



LAUNCHING SPEECH

YB DATO' SRI DR ADHAM BABA

MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (MOSTI)

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF SCIENCE OUTLOOK 2020 REPORT

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9:30 AM – 12:15 PM

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YBM' s office- MOSTI]

SALUTATION

YANG BERHORMAT DATUK HAJI AHMAD AMZAD BIN HASHIM

Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation

YANG BERBAHAGIA PROFESSOR DATUK DR ASMA ISMAIL FASc,

President of Academy of Sciences Malaysia

YANG BERUSAHA TS. DR. MOHD NOR AZMAN HASSAN

Acting Secretary General

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YANG BERUSAHA DR. NAGULENDRAN A/L KANGAYATKARASU

Deputy Secretary General (Planning and STI Enculturation),

Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation

YANG BERUSAHA PUAN HAZAMI HABIB

Chief Executive Officer of Academy of Sciences Malaysia

SENIOR FELLOWS AND FELLOWS OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES MALAYSIA,

SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES,

DISTINGUISHED PANEL SPEAKERS,

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA,

HONOURED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Assalamualaikum w.b.t and a very good morning.

1. First and foremost, I wish to congratulate the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) on the completion of the third edition of its flagship report, the **Science Outlook 2020**, entitled “**Unlocking the Future**”. I also extend my appreciation to ASM for inviting me to be part of this event to launch the Science Outlook 2020 report.
2. These past two years has presented us with unprecedented challenges brought upon by the COVID-19 pandemic. Alhamdulillah, the intensity and gravity of the pandemic is less severe today as more than 87 percent of adult population in the country have completed their COVID-19 vaccination. However, we are not fully out of the woods yet, hence virtual events such as this launch are still part of the present norm.
3. I am delighted to see ASM playing a strategic role in the continuous monitoring and evaluation process of our country’s Science, Technology, Innovation and Economy (STIE) ecosystem. The Science Outlook 2020 report provides critical data and analyses on impacts of STI on the economy, society and environment. I am certain, this report by ASM will be an invaluable reference and source of information.
4. The government as a whole and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) specifically, as well as the academia, industry and civil society will greatly benefit from understanding and appreciating the gaps and strengths of the STIE ecosystem to

spearhead STI for the wellbeing of the *rakyat*, prosperity of the economy and conservation of the environment.

5. Aligned to the National Policy of Science, Technology and Innovation 2021-2030 (NPSTI 2021-2030), the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the findings and recommendations of the Science Outlook 2020 report over a 30-year evaluation period will be a great addition to the planning and tracking of STIE indicators by our country, specifically by MOSTI. This evidence-based report will be a part of MOSTI's reference in mainstreaming STIE to ensure the nation's economic, societal and environmental progression is in tandem with the aspirations towards achieving the High-Tech Nation by 2030.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. *"If you can't measure it, then you can't improve it"*¹. I believe that this is precisely the reason why all of us are here today – because of our deep conviction on the importance of monitoring and evaluation of the STIE management cycle through better data collection and analytics, to know **where we are, how did we get here, and where do we want to go next.**
7. The previous two Science Outlook reports; Science Outlook 2015 and Science Outlook 2017 have been very insightful. As a Minister helming MOSTI, these reports have been great resources in showcasing the importance of data-driven, evidence-based

¹ *If you can't measure it, then you can't improve it* is a quote by Peter Drucker, the man who invented modern business management.

reporting to review and track Malaysia's STIE capabilities and capacity internally as well as our competitiveness when benchmarked against developed economies.

8. I am pleased to hear that the recommendations of these two reports have been actively adopted by the government as mentioned by the President of ASM, Datuk Asma Ismail in her opening remarks earlier – particularly under the 12th Malaysia Plan with the objective of transforming the nation into '**a Prosperous, Inclusive and Sustainable *Keluarga Malaysia***' for the next 5 years.
9. Through these past Science Outlook reports, MOSTI is actively making systemic changes in the national STIE landscape. The STIE governance has been strengthened with the establishment of the National Science Council (NSC) – the apex decision making for STIE related matters. The NSC is supported by the High-Tech Council which assists the government's efforts to raise Malaysia's international ranking and competitiveness through high-tech initiatives in the country.
10. The Cabinet has also approved the formation of the Research Management Unit (RMU) under the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Prime Minister's Department to coordinate and harmonise the funding mechanism for key players of the STIE ecosystem activities in ensuring all RDC&I² are in line with national priorities.

