

**DPM: Innovation key to growth**  
**New Straits Times**  
**6 November 2012**  
**By KAMARUL YUNUS**

DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: New science, technology and innovation policy to inspire people from all walks of life

KUALA LUMPUR: THE Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti) will spearhead numerous initiatives to place science and innovation in the mainstream at all levels and sectors, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said this would be done through the formulation and implementation of an enhanced Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policy and science act, besides the establishment of the National Science and Research Council that plays a pivotal role in the planning and monitoring of the development of STI in Malaysia.

"I hope the 'Innovation Decade 2010-2020' will help to ignite and inspire people from all walks of life to embrace STI in making Malaysia a creative and innovative nation," he said in his keynote address at the launch of the World Innovation Forum-Kuala Lumpur (WIF-KL 2012) here yesterday.

Acknowledging the importance of STI in accelerating economic growth, Muhyiddin said the government had declared 2010 as the Malaysia Innovative Year, followed by the Year of Science last year, and the Year of Science and Innovation Movement this year.

"STI has long been placed at the centre of the country's development agenda. Many programmes and activities to popularise and enculturate science and innovation in the society at large have been carried out.

"Indeed, the decade starting from 2010 to 2020 can be regarded as a decade of innovation for Malaysia," he said, adding that various programmes had been and would be spearheaded by Mosti, with the cooperation of other ministries, agencies and strategic partners to foster and promote science and innovation.

Speaking to reporters later, Muhyiddin said the government's current focus was to enculturate science and innovation throughout the nation at the grassroots level.

"During the WIF-KL 2012 exposition, I saw many achievements and success displayed. In fact, I was informed that the gross national income (GNI) contribution by science and technology has exceeded the original target.

"By hosting this WIF-KL forum, we were able to bring in experts from about 50 countries so that we can exchange new ideas through discussions, interactions and forum.

"I'm sure this will further add value to our current GNI."

He also took note of the participation of small and medium enterprises, farmers and fishermen who had displayed new and innovative ideas at the exposition.

Muhyiddin said the pivotal role of STI had always been at the heart of economic and social development.

Copyright © 2012 The New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Berhad.

Source: <http://www.nst.com.my/nation/general/dpm-innovation-key-to-growth-1.167205>