

PM Urges Three Ministries to Formulate Stem Action Plan

Bernama

Jan 28, 2016

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 28 (Bernama) - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has urged three ministries to formulate an action plan for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to help the country achieve developed status.

He said the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation can mobilise forces to plan and report to the National Science Council.

"STEM is vital to help the country achieve developed status. It is also an important element in Science to Action (S2A). Mastery in STEM can still be enhanced," he said at the first meeting of the National Science Council (NSC) at Bangunan Perdana Putra, here today.

Malaysia's scientific output has also increased by 28 per cent annually, making it among the highest in the world, and this bodes well for the country.

Citing the country's three scientists recognised by Thomson Reuters, he hoped more scientists would conduct research that was recognised internationally.

Najib wanted the research and development (R&D) to be based on the reality in Malaysia and relevant to economic growth and the people's wellbeing.

The ASEAN Economic Community and the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) will give access to international markets and enhance economic growth.

Najib suggested that the NSC, via the Malaysian Science Academy and the National Professors Council, create a mechanism to identify opportunities for new industries based on science and technology.

"In addition, this mechanism is expected to enhance human capital with the collaboration of the economists."

He said the use of science, technology and innovation was most important in the prevention of disasters such as flood, earthquake, haze and dengue fever.

"I understand that a study by the Expert Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction led by the Science Advisor will be presented at the NSC meeting.

"This follows my suggestion to the APEC Chief Science Advisors and Equivalents recently to find a solution to the haze problem," he added.

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