² RDC&I: Research, Development, Commercialisation and Innovation

11. The STI governance is better coordinated with NSC and RMU in place.
12. Let me also share with you, in the efforts to transform Malaysia from technology users to technology developers in becoming a high-tech nation, 10 STIE leap programmes have been formulated. Among them are the creation of the Technology Commercialisation Accelerator (TCA), Malaysia Science Endowment (MSE) and National Technology Innovation Sandbox (NTIS). The government has also approved the establishment of the National Vaccine Centre. These coordinated entities are expected to complete the innovation ecosystem to address the entire RDCI&E³ value chain and drive local technology development.
13. I am also pleased to share that the 10-10 *MySTIE* Framework⁴ and 30 National STIE Niche areas have been adopted under the 12th Malaysia Plan to harness STI impact for socio-economic growth, resilience, and competitiveness.

Ladies and gentlemen,

14. In my view, to strengthen STIE ecosystem as an enabler for a sustainable socio-economic development, the philosophy of Science Outlook 2020 report is very similar to the three main principles that I have emphasised in MOSTI, namely:

³ RDCI&E: Research, Development, Commercialisation, Innovation and Economy

⁴ 10-10 MySTIE Framework: 10-10 Malaysian Science, Technology, Innovation and Economic Framework

- a. **To see the big picture** - The key trends, challenges and gaps reported in the Science Outlook 2020 through the 30 years evaluation and analysis will better help in understanding the country's landscape – so we can take a proactive role in development through STI for high impact returns.
- b. **To paint the picture of the future** – I am glad that the Science Outlook 2020 for the first time officially includes the element of strategic foresight to unlock the future that is ambiguous, complex and rapidly changing.
- c. **To translate ideas into action** – Let us not forget that 30 years ago, the country's long-term vision, Vision 2020 was introduced. We must learn from the successes and failures to transform world-class ideas to world-class implementation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

15. STI must go in tandem with socio-economy without compromising the natural resources of the environment to give rise to impactful outcomes and better return of value for the *rakyat*.
16. For Malaysia to re-claim our space globally, we must adopt the Whole-of-Nation approach towards developing collaborative strategies for knowledge intensive outcomes and impacts for a Harmonious, Prosperous, Progressive and Sustainable Malaysia.

17. Our Government Linked Companies (GLCs) and Large Local Companies (LLCs)⁵ must come together to start supporting local start-ups towards developing highly marketable endogenous technology-based solutions.
18. MOSTI in partnership with its agencies have developed roadmaps in identified strategic sectors. To name a few, these include roadmaps for vaccine development, robotics, nanotechnology, hydrogen economy and start-ups. The research, development, commercialisation, innovation and economy or RDCI&E roadmap will integrate the relevant strategies to facilitate implementation of all these roadmaps.
19. MOSTI is also working on developing and implementing national policies for key technology domains such as nanotechnology, biotechnology and nuclear technology whereby ASM has been instrumental in this effort. I hope these policies would be able to provide the strategic direction, necessary impetus and drive integrative as well as transformative action on the ground for Malaysia to realise socio-economic impact.
20. We are also conscious of the sustainability of the environment; hence we have given emphasis to push for more investments in precision biodiversity, low carbon emission research, renewable energy and smart agriculture.

⁵ GLC; Government Linked Companies & LLC: Large Local Companies

21. To move forward, Malaysia needs more technology savvy companies that are willing to roll out highly innovative ideas, solutions, and disruptive technologies to address global challenges.
22. As such, MOSTI through a Public-Private Partnership (P-P-P)⁶ model aims to work closely with relevant ministries, GLCs and LLCs in creating five home-grown unicorn companies in the next five years to enhance our economy especially through job creation.
23. MOSTI will also launch the *MyStart Up Roadmap* led by Cradle to strengthen our start-up ecosystem - with the hopes to develop more indigenous technology and nurture brilliant world- class technopreneurs towards becoming a competitive Start-up Nation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

24. The Science Outlook 2020 report provides the reality check of the STIE progress over the past three decades. Most importantly, this report also puts forth strategic recommendations to move into the future – resilient and prepared, more integrated and stronger – as one big Malaysian family, or as the honourable Prime Minister puts it as ***Keluarga Malaysia***.
25. I extend my congratulations to the Academy of Sciences Malaysia and everyone involved in the making of this report.
26. ***Dengan lafaz bismillah, I hereby launch The Science Outlook 2020 report. Thank you.***

⁶ P-P-P: Public-Private Partnership model