

**Merger Of Ministries Catalyst For Education Transformation - Muhyiddin
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PUTRAJAYA, Aug 20 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the merger of the Higher Education ministry and Education ministry would spur the transformation of education in the country to be on par with international education standards by 2020.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education minister, said the merger of the two major entities would ensure continuity of quality and more dynamic policies and programmes in the national education system.

"The merger is a big step taken by the government in striving for progression of national education and should be maintained under one roof to facilitate administration.

"Through this merger, the Malaysian Education Blueprint 2013 - 2025 and National Higher Education Strategic Plan would be strengthened.

"Human capital mobility in the field of education will be more active and effective when academicians cooperate with teaching staff to determine the direction of the national education," he said when launching the National Academic Awards 2011 and 2012 here Tuesday.

At the function, Muhyiddin presented the Tokoh Akademik Negara (Academician of the Year) 2012 award to Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Nik Safiah Abdul Karim (Universiti Malaya) and Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Abdul Latif Ibrahim (Universiti Industri Selangor) while Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Asmah Omar of Universiti Malaya was the recipient of the Tokoh Akademik Negara 2011 award.

The award carries a RM200,000 cash prize, trophy and certificate of appreciation.

Also present were Second Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh, Education deputy ministers Datuk Mary Yap Kain Ching and P. Kamalanathan, Education Ministry secretary-general Datuk Dr Madinah Mohamad and Education Ministry secretary-general II, Datuk Seri Dr Zaini Ujang.

Muhyiddin said all levels of education would share resources and expertise to ensure efficient management of the education system.

He said education transformation initiatives could be implemented more efficiently with the consolidation of expertise at all levels to achieve multiple expansions in national education.

The Education Ministry need also to look at the education system of developed countries where Education and Higher Education curriculum structure were concerned, he said.

The collaboration among teachers in schools and higher learning institutions will surely produce human capital, with the capability to innovate and explore new fields that would determine the progress and future accomplishments of the country," he said.

Meanwhile, Muhyiddin said university researches could produce more knowledgeable and

scientifically and technically skilled human capital.

This can be achieved through collaborations with other bodies. The research findings will not only create an impact or advantages for the researchers, they could also be shared by other parties through commercialisation," he said.

He added that Malaysia's research and development-based products had been successfully commercialised, which would surely produce an impact from the aspect of knowledge towards improving the national quality of life, industrial development and economic growth.

Following are recipients of the National Academic Awards 2012:

Academician of the Year: Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Nik Safiah Abdul Karim (Universiti Malaya) and Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Abdul Latif Ibrahim (Universiti Industri Selangor)

Journal Publications Award: Dr Ng Eng Poh (Universiti Sains Malaysia) and Dr Siti Nurazira Mohd Daud (Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia)

Innovation and Product Commercialisation Award: Prof Dr Ahmad Fauzi Ismail (Universiti Teknologi Malaysia)

Arts and Creativity Award (Arts Performance) Dr Joanne Yeoh Pei Sze (Universiti Putra Malaysia) and (Visual Arts) Junaidi Awang (Universiti Teknologi Mara) and (Creative Writing) Prof Dr Mulyadi Mahamood (Universiti Teknologi Mara)

Following are the recipients of the National Academic Awards 2011: Academician of the Year: Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Asmah Omar (Universiti Malaya)

Journal Publications Award (Social Science/Literature): Prof Dr Gurdial Singh Nijar (Universiti Malaya)

Book Publication Award: Dr Nik Haslinda Nik Hussain (Universiti Sains Malaysia)

Innovation and Product Commercialisation Award: Prof Dr Mohd Hair Bejo (Universiti Putra Malaysia)

Arts and Creativity Award (Arts Performance): Associate Prof Abdul Razak Mohaideen (Universiti Teknologi Mara)

Promising Academician Award: Prof Dr Mohd Adzir Mahdi (Universiti Putra Malaysia)

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