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PRESS RELEASE

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

MALAYSIA TO ATTAIN SUSTAINABILITY TARGET THROUGH THE NATIONAL PLANETARY HEALTH ACTION PLAN

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 July 2024 - Malaysia is committed to attaining sustainability targets through several national policies and roadmaps that drive policy measures and actions to reduce carbon emissions, accelerate the adoption of renewable energy technologies, and enhance environmental conservation. As such, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), with the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM), is currently developing the National Planetary Health Action Plan (NPHAP) that aims to integrate planetary health into national policies, ensuring a holistic approach to sustainability.

In his opening speech at the National Dialogue on Planetary Health: Interconnectivity of Humans, Planet and Prosperity, Minister of MOSTI, YB Tuan Chang Lih Kang, said, "MOSTI's commitment extends through the implementation of the Five National Technology Roadmaps, which focus on sectors critical to planetary health, such as Green Technology, Electrical and Electronics, Food Technology, Transportation Technology, and Healthcare Services. By developing and deploying technologies that reduce environmental impacts, we proactively address climate change, promote sustainable agricultural practices, and advance eco-friendly transportation solutions."

He added, "The NPHAP's value proposition lies in its ability to foster collaboration across sectors, integrate traditional and modern knowledge, and provide an impact tracking system framework and environmental genomics database framework. Ultimately, the NPHAP aims to ensure a healthier planet and improved quality of life for all. However, the power of collaboration cannot be overstated. By working together, government, industry, academia, and civil society, we can achieve far more than any of us could alone."

The National Science Council, chaired by the Prime Minister, mandated MOSTI and ASM to develop the integrated NPHAP in 2022. The NPHAP is humanity-centric, STI-enabled, nature-based, and values-driven. Its development is a mission-oriented plan that takes an all-of-Malaysia approach to ensuring the health of the people, biodiversity (flora and fauna), and planet. The concept of planetary health is rooted in the understanding that human health and civilisation depend on the health of natural systems.

Globally, the planetary health movement is gaining momentum, with countries increasingly recognising the need to address climate change as part of their health and economic strategies. International frameworks like the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) guide nations towards more sustainable practices.

ASM President, Academician Datuk Dr Tengku Mohd Azzman Shariffadeen FASc said, “We need to develop a post-normal science that is based on a set of norms that truly reflect our realities. This will enable us to deal effectively and wisely with Planetary Health. This is an agenda where ASM has to take leadership. Still, all of us here today have a role in determining the direction that it will take. After all post-normal science will be part and parcel of an integrated system of human knowledge.”

The National Dialogue on Planetary Health is a platform for meaningful exchanges and collaborative problem-solving. It aims to enhance awareness about the NPHAP, secure national-level buy-in, obtain validation and suggestions from stakeholders, and synergise efforts with existing national policies. The event emphasised the importance of cross-sector collaboration, integrating traditional and modern knowledge, and engaging local communities, positioning Malaysia as a leader in the global pursuit of planetary health.

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Media kit: https://bit.ly/NationalDialogue_PlanetaryHealth

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