

Headline	Institutionalisation of local scientists for collective decision, says Tangau		
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## Institutionalisation of local scientists for collective decision, says Tangau

KUALA LUMPUR: Scientific experts should group together to form an institutionalised opinion in addressing natural disaster issues in the country, says Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Madius Tangau (pic).

Currently, he said, experts were only delivering their views individually and thus, resulting in contradicting opinions among themselves which in turn, might lead to misguiding the public, stakeholders and the government.

"The government is looking at an institution of scientific opinions comprising experts to provide reliable and precise information and analyses.

"For example, the recent incident of earthquake in Mount Kinabalu, the experts were only explaining about the incident individually, based on their point of view, leading to many different opinions posed by the experts.

"This institutionalised scientific opinion is beneficial for economic players, especially those in the tourism sector as they can be equipped with reliable knowledge for business guidance," he added.

Madius said this after officiating the International Science and Nature

Congress 2015 (ISNaC2015) at the Putra World Trade Centre here today.

Meanwhile, the minister said the government was paying special attention on materials science and nanotechnology.

He said the government was aware that recent advances made in materials and nano science had resulted in new advanced materials and technology that played an important role in global economic and social development.

"In fact, it is envisaged that advanced materials science and technology will be the key enablers in human development in the new millennium.

"Therefore, the government urges further research and development in mate-

rials science and technology to be conducted.

"Like biotechnology before, we had difficulties in introducing it to the public but now, it has successfully attracted people to further explore its economic potential," noted Madius.

The ISNaC2015 is jointly organised by the Malaysia Scientific Association, Academy of Sciences Malaysia, Forest Research Institute Malaysia and the Malaysian Nature Society.

The three-day congress beginning today, is participated by 600 local and foreign scientists to discuss scientific development and preservation of environment in Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Mosti is on a standby mode to conduct another cloud seeding operation, as the haze is expected to return within this week, said Tangau.

"We have been informed that the hazy condition will return anytime this week, however cloud seeding will only be carried out if the Air Pollutant Index readings exceed 100 for three days in a row.

"Till then we will be on a standby mode to face any possibilities of the returning haze," he said after officiating The International Science and Nature Congress (ISNaC) 2015, here Monday.

The Star daily quoting the Meteorological Department spokesperson Dr Hisham Mohd Anip said a potential cyclone is building up on the eastern side of the Philippines that was likely to pull winds, bringing the haze back from Indonesia to Malaysia.

This is expected to happen from tomorrow and could last until early next month, based on how strong the cyclone turns out to be and the number of fires raging in Indonesia.

Last Wednesday's cloud seeding operations in northern Selangor, southern Perak and west Pahang had successfully generated rainfall in those areas.

The country was shrouded in haze since last week due to the forest fires in Indonesia, causing schools in several states to be closed and several airlines having to reschedule their flight. - Bernama

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