ASM will convene its 8th General Assembly today on the theme “The Role of Academies in the Globalised World.”**

16. I hope the **Presidents of three Asian Science Academies, the Vice President of European Academies Scientific Advisory Council (EASAC) and the Co-chair of InterAcademy Medical panel (IAMP)** who will be participating in an open dialogue during the assembly, will provide valuable input on how the Academy can play an effective role in advancing STI.

17. I am glad to note that the Presidents of Science Academies are gathered here today to witness the **launching of the Network of ASEAN Academy of Science (NetASA)** in conjunction with the 20th Anniversary of ASM that will be held tonight. I would like to welcome all of you to Malaysia and wish you a pleasant stay in Kuala Lumpur.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

18. **World Science Academies** are, without any doubt, important scientific bodies in the world that play an important role in advancing science and providing independent, objective advice on matters related to science and technology.

19. For example, **the Royal Society** has been in existence for 300 years now, diligently shaping the national policies of United Kingdom and developing its STI capacity. **The French Academy of Sciences**

has been actively involved in nurturing young talents through their **Inquiry-based Science Education (IBSE)** method in France.

20. These are some contributions made by the Academies in the developed world. I am proud to see that the Academy of Sciences Malaysia is also actively championing scientific development by providing **strategic input towards the formulation of national STI policies as well as championing the need to nurture STI talent.**

21. Undoubtedly, World Science Academies plays a major role in the development of STI in a country. Among them are:

- i. **Representing its scientific community at national and international level to be in the mainstream of the global STI network;**
- ii. **Encouraging science excellence and recognising STI talents;**
- iii. **Providing networks for scientists at the global level;**
- iv. **Developing STI policies nationally and internationally; and**
- v. **Bridging scientific community with policy makers, international bodies such as APEC, ASEAN, EU etc., young generation and people at large.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

22. I am sure today's dialogue will be a platform for a fruitful discussion as well as exchange of ideas and views among the Academies towards strengthening the roles of Academies and also for future collaboration in STI. Once again, I would like to congratulate the recipients of the 2015 Top Research Scientists Malaysia. SYABAS DAN TAHNIAH!

Sekian. Terima kasih.