

# Three phases, nine thrusts

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**M**ALAYSIA'S National Biotechnology Policy (NBP), which was launched in April 2005, will be a new economic engine of growth for the country.

The policy aims to build a conducive R&D environment for industry development while leveraging on the country's existing areas of strength.

The plan is to have at least 400 biotechnology-related companies by 2010 and 20 global Malaysian players by 2020.

The NBP, which is boosted under the Ninth Malaysia Plan, gives impetus to the biotechnology sector while addressing vital aspects of its development.

It addresses priority areas such as legal, safety and financial issues.

The NBP is underpinned by nine policy thrusts to transform and enhance the value creation of the biotechnology sector.

Areas of priority are agriculture, healthcare and industrial biotechnology.

The policy is divided into three main phases:

Phase One (2005-2010) focuses on capacity building and the establishment of the:

- Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation
- Advisory and implementation councils
- Education and training of knowledge workers
- Development of a legal and intellectual property (IP) framework
- Creation of jobs in the areas of agriculture, healthcare and industrial biotechnology

Phase Two (2010-2015) will emphasise business aspects, such as developing expertise in drug discovery and development of natural resources.

It will also examine new product development, technology acquisition and licensing.

Phase Three (2016-2020) will be based on the results achieved in the first two phases and taking local

biotech companies to international status.

The NBP is underpinned by nine policy thrusts:

## **Thrust One: Agriculture Biotechnology Development**

Transform and enhance the value creation of the agricultural sector through biotechnology

## **Thrust Two: Healthcare Biotechnology Development**

Capitalise on the strengths of biodiversity to commercialise discoveries in natural products as well as position Malaysia in the bio-generics market

## **Thrust Three: Industrial Biotechnology Development**

Ensure growth opportunities in the application of advanced bio-processing and bio-manufacturing technologies

## **Thrust Four: R&D Technology Development**

Establish centres of excellence, in existing or new institutions, to

bring together multidisciplinary research teams in co-ordinated research and commercialisation initiatives.

Accelerate technology development via strategic acquisitions

## **Thrust Five: Human Capital Development**

Build the nation's biotech human resource capability in line with market needs through special schemes, programmes and training

## **Thrust Six: Financial Infrastructure Development**

Apply competitive "lab to market" funding and incentives to promote committed participation by academia, the private sector as well as government-linked companies.

Implement sufficient exit mechanisms for investments in biotech

## **Thrust Seven: Legislative and Regulatory Framework Development**

Create an enabling environment

through continuous reviews of the country's regulatory framework and procedures in line with global standards and best practices.

Develop a strong intellectual property protection regime to support R&D and commercialisation efforts

## **Thrust Eight: Strategic Positioning**

Establish a global market strategy to build recognition for Malaysian biotech and benchmark progress. Establish Malaysia as a centre for Contract Research Organisations and Contract Manufacturing Organisations

## **Thrust nine: Government Commitment**

Establish a dedicated and professional implementation agency overseeing the development of Malaysia's biotech industry, under the aegis of the Prime Minister and relevant government ministries