

**SPEECH BY TUN DR MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD
AT ISFAHAN, IRAN ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2006**

“CREATING THE RIGHT PLATFORMS FOR KNOWLEDGE BASED BUSINESSES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES”

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE ORGANIZERS, ISFAHAN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY TOWN FOR THIS INVITATION TO VISIT THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY OF ISFAHAN AND TO SPEAK AT THIS CONFERENCE AND TO THANK THE GOVERNOR OF ISFAHAN FOR HOSTING MY VISIT.

THE WORLD HAS ENTERED THE INFORMATION AGE, THE MOST RADICAL ECONOMIC CHANGE SINCE THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. WE MISSED THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND WE HAD TO PAY A HIGH PRICE BY HAVING OUR DEVELOPMENT STUNTED. WE CANNOT AFFORD NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW ECONOMIC REVOLUTION BASED ON KNOWLEDGE AND UNLIMITED AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION. IF WE MISS THIS ONE WE WILL FOREVER BE BACKWARD AND HEGEMONISED.

BUSINESS NEEDS KNOWLEDGE. THAT MUCH IS OBVIOUS. BUT SOME FIND THE SAME KNOWLEDGE MORE USEFUL THAN OTHERS. AND THOSE WHO SEE MORE POTENTIAL IN A PIECE OF INFORMATION WILL GAIN MORE FROM IT. IN BUSINESS THIS SPELLS MORE PROFIT. IN WAR THIS PROBABLY SPELLS VICTORY.

THERE IS A SIMPLE STORY WHICH ILLUSTRATES THIS. LONG BEFORE MODERN COMMUNICATION, SIGHT AND SOUND I.E. THE EYES AND EARS DIRECTLY PROVIDED ALL THE INFORMATION. BUT MAKING USE OF THE INFORMATION REQUIRES THE ABILITY TO THINK – I.E. TO ANALYSE THE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY IT.

200 HUNDRED YEARS OR SO AGO THE OWNER OF A SUNDRY GOODS SHOP IN A SMALL TOWN IN SCOTLAND DID BETTER THAN HIS COMPETITORS. ALL THAT HE DID WAS TO CLIMB A HILL BEHIND THE TOWN. FROM THERE HE COULD SEE THE ATLANTIC OCEAN SPREADING OUT WEST AS FAR AS THE HORIZON.

HIS SHARP EYE WOULD MAKE OUT A BLACK DOT THAT HE RECOGNIZED AS THE SHIP WHICH BROUGHT SUPPLIES TO THIS REMOTE SMALL OUTPOST. WHEN HE SAW THE SHIP HE WOULD CLAMBER DOWN BACK TO HIS SHOP AND WOULD BEGIN TO DISPOSE OF HIS STOCK AT COMPETITIVE PRICES, LESS THAN THOSE DEMANDED BY OTHER STOCKIST BUT MORE THAN THE LOWEST PRICES OF NEW STOCK HE WAS EXPECTING THE SHIP TO BRING.

WHEN A DAY OR TWO LATER THE SUPPLY SHIP ARRIVED, HE HAD SOLD ALL HIS OLD STOCK AND COULD REPLENISH WITH THE CHEAPER NEW SUPPLY. HIS COMPETITORS WERE SADDLED WITH OLD STOCK WHICH COULD NOT BE SOLD.

THE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE SUPPLY WAS EASILY OBTAINED BUT THE APPLICATION HAD TO BE FIGURED OUT. TODAY WE LIVE IN THE INFORMATION AGE. THE INFORMATION THAT WE GET NOW COMES IN TORRENTS, ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE. THE FIRST NEED IS TO SIFT THROUGH THE INFORMATION, TO IDENTIFY USEFUL INFORMATION. THEN THERE IS A NEED TO THINK OUT HOW THE INFORMATION COULD BE USED FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE WE HAVE IN MIND

WHEN MICRO-CIRCUITS WERE FIRST DEVELOPED, THE FIRST APPLICATION WAS IN CALCULATORS. IN FACT, IT WAS THE NEED TO CALCULATE FAST THAT MECHANICAL METHODS WERE DEvised, THE ABACUS FOR EXAMPLE. THEN CAME THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC CALCULATORS. FROM THERE TO THE CELLULAR PHONES MAY APPEAR TO BE A GIANT LEAP. BUT THE PRINCIPLE IS STILL THE SAME, THAT OF SUBTRACTING AND ADDING FIGURES, BINARY FIGURES.

