

## **Malaysia, Indonesia Must Strengthen Cooperation In Science And Technology**

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GEORGETOWN, Nov 17 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Indonesia need to strengthen cooperation in the field of science and technology to face major challenges in the future, said Research, Technology and Higher Education Minister of Indonesia, Professor Dr H. Mohamad Nasir.

He said Malaysia and Indonesia's membership in the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology should be developed with collaboration between the private and public sectors, especially in small and medium industries to enhance mobility to a more global level.

"The Asean Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation for 2016-2025 must be accomplished mainly through close cooperation with the integration and collaboration of the private and public sectors to enhance innovative talents useful to society," he said in his acceptance speech on receiving an honorary degree from USM Chancellor, the Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail, here today.

The recipient of the Honorary Doctorate of Education Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), said the plan could also accomplished by making science and technology a culture among the community.

"What is important is efforts must be accompanied by the development of trade, commercialisation of technology and entrepreneurship through various existing networks to enable product innovation from ASEAN countries meet the global market," he said.

He said Indonesia was committed and prepared to implement conscientious efforts to achieve these objective together with ASEAN member countries, especially Malaysia.

Mohamad Nasir graduated with a PhD in Accounting from USM in 2004 and became Rector of the Universitas Deponegoro Indonesia in 2014 before being appointed minister in President Joko 'Jokowi' Widodo's cabinet.

Chairman of K.L.E Society of India, Dr Prabhakar Basaprabhu Kore, was also conferred the Honorary Doctorate of Education at USM's 52nd convocation and Taylor's University vice chancellor and president, Prof Datuk Dr Hassan Said was conferred the Professor Emeritus award.

At the ceremony, 376 graduates received their PhD and master's degrees and the first batch of 48 medical doctors under the USM-KLE offshore International Medical Programme received their degrees.

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