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Najib to chair fifth science and innovation meeting in New York

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PUTRAJAYA: The Global Science and Innovation Advisory Council (GSIAC) meeting on Sept 28 in New York will mark the fifth time that Malaysian leaders will engage with leading global thinkers, academicians, policymakers, Nobel laureates and industry captains to discuss science, technology and innovation (STI).

The three-hour meeting, co-organised by the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (Might) and the New York Academy of Science (NYAS), will be chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Science adviser to the Prime Minister and GSIAC joint-secretary Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid said among the highlights of the meeting were the six strategic thrusts and game-changers of the 11th Malaysia Plan.

"These strategies will focus on how STI will help realise the plan.

"The six elements are unlocking

potential of productivity, uplifting Bottom 40 per cent households towards middle-class society, enabling industry-led technical and vocational education and training, embarking on green growth, investing in competitive cities and translating innovation to wealth.

"I believe that STI will be the impetus in ensuring that Malaysia will be a developed nation by 2020 and beyond.

"STI elements have been successfully embedded in the thrusts and game-changers of the 11th Malaysia Plan will be co-ordinated and implemented through science into action initiatives," Zakri said after chairing the National Coordinating Committee meeting with local council members and ex-officios

from relevant ministries and agencies here yesterday.

GSIAC is a strategic platform that bridges the gap between local and international players and is Najib's "kitchen cabinet" on mat-

ters concerning science and technology development in the country.

Zakri, who is Might chairman, said this was in line with action plans proposed by the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) through its review of Malaysia's innovation policy this year that called for the development of a dynamic, knowledgeable and innovative nation.

According to the OECD report, Malaysia could achieve this through an improved governance system, increased research and development in public and private sectors, strategic partnerships and human capital development in STI.

Might president and chief executive officer Datuk Dr Mohd Yusoff Sulaiman said GSIAC had proven to be an excellent model and a successful platform to foster an effective STI ecosystem for the creation of knowledge, wealth and opportunities.

This year's meeting will pay tribute to the late Tan Sri Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis for his contribution and foresight towards the establishment and operations of GSIAC.



Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid