

Najib Thanks UNESCO For Trust In Malaysia In Advancing Science Agenda

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has expressed his gratitude for the trust placed upon Malaysia by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in advancing the science agenda.

This was conveyed by Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Noorul Ainur Mohd Nur at the meeting of the Science Commission of the 38th Session of the UNESCO General Conference in Paris, according to a statement from the ministry.

Noorul Ainur is the new chairperson of the Science Commission.

In her opening remarks at the debate session, she noted that science, technology and innovation was increasingly recognised as an essential component for strategies in promoting inclusive growth and sustainable development.

"UNESCO in general, and Science Commission, specifically, has a pivotal role in humanising science," she said, adding that STI was a catalyst for knowledge generation, and more importantly, for wealth creation and society's well-being.

"I envisage a greater synergy and collaboration between the natural and social sciences, as well as other UNESCO fields of competence," she said.

Noorul Ainur had previously served as the Asia Pacific vice-president of the UNESCO Management of Social Transformation Programme Intergovernmental Council.

The Commission also endorsed the proposed establishment of 17 new UNESCO Category II institutes and centres.

Under this category, the host country finances the operational costs of such facilities and benefits from UNESCO's multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral expertise.

Malaysia has two such centres, namely the Institute for South-South International Cooperation and the Humid Tropics Centre.

The Commission also approved a draft resolution to allocate US\$667 million for its 2016/2017 programmes.

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