

Academia, Industry Must Work Together To Harness Biotech Potential, Says Idris Jusoh
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PUTRAJAYA, March 6 (Bernama) -- The academia and industry players must work together to harness the potential of biotechnology, which could be contributed to the economy, Second Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said Thursday.

He said the bioeconomy could create about 160,000 jobs, attract more than RM15 billion investments and has the potential to contribute more than RM40 billion to the Gross National Income (GNI) by 2020.

"It was time to start to bridge the gap between the academia and the industry to produce results for the betterment and survival of the nation.

"When we are able to connect both academic institutions and the private sector, we are able to realise the potential that bioeconomy can offer us," he told a news conference after launching the Science to Action (S2A) for Bioeconomy seminar here Thursday.

Idris said the seminar was one of the efforts to increase the cooperation.

The one-day seminar focused on the implementation of the Bioeconomy Transformation Programme in line with the S2A's initiative to increase cooperation between academic institutions and the private sector for the development of science, technology and innovation, particularly in bio-based industries.

Meanwhile, the Science Advisor to the Prime Minister, Prof Emeritus Datuk Seri Dr Zakri Abdul Hamid, thanked BiotechCorp for taking the initiative to help realise the S2A programme within the bioeconomy sector.

"Bioeconomy has been a major driving factor and is delivering results that count for the industry.

"BiotechCorp continues to lean and build the biotechnology business and as seen pushing the sector to new frontiers," added Zakri, who is also BiotechCorp chairman.

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