

PREDOMINANTLY WESTERN-BASED THINKING

INCLUDE ISLAMIC KNOWLEDGE IN A.I., SAYS PM

Anwar calls for integration of Turath in the tech so that Islamic views are not left out

MOHD NASARUDDIN PARZI
SHAH ALAM
news@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called for the youth to integrate and incorporate the

wealth of Islamic knowledge and Turath (heritage books) into the corpus of artificial intelligence

(AI) technology. He said this was to prevent the technology from being dominated by Western elements and materials.

“If we want to succeed, we must train our children who have AI skills and expertise to integrate and incorporate the wealth of Islamic knowledge and Turath into

the AI corpus.

“What the new AI robots project and regurgitate is based on the knowledge that has been input into them. Right now, we are leaving it to the West.

“That’s why I said Turath is relevant. It must also be included in AI so that what is produced and expressed from Islamic countries is not left out of the system.”

He said this in a speech before launching the Riyadus Salihin Imam Al-Nawawi Seminar at Masjid Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah here yesterday.

Present were former grand imam of Egypt Professor Dr Ali Jum’ah, Quantum Akhyar Institute Islamic Studies Centre director Dr Adi Hidayat and Selangor



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (centre) launching the Riyadus Salihin Imam Al-Nawawi Seminar at Masjid Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah in Shah Alam yesterday. With him are former grand imam of Egypt Professor Dr Ali Jum’ah (second from left) and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari (second from right). PIC FROM ANWAR IBRAHIM’S FACEBOOK

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari.

Anwar added that Malaysia must not be separated and left behind by the rest of the world’s technological advancements and rapid developments.

“It is impossible for Malaysia or Islamic countries to be safe without reaching for the skies, exploring, and discovering new digital and AI innovations.

“All of these have value. Who says digital, science, or AI has no value? They do.

“I asked the executive directors of Microsoft and Nvidia — the latter being among the top AI

companies in the world — about developing AI and the digital landscape in Malaysia. The values being nurtured are Western thinking.

“Even though AI is considered neutral, the entire corpus of knowledge can be included. Questions are answered in full (geographical relevance).

“So, if AI is to be developed in Malaysia, we strongly push for AI faculties and universities to be established.”

Meanwhile, Anwar said the government had never set a policy what is considered essential knowledge for students, referring

to the introduction of Imam Al-Nawawi’s 40 Hadith appreciation activity in schools.

“In the world of social media, knowledge-gaining is only a click away, but traditionally, knowledge must be read, digested and internalised.

“True appreciation of knowledge cannot possibly be achieved through shortcuts like this.”

The Education Ministry, in a statement, said Imam Al-Nawawi’s 40 Hadith appreciation would be implemented in all educational institutions in the 2024/2025 school session to uphold the banner of Islam.