



PRESS RELEASE

Science Outlook 2020: A Reality Check of Malaysia's Progress in Science, Technology, and Innovation in Past 30 Years

OCTOBER 7th, 2021, KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysia has made a lot of progress in the field of science, technology, and innovation (STI) in the last few decades. Science Outlook, a flagship study of the Academy of Sciences (ASM), provides insights into Malaysia's STI landscape. As a nation, Malaysia is committed to becoming an advanced economy by strengthening knowledge-based development and innovation capability in all sectors.

The Science Outlook evaluates and provides evidence-based insights on Malaysia's STI landscape. The findings and recommendations of this biennial report is highly regarded at national and international levels to inform policymakers on strategic alignments of STI policy frameworks and the nation's socio-economic priorities.

The Science Outlook 2020 themed 'Unlocking the Future' may be only the third edition of this flagship report but it has emerged as a trailblazer document on many fronts. This is the first Science Outlook report that has adopted an ecosystem approach to scan Malaysia's progress over the last thirty years in terms of economic development, societal well-being as well as environmental conservation and sustainability through the STI lens. It is also the first report to evaluate the challenges outlined in Vision 2020 from the STI perspective – for Malaysia to become a socially cohesive and developed country as well as chart the STI progress and development in the country since Vision 2020 was launched.

Minister of Science, Technology dan Innovation, Dato' Sri Dr. Adham Baba said, "Malaysia must adopt Whole-of-Government approach towards developing collaborative strategies for knowledge-intensive, innovation-led outcomes to build a harmonious, prosperous, progressive and sustainable Malaysia. Strategies to achieve this are presented in the Science Outlook 2020."

He added, "MOSTI's current efforts reflect this approach. Through partnerships with its agencies, MOSTI is developing roadmaps in strategic sectors including vaccine development, robotics, commercialisation, hydrogen economy and start-ups. MOSTI is also focusing on strengthening Malaysia's start-up ecosystem by working closely with relevant entities through the MyStartup Roadmap which will be launched soon with the hope of developing more indigenous technology and nurture brilliant world-class technopreneurs towards becoming a competitive Start-Up Nation. In tandem with this, emphasis to talent development and

enculturation of STI will further be augmented. This is important for a holistic approach in mobilising STI for socioeconomic development which is envisaged in the recently unveiled 12th Malaysian Plan.”

Malaysia’s economic development has undoubtedly been accelerated by the nation’s growing STI proficiency. Hence, the National Policy on Science, Technology and Innovation (NPSTI) 2021-2030 along with the strategic framework of 10-10 Malaysia Science, Technology, Innovation and Economy (10-10 MySTIE) will strategically position Malaysia to harness STI for new wealth creation and ensuring societal well-being while meeting our sustainable development agenda. This process will be inclusive and through continuous efforts to mainstream STI with the assistance of all stakeholders, these efforts will complement the national development agenda in the context of *Keluarga Malaysia* (Malaysian family).

About the Academy of Sciences Malaysia

ASM is an independent scientific organisation under the purview of the Ministry Science, Technology, and Innovation (MOSTI). ASM strives to be the thought leader for the nation on matters related to science, engineering, technology, and innovation. We provide a platform for the interchange of ideas among academia, policymakers, civil society, and industries.

ASM has more than 800 experts in the disciplines of Engineering Sciences, Medical and Health Sciences, Biological and Environmental Sciences, Information Technology and Computer Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Mathematics, Physics and Earth Sciences, Science Technology and Development Industry, and Social Sciences and Humanities.

Our main activities include conducting foresight and strategic studies and spearheading strategic science-based programmes on the national, regional, and global level. Our ethos is “Think Science, Celebrate Technology, Inspire Innovation”.

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