AT EACH STEP, FOR THE DISCERNING BUSINESS MEN OPPORTUNITIES PRESENT THEMSELVES. FROM THE SIMPLE TELEGRAPHIC SIGNALS TO THE CELLULAR PHONES THOUSANDS OF BUSINESSES DEVELOPED.

DATA CAN NOW BE EASILY TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE CELLULAR PHONE. IT TOOK SOMEONE WITH IDEAS TO COME UP WITH THE SMS I.E. THE SHORT MESSAGES SERVICE. THE CELLULAR PHONE WAS NOT DESIGNED FOR THIS AND THIS WAS NEVER A PART OF THE INFORMATION SERVICE BEFORE. BUT THE CAPACITY OF THE MICROCHIP MADE THIS POSSIBLE AND WE NOW KNOW HOW POPULAR THE SMS HAS BECOME. EVERYDAY, MILLIONS OF SMS ARE SENT, GIVING THE TELECOM COMPANIES HUGE PROFITS. A BUSINESS THAT NEVER EXISTED AND WAS NEVER THOUGHT OF HAS BECOME A BIG BUSINESS AND A MONEY-SPINNER.

BUT SOMEONE COMBINED THE PUBLIC OPINION POLL WITH THE SMS AND OUT OF THAT DEVELOPED THE "AMERICAN IDOL" SHOW, A PUBLIC POLL THROUGH THE SMS OF WHICH INDIVIDUAL IS THE MOST POPULAR. OBVIOUSLY THE IDEA WAS TO INCREASE THE SMS MESSAGES AND TO GIVE THE TELECOMS COMPANIES A HUGE PROFIT. YET ANOTHER BUSINESS WITH NUMEROUS SPIN-OFF HAS DEVELOPED.

ON THE INTERNET THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEARCH ENGINES SUCH AS WINDOWS, YAHOO, GOOGLE HAVE EARNED THE SOFTWARE COMPANIES BILLIONS OF DOLLARS. WE CAN SAY THAT THE IDEA STARTED WITH THE CLASSIFICATION OF WORDS FOR EASY ACCESS IN A DICTIONARY. SEARCH ENGINES ARE NOTHING MORE THAN SOPHISTICATED DICTIONARIES.

WE SEE TODAY CERTAIN LOCATIONS WHERE THE KNOWLEDGE-BASED BUSINESSES HAVE FLOURISHED. THERE IS SILICON VALLEY IN CALIFORNIA AND BANGALORE IN INDIA. ONE IS IN A HIGHLY DEVELOPED COUNTRY WHILE

THE OTHER IS IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY. IT TOOK SOME TIME BEFORE THESE PLACES WERE RECOGNISED. BUT TODAY THERE ARE MANY MORE. HYDERABAD IN INDIA HAS ALSO DEVELOPED AS A CENTRE FOR KNOWLEDGE-BASED INDUSTRIES. BEING A DEVELOPING COUNTRY APPARENTLY DOES NOT HINDER THE DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE-BASED BUSINESSES.

KNOWLEDGE-BASED BUSINESSES SPAN THE WHOLE SPECTRUM OF BUSINESS. FROM WRITING SOFTWARE TO THE PRODUCTION OF HARDWARE, TO THE APPLICATIONS OF THE POWER OF THE HARDWARE; THERE ARE A WHOLE RANGE OF BUSINESSES. THEN THERE WOULD BE THE DESIGN OF MICRO-CIRCUITRY IN ORDER TO PERFORM SPECIFIC JOBS. ANYONE OF THE THOUSANDS OF BUSINESSES BASED ON ALL OF THESE CAN BE CHOSEN IN ORDER TO PROPEL THE KNOWLEDGE-BASED BUSINESSES IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY.

I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO BE ALWAYS ORIGINAL OR UNIQUE. IT IS EASIER TO DO WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING. BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO IDENTIFY THE ASSETS THAT EACH COUNTRY HAS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHICH KIND OF BUSINESS, WHICH NICHE IS THE CORRECT ONE FOR A COUNTRY.

