



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **MALAYSIA URGES ASEAN TO GIVE GREATER ATTENTION ON RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (R&D) COLLABORATION IN ADDRESSING COMMON CROSS-BORDER ISSUES AND EMPHASIS ON EMPOWERMENT OF YOUNG SCIENTISTS IN THE REGION**

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**14 OCTOBER 2019, SINGAPORE** – The Deputy Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC), YB Isnaraissah Munirah Majilis led the Malaysian delegation to the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (AMMSTI-18) held in Singapore on 11 October 2019. Dr. Mohd Nor Azman Hassan, Deputy Secretary General of Science, MESTECC, Professor Dr. Abhi Veerakumarasivam, the co-Chair of the ASEAN Young Scientists Network as well as the International Division as the National ASEAN COSTI Secretariat of Malaysia also joins the delegation.

In echoing the recent science, technology and innovation (STI) developments in the ASEAN Region, YB Deputy Minister urged the ASEAN STI Ministers to give more attention in addressing cross border issues through a concerted and coordinated regional response via R&D collaboration that concern ASEAN Member States (AMS) such as plastic pollution, water, food security and floods. During the discussion on the ASEAN Workshop Readiness and Private Sector Engagement in the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution as well as STI Development, YB Deputy Minister stressed the urgent need to equip young researchers in the ASEAN with the necessary skills as well as empower them to play a mainstream role to enhance the region's resilience against future anticipated and unanticipated disruptions.

Before the commencement of AMMSTI-18, 11 series of meetings were organized by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR), a statutory board under the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Singapore. Deputy Secretary General of Science, Dr. Mohd Nor Azman Hassan led the Malaysian Delegation to the 77<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (ASEAN COSTI-77) which held from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2019.

Malaysian leadership in harnessing young STI talent has gained regional prominence with the Malaysia-led initiative, the ASEAN Young Scientists Network that was included as one of the priorities for COSTI in 2020 to be reported to the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

ASEAN COSTI 2020 listed 6 key STI priorities to be focused on, namely:

- a. ASEAN Young Scientists Network;
- b. STI Framework for Action: Converging Towards the Development of an ASEAN Platform on STI for Disaster and Climate Resilience;
- c. ASEAN High Performance Computing (HPC) Shared Infrastructure Initiative;
- d. ASEAN Diagnostics Development Initiative;
- e. Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) focusing on workforce readiness and private sector engagement.
- f. Implementation of ASEAN Innovation Roadmap 2019-2025 on Talent Mobility System and Curriculum on Human Resource Development.

Through these initiatives, STI will be further positioned as the main driving force of economic and social development of ASEAN Member States towards realizing the One ASEAN Community vision, in the context of security, economy and social wellness.

Malaysia also encourages the inclusion of private sectors in future engagements on STI; especially in creating robust cooperation in addressing the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR); for example in cyber security, big data analytics, data science and Internet of Things (IoT).

YB Deputy Minister's active participation and representing Malaysia in this regional platform is especially significant. It is a strong statement of Malaysia's commitment to foster international collaboration to address common cross border issues; private engagement to address the 4<sup>th</sup>

industrial revolution and the mainstreaming of young scientists' role in supporting national and regional STI agenda.

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