



SPEECH BY

**YB DATUK SERI PANGLIMA MADIUS TANGAU
MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

AT THE OPENING OF

***INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON STI POLICY AND
MANAGEMENT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES***

8 AUGUST 2016 (MONDAY)

**YANG BERBAHAGIA DATO' IR. DR. LEE YEE CHEONG
Honorary Chairman of ISTIC**

**YANG BERBAHAGIA DATO' DR. SAMSUDIN TUGIMAN
Chairman of ISTIC Governing Board**

**PROFFESOR DR. ARUN P. KULSHRESHTA,
Director General
Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other
Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre)**

**DR. ISMAIL ABDELHAMID
Representative of Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural
Organization (ISESCO)**

**Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and Representatives from G77
Countries**

Distinguished Speakers

Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good morning to all.

1. It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be here today to welcome everyone to the **International Training Programme on STI Policy and Management for Developing Countries (ITPS)**. On behalf of Datuk Seri Panglima Madius Tangau, the Honourable Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, I would like to extend his sincere appreciation to the organiser, ISTIC, for inviting him to officiate this training programme. However, I wish to convey his apologies for not able to join us today due to a pressing engagement.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

2. I am happy to note that the success of this programme is a result of collaborative effort between various parties namely the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation or MOSTI, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre).

3. I am also delighted to learn that NAM S&T Centre and ISESCO are also providing direct support to ISTIC in this training programme. NAM S&T Centre has supported eighteen (18) participants whereas ISESCO has sponsored ten (10) participants in this workshop. I believe and very optimistic that this cooperation will spur on even deeper collaboration in the future.

Ladies and gentlemen,

MALAYSIA AND UNESCO

4. On the relationship between Malaysia and UNESCO, I am happy to say that Malaysia is proud to be associated with UNESCO. Since we became member in 1958, Malaysia's involvement with UNESCO has significantly increased overtime. For example, Malaysia currently sits in the Executive Board of UNESCO for period 2015 to 2019 and has been elected three times previously: 1978 to 1983, 1987 to 1991 and 1999 to 2003. Today Malaysia has been actively involved in formulating policies and the implementation of various programmes.

MALAYSIA and ISTIC

5. As we all know, on 21 January 2008, Malaysia has agreed to the hosting of ISTIC. The establishment of ISTIC is guided by the principle of *Prosper Thy Neighbour* and against the backdrop of Malaysia's vision of ensuring developing countries are not left behind in the pursuit of economic advancement.

6. In particular, ISTIC under the auspices of UNESCO has been mandated to assist UNESCO member countries to develop and implement sound science, technology and innovation (STI) policies. Therefore, training programmes on STI such as today, will provide the participants the knowledge in designing blueprints and strategic implementation frameworks of STI in their respective countries.

NAM S&T Centre

7. On the other aspect, I am pleased to note that being a member of NAM S&T Centre since 1994, Malaysia continues to devote itself to strengthening not only bilateral but also multilateral relations with NAM member countries. We take cognisance of NAM as the fulcrum of peace, prosperity and stability among developing countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

STI Policy for High Technology Exports for Developing Countries

8. I was informed that this year's training programme will focus on STI Policy for High Technology Exports by Developing Countries. I personally feel this theme is very relevant, as many countries are exploring opportunities and designing strategies to promote foreign direct investment, technology transfer, research and development (R&D), human resources development, entry into high technology export market that could eventually creating more jobs and spur overall economic growth.

9. High Technology Exports is an important indicator of the economic status of a country. Developed countries are normally associated with the advancement in high-tech sector such as the aerospace industries, computer engineering, pharmaceutical, scientific instruments, electrical and electronic as well as the machinery industries. It however requires high level of R&D activities and funding, and it must be supported by a conducive R&D eco-system.

10. For many developing countries, this is the issue of prioritization. The present challenges in addressing the socio-economic issues such as poverty, environment, diseases and terrorism utilizes most of the resources. Therefore, the Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) as a proportion to Gross Domestic Products (GDP) is far below in most of the developed countries.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution

11. We are now at the dawn of the ***Fourth Industrial Revolution***, the age of the Internet of Things (IoT). The next wave of innovation impacting the way the world connects and optimises machines. Future computers are wearable. Seamless wireless mobility will enable total communication with anyone, anywhere. Who knows, in the future, always-on internet connectivity is all free.

12. In the light of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we need to rise and be part of the value chain of the emerging technologies. There is a need to explore further the critical areas, for example nanotechnology, biotechnology, renewable energy, clean technology and so on. The building blocks probably on something small: such as **atoms, genes and neuron**. So, how can we leverage on this Fourth Industrial Revolution? Are we ready?

13. For developing countries, it is all about moving away from resource-based economy. And the most critical enabler is STI. STI will spur the growth of the new economy, creating new businesses, new jobs and drives productivity growth.

Ladies and gentlemen,

STI and Globalisation

14. In order for STI to be a driver for development, it is crucial for countries to have a national science, technology and innovation policy. STI policies are necessary in the pursuit of sustainable development through technological advancements and innovation, improve competitiveness and job creation.

15. In addition, nations in pursuit of socio-economic development ought to understand the importance of technological catch-up in multiplying productivity growth. To enable successful growth for socio-economic advancement, countries need to mobilise resources for capacity building in science and technology, encourage creativity and innovation through inclusive policy.

16. In this respect, as Malaysia moves closer towards a high value-added, knowledge-based economy, we are focusing on high impact STI programmes as a part of the country's development agenda. Over the last two decades, Malaysia has acquired expertise on various science and technology creation such as in agriculture, manufacturing, construction as well as in the services sectors.

Ladies and gentlemen,

17. Before I end my speech, I also wish to congratulate both ISTIC and the UTM-Perdana School of Science, Technology and Policy for the offering

of extended programme through the online learning centre to participants of this ISTIC training programme. I have been informed that upon completion, they will be awarded with the UTM Perdana-ISTIC Professional Certificate of STI Policy Management and Policy. To date, twelve (12) participants have successfully completed the required course and obtained the certificate. The participant is also eligible to enroll for a Master's programme at the same school. I hope more participants will take up the extended course after completing this programme.

18. Finally, I sincerely hope that your deliberations and sharing of ideas throughout the duration of 5 days in Kuala Lumpur will broaden your perspectives and strengthen your enthusiasm to contribute towards the development of your country through STI. Jointly, we shall contribute to improve the standard of living for the developing world.

19. To the organiser, ISTIC, I would like to extend my gratitude once again for inviting me to be part of this significant event.

20. On that note, it is my pleasure and honour now that **I hereby declare the INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON STI POLICY AND MANAGEMENT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, open.**

Thank you.