

**Set Up Social Media System To Nurture Innovation, Says Muhyiddin
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 10 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has proposed the setting up of a social media system under the auspices of the Annual Science and Innovation Movement 2012 (SGI2012) in an effort to cultivate science and innovation among youths.

He said this would attract youths, who were a dynamic, powerful, innovative and creative group, to be the prime mover in accelerating the development of science, technology and innovation.

"As social media is an arena for young people interact, it has the potential of attracting over 17 million people targeted by the Innovation Movement, 80 per cent of them young people aged below 40 years," he said when opening the Annual Science and Innovation 2012 here Monday night.

He said this could make a big impact on efforts to cultivate science, creativity and innovations in striving to produce more innovative Malaysians.

Muhyiddin said in an effort to nurture innovative citizens, the government had introduced various awards such as the National Innovation Award, the Prime Minister Innovation Award, the Civil Service Innovation Award, the Young Scientist National Award and the Cipta 1Malaysia Award (C1PTA).

Muhyiddin said 310 products had successfully been marketed locally and abroad from 1,862 research and development (R&D) projects through grants awarded by the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry (MOSTI) following the government's emphasis on innovation.

"From 2008 to 2011, 13,213 applications for funds worth RM7.34 billion were received, of which RM1.59 billion was approved for 2,029 projects," he said.

The R&D funds were open to small and medium industry companies, research institutions and universities in the ICT (information technology and communication), biotechnology, science and technology, and sea and space sectors.

Muhyiddin said MOSTI had allocated RM2.2 billion for R&D under the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

"Apart from providing grants, the government also supported national R&D capabilities through human capital development in the field of research.

"This is done by offering scholarships through the Human Capital Development Programme," he added.

The scholarship schemes include the National Science Fellowship, post-graduate research scholarships for universities and the post-graduate research scholarship scheme for

government officers.

Muhyiddin said the government also allocated RM9.44 million for the post-doctoral research scheme to 18 public research institutions and public universities in an effort to strengthen research and development in various key areas.

On SGI2012, he hoped it would stress on efforts to enhance knowledge transformation to products, process, service or solutions to add value to various sectors with the aim of maximising socio-economic benefits for the people.

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