

ISNaC2015

International Science & Nature Congress

MSA . ASM . FRIM . MNS
21-23 September 2015
Putra World Trade Centre
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Opening Address By:

The Honourable Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation

YB Datuk Madius Tangau

Salutations

First of all, I understand that the International Congress on Science & Nature, or ISNaC 2015, is a joint effort by four major science, technology and conservation institutions in Malaysia to jointly organise an international meeting to discuss the latest findings in scientific research, technological development and conservation effort.

The four Joint Organisers, namely Malaysia Scientific Association (MSA), Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM), Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), are all well established organisations in scientific research, technological development and innovation, and conservation and protection of the environment and natural habitat in Malaysia.

This year, 2015, is very special for several reasons. The Malaysian Scientific Association, or MSA, is celebrating its 60th Anniversary. Established in 1955, MSA has been actively involved in the promotion of advancement of science and technology in the last 60 years. In recent years, MSA is also very much involved in science education and promoting public understanding and appreciation of science and technology.

In ISNaC 2015, MSA is organising two symposia, namely the International Symposium on Materials Science and Nanotechnology, or ISMSN, and the International Symposium on Organic Chemistry, or ISOC.

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, or MOSTI, is paying special attention on materials science and nanotechnology. Recent advances made in materials and nano science have resulted in new advanced materials and technology that played an important role in global economic and social development recently. In fact, it is envisaged that advanced materials science and technology will be the key enablers in human development in the new millennium. MOSTI will be following the deliberations at ISMSN with the aim of further strengthening our research and development in materials science and technology.

Organic Chemistry is another area that has seen rapid development as the fundamental building block of science and technology in recent years. New knowledge in organic chemistry and novel synthetic methods of organic compounds have resulted in better understanding of various key life processes and, new and advanced materials being made. Syntheses of pharmaceutical and medical products have been made possible through new organic synthetic pathways. We hope that ISOC will lead to advances in organic chemistry research and development in Malaysian universities. In this aspect, I hope that Malaysian organic chemists will take advantage of ISOC to work with colleagues from overseas and further develop our organic chemistry capacity and capability.

The Academy of Sciences Malaysia, or ASM, is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year. Established in 1995 under the Academy of Sciences Malaysia Act 1994, ASM has played a key role in the development of science, technology and innovation in Malaysia. ASM, with the collaborations with other S&T organisations, has formulated the Second National Science Policy under MOSTI. ASM's Mega Science projects have also steered S&T development in many key sectors in Malaysia. I am pleased that ASM will be presenting its deliberations and findings on science policy, strategic and action plans in ISNaC 2015.

The Forest Research Institute Malaysia, or FRIM, on the other hand, is celebrating its 30th Anniversary in 2015. FRIM is one of the world's top research institute on tropical forests and a pioneer member of the Asia Pacific Association of Forest Research Institutes (APAFRI). Its biennial Conference on Forestry and Forest Products Research (CFFPR) conducted since 1985 is aiming at showcasing the latest R&D findings in forestry and forest products to the private sector, researchers, academics, forest managers, industrialists, and policy makers.

Celebrating FRIM's 30th anniversary this year, FRIM is organising CFFPR as part of the ISNaC 2015. CFFPR 2015 covers a wide range of topics in forestry and forest products, from upstream to downstream, which are clustered in nine (9) thematic sessions. MOSTI's role is to work with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and other government agencies and NGOs to ensure the sustainable development of our tropical forests and forest products.

I understand that the APAFRI Council is holding its Annual General Meeting in conjunction with ISNaC 2015. On behalf of MOSTI, I would like to welcome the APAFRI Council members to Malaysia and wish them a successful AGM and enjoy their stay in Malaysia.

One of the oldest and most established conservation organisations in Malaysia, the Malaysian Nature Society, or MNS, is celebrating its 75th Anniversary or Diamond Jubilee in 2015. MNS decided to join hands with the other three organisations to jointly organise ISNaC 2015.

MNS's Symposium on Nature and Biodiversity, or SNB, will highlight its efforts in conservation and protection of the natural environment and habitat in the last 75 years. A number of MNS's current conservation projects will also be presented. MOSTI will be happy to provide scientific inputs to these projects.

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) is entrusted by the Malaysian government to guide and steer scientific, technological and innovation development in Malaysia. We are happy to see efforts by the four organisations to play a major role in promoting advancement in science, technology, innovation and conservation.

Together with other ministries and government agencies and NGOs, MOSTI also wishes to play a major role in ensuring sustainable economic development and providing social security to all levels of the Malaysian population.

MOSTI will be following the proceedings of ISNaC 2015 closely. We are particularly interested in new scientific findings and technologies that will boost our effort in sustainable development and a green economy.

I understand that close to 600 Malaysian and foreign scientists will be taking part in ISNaC 2015. I wish all the delegates a fruitful and rewarding deliberation. I would like to propose that our Malaysian scientists take this opportunity to collaborate with their overseas counterpart to push our scientific research and development to the highest level. The possibilities of forming network and research clusters should also be explored.

We would particularly like to invite the overseas participants to extend their visit to see beautiful Malaysia. We are a unique multi-racial country with different religions and cultures being practised in a harmonious society. We also boast of our beautiful tropical islands with long sandy white beaches, and million year old tropical rainforests. On top of all this is our famous Malaysian hospitality where we treat all visitors as friends of the family. It will be an experience that you will never forget.

With these words, I declare ISNaC 2015 open and wish all of you a successful ISNaC 2015 and a wonderful stay in Malaysia for our foreign delegates.