



PRESS RELEASE

ASEAN-INDIA GRASSROOTS INNOVATION FORUM UNLEASHES A COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION EXPLOSION AMONG MALAYSIA, ASEAN MEMBER STATES, AND INDIA

LANGKAWI, 28 November 2023 – The ASEAN-India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF). A triumphant collaboration by the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation (COSTI), the Government of India’s Department of Science & Technology (DST), and the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) India. This year's spectacle is hosted by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) through its dynamic agency, Yayasan Inovasi Malaysia (YIM).

Building upon the triumphs of past editions in Jakarta, Indonesia (2018), Davao, Philippines (2019), and Phnom Penh, Cambodia (2022), AIGIF 2023 magnifies its commitment to surmount societal challenges through heightened participation and collaboration in the beautiful island of Langkawi, Malaysia.

In the words of His Honourable Tuan Chang Lih Kang, from MOSTI during his Opening Speech, “Since the Eleventh Malaysia Plan, MOSTI through YIM has developed more than 50 innovative solutions including the provision of capacity building opportunities to local grassroots innovators. The solutions have been disseminated to respective communities to solve their issues and challenges especially in improving the livelihood of communities.”

The AIGIF 2023 programme—a synergistic endeavour between AMS and India—stands as a nexus with primary objectives: Foster social innovations among grassroots communities; Strengthen governance in the grassroots innovation ecosystem; Share experiences and best practices in the enculturation and development of grassroots innovation across ASEAN and Indian communities; Promote and publicise social and grassroots innovation to government, academia, businesses, and society; and provide a networking and marketing platform for innovators and entrepreneurs in the AMS and India.

Professor Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India said “Innovators are our hope for the world. We must discover them more often and ‘do whatever it takes’ to support them, if we want to make the world a better place to live. The time has come when we should define ‘cooperation’ in ways like never before.”

This programme gathers 11 countries represented by the ASEAN and India. It features 15 international speakers who will share their insights; and robust agenda comprises of nine (9) main programmes, that promises a deep dive into the future of grassroots innovation. Also present are 30 strategic partners that adds to the collaborative spirit and ensuring a multifaceted approach to addressing societal challenges through science, technology, and innovation.

Aside from the formal discussions, there are two (2) grassroots visits to The Smart Crab Farming System and the Ruang Daya Cipta Langkawi (Langkawi Maker Space) which provides invaluable opportunities for firsthand experiences and insights into innovative solutions. The programme showcases 120 grassroots innovation, connecting visionaries from ASEAN and India and opening pathways to lucrative business opportunities.

The forum attracts 300 international delegates and 5,000 visitors. This marks a pivotal moment, where minds meet, ideas flourish, and innovation takes centre stage. AIGIF 2023 is a catalyst for positive change and collaborative progress on an international scale.

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Prepared by:

**MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION &
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About Yayasan Inovasi Malaysia (YIM)

Yayasan Inovasi Malaysia (YIM) was established in 2008 under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) as the leading agency for Social and Grassroots Innovation in Malaysia. YIM is registered as a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act 1965 in Malaysia and is recognized as a not-for-profit organisation. YIM's main function is as a platform that seeks, develops and matches innovation development funds with a network of more than 7,000 innovators across the country to encourage and foster the development of grassroots innovations that have the potential to be commercialised both locally and internationally. It is implemented through the empowerment of creativity and innovation by developing innovative minds that turn ideas into reality as well as creating sustainable support systems that can generate economic benefits and improve community well-being.

To find out more, visit Yayasan Inovasi Malaysia (YIM) website at www.yim.my

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