



PRESS RELEASE

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

15th ASIAN FORENSIC SCIENCES NETWORK (AFSN) ANNUAL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM

KUALA LUMPUR, 12 September 2023 - Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation, YB Chang Lih Kang today officiated The 15th Asian Forensic Sciences Network (AFSN) Annual Meeting & Symposium. With the theme 'Light & Shadow, Technology vs. Evidence', this program takes place from 11 to 15 September 2023 at the Pullman Kuala Lumpur Hotel.

It's a collaborative effort between the Department of Chemistry of Malaysia (KIMIA Malaysia), the Forensic Science Society of Malaysia (FSSM), and the Asian Forensic Science Network (AFSN) to advance forensic sciences in the region. This event brought together 450 participants from 72 forensic science institutes across 17 countries. A total of 80 international speakers from renowned institutions and organizations will share their expertise.

The Annual Meeting and Symposium plays a significant role in advancing forensic sciences in Asia by facilitating knowledge exchange and discussing current forensic issues and technological advancements. Challenges related to new psychoactive substances and clandestine drug laboratories will be covered, along with workshops on soil forensics, crime scene investigation, DNA analysis and many more.

In his opening speech, YB Chang Lih Kang conveyed his immense pleasure and honour at presiding over this distinguished gathering, emphasizing the importance of the event in advancing the realm of forensic sciences.

“I am proud to share that the Department of Chemistry of Malaysia, under MOSTI, has taken the lead in organizing this great event. Their collective efforts in forensic research and international collaboration help to elevate Malaysia's capabilities and reputation in the field of forensic sciences,” he said.

KIMIA Malaysia is well-known for its expertise in criminal cases as well as cross-border cases, particularly in identifying human remains through Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) teams. Their work has been crucial in identifying disaster victims, providing solace to families, and improving crisis responses.

KIMIA Malaysia is also a leader in research areas such as DNA analysis, Document Examination, Toxicology, Dangerous Drugs and Trace Evidence, essential for maintaining law and order. They're recognized as an international forensic training hub, facilitating skill enhancement and knowledge sharing among foreign forensic professionals. This strengthens international cooperation in resolving criminal cases and elevates professionalism in the forensic field.

The AFSN, established in 2008, unites Asia's forensic science community to discuss, share, and strategize on forensic science matters, enhancing the field's quality through collaboration. AFSN is supported by international bodies like the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). It has dedicated committees to standardize scientific methods, promote accreditation, and technical workgroups dedicated to forensic disciplines like DNA, Illicit Drugs, Trace Evidence, Toxicology, Crime Scene Investigation, Quality Assurance & Standards Committee, Questioned Documents, Forensic Medicine, Fingerprint and Digital Forensics.

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Prepared by

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