VERY EARLY AFTER THE INFORMATION AGE STARTED MALAYSIA DECIDED TO ENTER THIS IT FIELD. WE MISSED THE INDUSTRIAL AGE BECAUSE WE WERE UNDER COLONIAL RULE WHEN THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION STARTED. WE DID NOT WANT TO MISS THIS REVOLUTION BASED ON INFORMATION.

WE REALLY HAD LITTLE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE BUSINESSES WHICH CAN DEVELOP FROM THE NEW TECHNOLOGY. BUT WE HAD EXPERIENCE IN ENCOURAGING AND ATTRACTING INVESTMENTS DURING THE SWITCH FROM AGRICULTURE TO INDUSTRY. THIS EXPERIENCE WAS OUR ASSET WHICH WE DECIDED TO USE FOR OUR INVOLVEMENT IN IT.

BUSINESS LIKES A FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT. AND WE SET-OUT TO CREATE THAT ENVIRONMENT. WE SET UP THE MULTIMEDIA SUPER CORRIDOR WHERE IT BUSINESS ACTIVITIES WOULD BE WELCOMED WITH INCENTIVES AND PRIVILEGES. WITH THE CORRIDOR MEASURING 50 KM BY 15 KM, IT INDUSTRIES CAN BE SET-UP RANGING FROM RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TO ACTUAL MANUFACTURING OF HARDWARE. ALL THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURES WERE PUT IN – PARTICULARLY TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE AND INTERNET ACCESS.

GOVERNMENT WOULD BE READY TO HELP. THERE WOULD BE NO TAXES, AS WE WERE INTERESTED MAINLY IN LEARNING ABOUT THE NEW BUSINESS. FOREIGN AND LOCAL COMPANIES WERE WELCOME. A BILL OF GUARANTEE WAS DRAWN UP SO THAT INVESTING COMPANIES ARE ASSURED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SUDDEN CHANGE OF POLICY WHICH WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR BUSINESSES.

A MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY WAS SET-UP TO TRAIN PERSONNEL FOR THE IT INDUSTRIES. LOCAL SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCHERS LIVING AND WORKING OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY WERE WELCOME TO RETURN.

THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE CORRIDOR WAS GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION. AN INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY PANEL CONSISTING OF CEOS OF WELL-KNOWN WORLD-CLASS COMPANIES WAS SET-UP TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE DIRECTION WE SHOULD TAKE AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE INDUSTRY AND INVESTORS.

TODAY THE MULTIMEDIA SUPER CORRIDOR HAS MORE THAN 1,000 COMPANIES OF WHICH MORE THAN 50 ARE WORLD-CLASS. MANY OF THE COMPANIES ARE MALAYSIAN AND SOME OF THE IT PRODUCTS THEY DEVELOPED HAVE BEEN MARKETED WORLDWIDE.

INCUBATORS IN UNIVERSITIES WITHIN THE CORRIDOR PROVIDED YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS WITH BASIC EQUIPMENTS AND FACILITIES FOR RESEARCHERS TO DEVELOP THEIR IDEAS AND PRODUCE AND TEST PROTOTYPES. VENTURE-CAPITAL HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE SO THAT GOOD IDEAS WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO FUNDS IN ORDER TO MATERIALISE THEM.

OUTSOURCING HAS BECOME A BIG BUSINESS WITHIN THE CORRIDOR. BANKS SET-UP PROCESSING CENTRES WHERE APPLICATIONS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE PROCESSED IN CYBERJAYA, NEAR KUALA LUMPUR. SIMILARLY DISTRIBUTION CENTRES FOR COMPONENTS AND SPARE PARTS OF VEHICLES ARE LOCATED IN THE CORRIDOR TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GOOD, CHEAP COMMUNICATION, AND TRANSPORTATION.

ONE OF MALAYSIA'S ADVANTAGE WHICH WE UTILISE IS OUR MULTIRACIAL POPULATION. WE HAVE MALAYS, CHINESE AND INDIANS AND THEY SPEAK ALL THE DIALECTS OF THESE PEOPLE. IN ADDITION, THEY ALL SPEAK ENGLISH AND COULD ACTUALLY UNDERSTAND AND SPEAK THE DIFFERENT ENGLISH, NOT ONLY OF THE BRITISH, AUSTRALIAN, CANADIAN AND AMERICAN BUT ALSO THE PROVINCIAL DIALECTS OF CERTAIN PARTS OF ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND. SUCH IS THEIR MASTERY OF THESE DIALECTS THAT FREQUENTLY THE CLIENTS IN THESE FOREIGN COUNTRIES DID NOT REALIZE THAT THEY WERE TALKING TO MALAYSIANS AND NOT TO THEIR LOCAL PEOPLE.

