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Making life better with technology

Cashing in on international business events

Making life better with technology

GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

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IN order to improve the quality of life, especially for rural communities, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) under the leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Johnity Ongkili has developed two Ministerial Key Performance Indicators (MKPIs) — the number of science and technology and innovation projects diffused to the community and the number of people who have been impacted by these projects.

MOSTI is targeting to implement 45 projects under these two KPIs and 17,000 people are expected to benefit from these initiatives this year.

These projects aim to generate income and improve the quality of life of the people through the application of technology developed or adopted by the ministry which is incorporated in the Technology Application Programme or TAPMOSTI@Community launched in 2009.

In line with the concept of "1Malaysia, People First, Performance Now", the technology that are implemented follows the suitability of the areas (hilly, coastal, rural or otherwise).

Programmes and projects undertaken will be guided and monitored by agencies under the ministry, so as to ensure that they are running smoothly for the benefits of the people.

The initiatives are being implemented by agencies under the ministry such as SIRIM Berhad, MIMOS Berhad, Malaysian Nuclear Agency, Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC), Technology Park Malaysia (TPM) and Agrobioteknologi Institute of Malaysia (ABI), National Science Centre (PSN), The Malaysian Institute of Pharmaceuticals and Nutraceuticals (IPharm), Malaysian Remote Sensing Agency (ARSM), Department of Chemistry, .my Domain Registry and CyberSecurity Malaysia.

Among the initiatives that generate revenue are ceramics technology; pottery and crafts; cast metal technology incubator and biodiesel energy production from palm oil effluent.

Others include the red chilli fertigation farming project and "misai kucing" farming in Kampung Orang Asli, Sungai Layau, Kota Tinggi, Johor, which has shown encouraging results.

Others include the K-School project, K-Mosque, K-Wheel and Digital Photography entrepreneur projects.

Among the technology offered by MOSTI is ceramics technology, pottery and crafts. The technology has been implemented in Kuala Pilah and Bagan Pinang in Negri Sembilan.

The outboard engine boat project has also proven to facilitate the activities of fishermen, especially those in coastal areas.

It has been found to reduce fuel consumption by up to 50 per cent and increase engine efficiency. This has indirectly reduced dependency on boat engines imported from neighbouring countries.

Meanwhile, the decarboniser project can save fuel consumption by up to 30 per cent, based on an impact study conducted by the Dungun's Fishermen's Association.

Jathropa cultivation is also being implemented in Sri Aman, Sarawak. If proven to be successful, the business model will be replicated in appropriate locations nationwide.

In addition, stevia planting projects will be implemented in Kota Marudu, Tuaran and Kundasang, Sabah.

Apart from these projects, project participants can also benefit indirectly from various initiatives that have been planned using technology developed by MOSTI, including K-Mosque and the K-School.

To date, 27 local communities have benefited from the K-Mosque information technology, with two more are following suit.

MOSTI has approved a RM4.02 million allocation for the implementation of the K-Mosque technology across the country.

The K-School project aims to help improve the management of schools through use of Information and communications technology (ICT) and to develop an ICT culture among teachers and students.

To date, 13 schools have benefited from the initiative while a total of RM1.05 million had been allocated for the implementation of the K-School initiative.

The ministry strives to reach out in order to change the public perception that science and technology is limited to advanced technology and scholars.

Up till last month, a total of 123 projects have been implemented under TAPMOSTI@Community since its inception, benefiting a total of 16,000 people.

"In 2009 and 2010, RM20.5 million has been allocated under TAPMOSTI@Community to apply suitable technologies developed by MOSTI agencies for communities at 72 parliamentary and 113 state constituencies," said Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Johnity Ongkili.

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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Johnity Ongkili (left) watching the SIRIM Robokit contest at SMK Santubong. The competition aims to nurture innovation among students.

The 'misai kucing' farming project has shown encouraging results.