



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

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#### **WINNER OF ASEAN - U.S. SCIENCE PRIZE FOR WOMEN 2020 – DR. CHAN TOKE FUN, MALAYSIA**

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**PUTRAJAYA, 3 SEPTEMBER 2020** – The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia wishes to congratulate Dr. Chan Yoke Fun from Malaysia as the winner of the ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women 2020 and Dr. Shefaly Shorey of Singapore as honourable mention.

The Secretary General of MOSTI, YBhg. Datuk Ir. Dr. Siti Hamisah binti Tapsir, as the National ASEAN COSTI Chairman of Malaysia, hereby conveys her congratulatory notes to Dr. Chan for winning this prestige award. Malaysia's participation in this award was duly facilitated and nominated by MOSTI, the National Secretariat of ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation (ASEAN COSTI) to ASEAN COSTI's platform via ASEAN Secretariat. The two regional finalists selected from the 10 national finalists, showcased their outstanding research work in addressing the pressing needs of preventive healthcare in their communities via a webinar on 6 August 2020, followed by the virtual final judging session on 13 August 2020.

Dr. Chan, the Head of Department of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine at the University of Malaya, focused her research on developing a vaccine to combat a virus that causes hand, foot and mouth disease, and brain infection diseases in children. Furthermore, she has worked with local experts to raise awareness about the dangers and prevention of the virus in her community and beyond. Dr. Chan received an award of USD20,000.00, whereas honourable mention Dr. Shorey, received a USD5,000.00 award. The winning of this award by Dr. Chan is hoped to motivate her team to scale new heights in their scientific journey and as a source of inspiration to spur further interest among national research institutions and national researchers especially female scientists to contribute more quality researches in the field of Science and Technology.

Since its inception in 2014, the annual ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women aims to strengthen Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) science and technology capacity as well as gender equality and improvement. The prize seeks to award two talented, promising and early-to mid-career female scientists from the ASEAN region working in applied science as a recognition of their academic and professional achievements.

The ASEAN-U.S. Science Prize for Women 2020, under the partnership of The ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation (COSTI), the U.S. Government through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL), a non-profit organization, focuses on the theme “Preventive Healthcare”. The competition for the award will convene again in 2021 with the theme “Clear Air and Clean Water”.

YBhg. Datuk Ir. Dr. Siti Hamisah extends her utmost gratitude to the ASEAN COSTI Chairman, Professor Andy Hor from Singapore; to all the panels consisted of COSTI members from all ASEAN Member States, the representatives of ASEAN Secretariat, USAID and Underwriters Laboratories; who collectively made the whole selection and judging process a success, despite the challenges of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Further details of the prize and the winners are available at <https://asean.org/winner-asean-us-science-prize-women-2020-announced/> .

**### END ###**

Prepared by:

**Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI)**

## Winner & Honorable Mention

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