IN IT THE POSSIBILITIES OF IMPROVING ON THE TECHNOLOGY AND THE APPLICATIONS ARE ALWAYS THERE. THE SHELF-LIFE OF IT PRODUCTS IS USUALLY SHORT. THAT IS BECAUSE PEOPLE, THE RESEARCHERS IN PARTICULAR, WOULD ALWAYS BE SEEKING TO IMPROVE ON THE PRODUCTS AND TO ADD NEW FEATURES. THE CELLULAR PHONE IS NOW A CAMERA AND A TV SET WITH THE CAPABILITY TO TRANSMIT MESSAGES AND PICTURES ETC. THE KOREANS HAVE NOW INTRODUCED 4G TELEPHONE.

IT CAN SAFELY BE ASSUMED THAT ANYTHING YOU LEARN TO MAKE, EVERY BUSINESS THAT YOU DO CAN BE IMPROVED AND NEW BUSINESSES THOUGHT OF AND DEVELOPED. SOME WHICH NEED A LOT OF CAPITAL ARE OBVIOUSLY

UNSUITABLE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. BUT SOME COSTS VERY LITTLE, YET CAN BRING IN A LOT OF RETURNS.

SOFTWARE FOR SEARCH ENGINES ARE BEING IMPROVED ALL THE TIME. GOOGLE DID NOT REQUIRE MILLIONS TO DEVELOP. BASICALLY IT IS THE RESULT OF STUDYING WINDOWS AND YAHOO TO FIND OUT THEIR WEAKNESSES OR DEFICIENCIES. OVER THE YEARS WE CAN EXPECT MORE SEARCH ENGINES TO DEVELOP. WINDOWS IS UPGRADED EVERY YEAR GIVING A LOT OF BUSINESS FOR MICROSOFT.

SOME IT WORK REQUIRE A MASSIVE WORKFORCE. EVEN THE COMPUTERS' POWER TO HELP WITH DESIGNS AND CALCULATIONS CANNOT ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR A HUGE WORKFORCE. PRODUCING WORKERS AND ENGINEERS WOULD BE A BUSINESS IN ITSELF. THERE ARE ANY NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS THAT THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS CAN BE USED FOR.

SOME COMPANIES SPECIALISE IN COMPUTER ANIMATION. AGAIN, DESPITE THE POWER OF COMPUTERS, COMPUTER ANIMATION REQUIRES TIME. THIS WILL PROVIDE A LOT OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESSES.

GOING BEYOND, THERE IS ROBOTICS. THIS FIELD IS DEVELOPING VERY FAST* THE JAPANESE AND THE KOREANS ARE VERY ADVANCED. BUT EVEN YOUNG SCIENTISTS IN MALAYSIA HAVE ACHIEVED PROGRESS WITH DEVELOPING ROBOTS, AND ROBOTIC APPLICATIONS.

SIMULATORS ARE ANOTHER FIELD THAT MAKE USE OF COMPUTERS. ALL AIRCRAFTS HAVE SIMULATORS MANUFACTURED BY WELL-KNOWN COMPANIES IN AMERICA AND EUROPE. BUT SIMPLE SIMULATORS FOR HELICOPTERS AND PILOTING OF SHIPS IN LOCAL HARBOURS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED BY SMALL COMPANIES IN MALAYSIA. I AM SURE OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE ALSO DEVELOPED THEM.

