



PRESS RELEASE

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NEW UNESCO'S PRESIDENT OF SCIENCE COMMISSION PUSHED FOR GREATER SYNERGY BETWEEN THE NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES.

PARIS, Friday, 13 November 2015 - The newly elected UNESCO's President of the Science Commission Dr. Noorul Ainur Mohd Nur reiterated the need for a greater synergy and collaboration between the Natural and Social Sciences, as well as other UNESCO fields of competence.

This was conveyed by Dr. Noorul, who is the Secretary General of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) during her courtesy call on the UNESCO's Director General, Ms Irina Bokova on the sidelines of the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference, here in Paris.

She remarked, "The landscape of economic development has changed significantly over the last decade. The Governments and stakeholders are turning to the UN specialized agencies, like UNESCO to provide advise on a range of issues, hence it is imperative for UNESCO to further capitalize on its multidisciplinary expertise and inter-sectoral approach."

She added that this might involve bringing together the policy makers and stakeholders including researchers in UNESCO's programmes, to assist them in the formulation of a more cohesive plan and strategies.

"UNESCO and Malaysia could leverage on the regional platforms, such as ASEAN and APEC; and the two UNESCO Category II centres in Malaysia, namely the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre (ISTIC) and the Humid Tropic Centre (HTC)," said Dr. Noorul.

Malaysia also contributes an annual USD1 million grant through the Malaysia Funds In Trust (MFIT) to support UNESCO's capacity building in developing member countries. Besides, Malaysia has its own south-south flagship initiative, the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP).

The UNESCO's Director General congratulated Dr. Noorul as the new President of the Science Commission, and for serving as the Vice President of

the UNESCO Management of Transformation Programmes (MOST) Intergovernmental Council (MOST IGC), 2013-2015.

Ms. Bokova welcomed the proposal to scaling-up the works on bridging the Natural and Social Sciences. She referred to Malaysia as 'a rising star' and informed Dr. Noorul of the great appreciation expressed by the Member States from the Pacific region for the opportune and efficient support that Malaysia has given to these countries.

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