

Penyampai : TAN SRI DATO SERI AHMAD SARJI BIN ABDUL HAMID
Tajuk : WELCOME REMARKS ON THE OCCASSION OF THE SUPPLEMENT PROJECT
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It is my pleasure to welcome YAB Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, the Prime Minister, YB Minister of Science, Technology and Environment, the President and CEO of Scientific American and the other distinguished guests to this function. Our function today is the launch for the campaign to put together a special supplement on Malaysia in the April 1994 issue of the prestigious publication called Scientific American.

The National Council for Scientific Research and Development (MPKSN) which I preside and the Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC) are the major partners in this venture. Both organizations are of the view that a special supplement in Scientific American on Malaysian technological capacity and capability is necessary at this stage. It is most timely for Malaysia to project to the world at large the technological infrastructure and capability in the public sector and the technological content, capacity and capability of the private sector particularly in manufacturing. It is time, we feel, the world must know that Malaysia, now a nation that exports a wide variety of manufactured goods, is technologically dependable. We feel that the world must know of our capability - for manufacturing sophisticated high-tech products.

The reason for doing so is to instil confidence world-wide in our manufactured goods, to encourage investment in technology- based businesses and to promote R&D operations by multinationals in Malaysia.

The special supplement to be called, "Malaysia - Technological Competitiveness Towards 2020" will complement other efforts vigorously pursued by both the Government and the Corporate Sector to encourage the inflow of investment, to widen the industrial base and to put more technology content to our industries and thereby ensuring competitiveness of our products in the world market.

We have put together special supplements on Malaysia in many publications before. The emphasis has not been technological. I am sure Scientific American, will tell you why it is the most appropriate vehicle for this particular supplement emphasising our technological capacity and capability.

The National Council for Scientific Research and Development, Malaysia and MTDC are not the only partners with Scientific American in this project. We have brought together many public sector institutions into the project namely the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, MIDA, Technology Park Malaysia, the Universities and research institutions - so that we can present a comprehensive overview of the technological policy, infrastructure, organization and management in the public sector, as well as the overall business climate. We have invited a large cross-section of the corporate sector to participate in this project so that the complete picture with respect to the private sector activities in technology- based industries can be revealed. We have put up a proposal of the framework of content for the supplement. We would like the private sector to tell their stories that will highlight technological development in their firms particularly those that involve local expertise, cooperation and collaboration with local institutions and so on.

I look forward to a meaningful participation in this effort by the private sector and that your presence here will translate into space taken up in the supplement. On behalf of the local partners, our appreciation to YAB Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, the Prime Minister for his gracious presence at this function, which is hosted by Scientific American.