SENSORS ARE BASICALLY INSTRUMENTS FOR INFORMING ON THE STATE OF ANYTHING. IT MAY BE HEAT OR MOVEMENTS OR PROCESS OR CHANGES OF ANY KIND THAT IS HAPPENING. THE INFORMATION CAN OBVIOUSLY BE MADE USED OF BY AN OPERATOR. NOW WHOLE INDUSTRIAL PLANTS ARE MONITORED BY SENSORS WHICH FEED INFORMATION INTO COMPUTERS TO ALLOW THE OPERATOR TO MAKE THE ADJUSTMENT TO OBTAIN THE BEST RESULTS. OIL REFINERIES AND OTHER CHEMICAL PLANTS USE SUCH SENSORS AND ARE CONTROLLED THROUGH COMPUTERS. BUT GOING A STEP FURTHER THE COMPUTERS MAY BE PROVIDED WITH INFORMATION AND PROGRAMMED FOR IT TO ACT BY ITSELF TO DIAGNOSE AND MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGES OR ADJUSTMENTS SO AS TO GET THE DESIRED RESULTS.

CLEARLY THERE ARE MYRIADS OF BUSINESSES THAT CAN BE BASED ON INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE. BUT IT MUST BE ADMITTED THAT SOME COUNTRIES HAVE BENEFITED MORE THAN OTHERS. SOME COUNTRIES ARE DEVELOPED AND SOME ARE DEVELOPING. YET THEY ALL HAVE ACCESS TO THE SAME KNOWLEDGE. THE QUESTION IS WHY IS IT THAT SOME SEEM TO

BENEFIT MORE FROM THE KNOWLEDGE THEY GET WHILE OTHERS BENEFIT LESS OR NOT AT ALL.

IF I MAY BE PERMITTED, I WOULD LIKE TO DIGRESS A LITTLE FROM THE SUBJECT OF MY TALK. WE MAY CREATE THE RIGHT PLATFORM BUT TO BENEFIT FROM IT REQUIRES A CERTAIN ATTITUDE AND FRAME OF MIND. WE KNOW THAT THE EARLY MUSLIMS PRODUCED GREAT SCIENTISTS, MATHEMATICIANS AND PHYSICIANS. THEY WERE WAY AHEAD OF THE EUROPEANS WHO WERE WALLOWING IN IGNORANCE DURING THE DARK AGES.

BUT AROUND THE 15TH CENTURY AD, MUSLIMS WERE TOLD THAT THERE WAS NO MERIT IN LEARNING WHAT THEY CALLED NON-RELIGIOUS SUBJECTS. INSTEAD THEY SHOULD STUDY RELIGION IN ORDER TO GAIN MERIT FOR THE AFTERLIFE. ACCORDINGLY, THEY STOPPED THEIR STUDIES AND RESEARCH INTO THE SCIENCES ETC. AND WITH THAT, ISLAM'S INJUNCTIONS TO OBSERVE I.E. TO APPRECIATE AND UNDERSTAND OR TO LEARN ABOUT THAT WHICH ALLAH CREATED, THE DAY AND THE NIGHT, THE SUN AND THE MOON, THE FERTILITY OF THE SOIL, RAIN ETC WERE NEGLECTED. THE CURIOSITY IN ALLAH'S CREATION NO LONGER LEAD TO INTENSIVE STUDY; IN THE IMPROVEMENTS IN AGRICULTURE, IN INSTRUMENTATION FOR NAVIGATION, IN MANUFACTURING. AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MUSLIMS BECAME LESS AND LESS, I.E. THEY BECAME MORE AND MORE IGNORANT AND BACKWARD.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE EUROPEANS GAINED ACCESS TO THE LIBRARIES AND THE BOOKS ACCUMULATED AND EXPANDED BY THE MUSLIM SCIENTISTS, SCHOLARS AND PHYSICIANS AND THEY ACHIEVED THEIR RENAISSANCE, EMERGING FROM THE DARK AGES WITH THEIR NEW CIVILISATION.

THEY WERE ABLE TO DO THIS BECAUSE THEY DEVELOPED A KEEN SENSE OF CURIOSITY, A DESIRE TO KNOW, AND KNOWING ABOUT ALLAH'S CREATIONS THEY DEVELOPED APPLICATIONS OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE.

THE STUDY OF SCIENCE LEAD TO A DESIRE TO WANT TO KNOW I.E. TO WANT TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE. EVERY FINDING ATTRACTS QUESTIONS AND EVERY QUESTION ANSWERED WOULD LEAD TO MORE FINDINGS AND MORE QUESTIONS. THE QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE IS ENDLESS. IT LED TO THE INDUSTRIAL AGE AND NOW IT HAS BROUGHT US TO THE INFORMATION AGE – THE AGE WHEN MORE THAN EVER KNOWLEDGE DETERMINES OUR SUCCESS OR FAILURE.

