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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

## PRESS RELEASE

### MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

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#### ***NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM 2024 (NBS2024)***

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**PENANG, November 19, 2024** – The National Biotechnology Symposium 2024 (NBS 2024) was officiated today by Yang Berbahagia Dato' Ts. Dr. Hj. Aminuddin bin Hassim, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MOSTI). Held at the Bertam Resort & Water Park, Penang, this fourth edition of NBS was hosted by the National Institutes of Biotechnology Malaysia (NIBM), an agency under MOSTI, in collaboration with key institutions, organizations, and industry partners. These include the Institute for Medical Research (IMR), Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Bioeconomy Corporation, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Malaysia Pepper Board (MPB), and Kolej Kemahiran Tinggi MARA (KKTM).

“With the theme ‘Navigating Plant-Based Research Towards Botanical Medicine,’ NBS 2024 underscores the crucial role of botanical medicines in modern healthcare. Malaysia, with over 15,000 medicinal plant species, holds immense potential to lead global research in this field. By integrating traditional knowledge with advanced scientific methodologies, we can position Malaysia as a key player in the international herbal market while safeguarding and responsibly utilizing our biodiversity,” said Yang Berbahagia Dato' Ts. Dr. Hj. Aminuddin bin Hassim in his opening address.

Highlighting the significance of the National Biotechnology Policy 2.0 (NBP 2.0), Yang Berbahagia Dato' Ts. Dr. Hj. Aminuddin further stated, “NIBM's Flagship Program 3 exemplifies how we can bridge the gap between laboratory research and commercial applications. With state-of-the-art natural product research capabilities and a certified

product development facility at the Malaysian Institute of Pharmaceuticals and Nutraceuticals (IPharm) in Penang, NIBM accelerates the transformation of research outputs into market-ready products that meet stringent regulatory standards. This infrastructure empowers researchers and industry partners to bring their innovations to market more efficiently, ensuring compliance with critical quality benchmarks.”

A major highlight of the symposium was the signing and exchange of a Contract Research Agreement with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia, alongside the exchange of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Abmanan Biomedical Sdn Bhd, Arjingga Ventures Sdn Bhd, and Fuciphagus Agritech Sdn Bhd. These agreements mark a significant step forward in fostering international collaborations and advancing Malaysia’s biotechnology sector.

Yang Berbahagia Professor Datuk Wira Dr. Raha Abdul Rahim FASc, Chief Executive Officer of NIBM, commented, “The partnerships and insights gained from NBS 2024 will strengthen our collaborative efforts, drive innovation, and enhance our capacity for impactful research and development in biotechnology. By forging these strategic alliances, we aim to create a synergy that not only advances scientific achievements but also contributes to societal well-being through innovative solutions.”

NBS 2024 brought together a diverse community of researchers, practitioners, and industry leaders to share expertise and insights in the field of biotechnology, with a special focus on botanical medicine. The symposium serves as a platform to foster dialogue, explore opportunities, and build meaningful collaborations to position Malaysia as a global leader in the herbal and botanical medicine industries.

This version improves the readability and flow while maintaining professionalism and ensuring all key points are presented clearly. Let me know if further adjustments are needed!

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