THEREFORE, IF WE WANT TO BENEFIT FROM THE KNOWLEDGE AGE WE MUST HAVE THE SENSE OF CURIOSITY OF THE SCIENTISTS. WE MUST HAVE A SCIENTIFIC MIND. THEN ONLY CAN WE DEVELOP BUSINESSES BASED ON KNOWLEDGE. THEN ONLY CAN WE THINK LOGICALLY AND ANALYTICALLY.

SOME OF US ARE AFRAID OF SCIENCE AND THE QUESTIONS THAT IT RAISES AND THE WAY IT TENDS TO REFUTE SOME OF OUR BELIEFS. RELIGIOUS SCHOLARS ARE PARTICULARLY AFRAID OF SCIENCE AS IT CHALLENGES THEIR EXPLANATIONS OF ALLAH'S CREATIONS.

BUT ACTUALLY SCIENCE SHOULD STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH. THIS IS BECAUSE, WHILE IT CAN ANSWER THE QUESTION HOW, SCIENCE CAN NEVER ANSWER THE QUESTION WHY. WHEN WE ASK THE QUESTION WHY, WE WILL GET ONLY ONE ANSWER – IT IS THE WILL OF ALLAH.

WE KNOW THAT WATER IS MADE UP OF TWO ATOMS OF HYDROGEN AND ONE ATOM OF OXYGEN. BUT WHY HYDROGEN AND OXYGEN? WHY NOT SOME OTHER ELEMENT? WHY IS IT THAT WE CAN DRINK WATER? WHY IS OUR BODY LARGELY COMPOSED OF WATER AND NOT SOME OTHER LIQUID?

WE BREATHE AIR. WHY CANNOT WE BREATHE SOME OTHER GAS? WHY IS THE UNIVERSE MADE UP OF STARS AND PLANETS, SEPARATED FROM EACH OTHER BY LIGHT YEARS OF DISTANCE? THE SMALL WORLD THAT WE BELIEVE IS CREATED BY ALLAH IS ACTUALLY FAR FAR BIGGER. THEREFORE, ALLAH IS FAR GREATER THAT WE THINK. TO ALL THESE QUESTIONS SCIENCE HAS NO ANSWER.

SCIENCE CAN OBSERVE, STUDY AND ANALYSE ALL OF ALLAH'S CREATION BUT SCIENCE CAN NEVER EXPLAIN WHY THINGS ARE AS THEY ARE, WHAT THEY ARE. AND UNABLE TO EXPLAIN WHY, WE MUST CONCLUDE THAT IT IS ALLAH WHICH WILLS IT. THERE ARE SOME WHO WOULD LIKE TO CALL IT NATURE. BUT WHAT IS NATURE? IN THE END WE HAVE TO CONCLUDE THAT NATURE IS WHAT ALLAH WILLS.

I MAKE NO APOLOGY FOR THIS DIGRESSION. IT IS SIMPLY BECAUSE IF WE ARE GOING TO BENEFIT FROM KNOWLEDGE WE MUST HAVE THE ENQUIRING MIND OF THE SCIENTIST. THEN WE WILL SEE THE POSSIBILITIES AND WE WILL LEARN THAT IN MAKING USE OF THE KNOWLEDGE THAT IS GRANTED TO US BY ALLAH WE WILL NOT BE TRANSGRESSING. BUT AS MUSLIMS WE MUST KNOW THE LIMIT. WE MUST NEVER FORGET THE FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM AS FOUND IN THE QURAN AND THE VERIFIED HADITHS.

WHATEVER PLATFORM WE MAY CHOOSE, IN THE FINAL ANALYSES IT IS OUR CAPACITY TO RECOGNIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES THE KNOWLEDGE PRESENTS THAT WILL BRING SUCCESS TO OUR BUSINESS, DEVELOPING COUNTRY STATUS NOTWITHSTANDING. TO CREATE THE RIGHT PLATFORM, WE MUST IDENTIFY THE ASSETS WE HAVE. KNOWLEDGE OF THESE ASSETS AND THE CAPACITY OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY WILL SUGGEST THE BUSINESS WE CAN GO INTO.