



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS II:**

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**NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON ENHANCING SOCIAL INCLUSION IN  
PUBLIC POLICIES IN MALAYSIA**

**HARNESSING TALENT TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE MALAYSIA:  
AN ASSESSMENT OF THE NATIONAL POLICY ON SCIENCE,  
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (NPSTI) IN ENHANCING SOCIAL  
INCLUSION IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

**22 MARCH 2016  
BANGI PUTRAJAYA HOTEL**

## **[Salutation]**

YBhg. Prof. Datuk Dr. Noor Azlan Ghazali,  
Vice Chancellor of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia,

Mr. John Crowley,  
Chief of Research, Policy and Foresight Section, Social and Human  
Sciences Sector, UNESCO Paris,

Mr. Mateus da Silva,  
National Director of Social Assistance, Head of Program Development,  
Ministry of Social and Solidarity of Timor-Leste,

Dear experts from UNESCO and UNESCAP, and from the international  
policy institutes,

Distinguished participants, members of media, ladies and gentlemen,

## **Introduction**

1. It is my pleasure to welcome you today to Malaysia for the **National Dialogue on Social Inclusion**. This is an exciting occasion, as we are witnessing the fruits of a truly pioneering work carried out by the Malaysian National Stakeholders – ministries and universities, together with their international partners – UNESCO, UNESCAP and University College Dublin.
2. The National Dialogue on Social Inclusion is taking place at a very important moment in history. We have just entered a new paradigm of global development, based on the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** outlines in the **Agenda 2030**. The concept of social inclusion is at the heart of this new paradigm, as exemplified in the Goal 16 of the SGDs:

**“To promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”**

3. In pursuit of social inclusion, we are all facing the pressing questions:
  - What does “social inclusion” actually mean in practice?
  - How do we measure social inclusion?
  - Which policies are appropriate and likely to be effective?
  - How do we build inclusive societies?

### **Social exclusion of the marginalized group**

4. These are complex policy questions, and this is why we need to think together how to address them. They are complex, because exclusion itself is a multidimensional. It takes place even in the most affluent societies, despite our best efforts against it.
5. When we talk about exclusion in the context of development, we often think of poverty. But exclusion is not solely economic, important as that is. The social and cultural processes are as important in the emergence and reproduction of the conditions of exclusion.
6. These three forms of exclusion – economic, social and cultural – manifest themselves in various combinations in every country, sometimes having a multiplier effect on the overall degree of exclusion of a community.

7. This is why it is practically impossible to address many of the exclusion related issues with one dimensional. We need holistic policy thinking.

### **Inclusion as a Process**

8. We, the policy makers, must be closely attuned to the actual problems experienced by marginalized people in their communities. Precisely because they are excluded and lack the voice to fully exercise their rights, the problems experiences by the marginalized communities may be invisible to us.
9. Policies that promote social inclusion in one setting may not be effective for addressing the problems experienced in another locality. This is where we need to think of inclusion as a process, which starts from the direct engagement of the excluded in setting the agenda, before we begin to think about effective and innovative solutions.
10. And this is where the **social sciences** become indispensable. For a policy that promotes social inclusion to be responsive to real social and economic challenges, it must be based on participatory and inclusive processes developed in the social science fields of knowledge. It must reflect anthropological, geographic, political, and sociological considerations.

### **Eleventh Malaysia Development Plan: Enhancing Inclusiveness Towards An Equitable Society**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. Malaysia is now embark on its five-year development plan - the **Eleventh Malaysia Plan**, from 2016 to 2020. In many aspects, the plan **mirrors the multi-dimensional nature of the SDGs**, and has been formulated with the **people at the centre of all development** efforts.
12. The **people economy** will be given priority, reinforcing the Government's commitment to bring further development to the people by **enriching their lives, providing people with dignity, and uplifting their potential** to partake in the country's prosperity that is generated. **All segments of society must benefit** from the country's economic prosperity in order **to create an advanced economy and inclusive nation** by 2020.
13. The Eleventh Malaysia Plan strives for a future that is built on sound macroeconomic policy, **inclusiveness** so that **no Malaysian is left behind, improved wellbeing for all, human capital development** that is future-proof, green and sustainable growth, infrastructure that supports economic expansion, and a citizen-centric public service with high productivity.
14. Collectively, these improvements **will ensure that everyone**, regardless of gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status and geographic location, can live in a truly harmonious and progressive society that bears the mark of an advanced economy and inclusive nation.

**Enhancing Social Inclusion in Research and Innovation**

15. Malaysian Government has decided to spearhead the global efforts to put social inclusion into practice, to make a noble cause a reality on the ground for billions of people worldwide.
16. To find the answers for the complex questions posed by social inclusion, we brought together, as equal partners, the national and the international policy experts to apply to real policies the newly developed social science methodologies that help assess the degree of inclusiveness of public policies.
17. This journey began last year in June with the policy initiation workshop, which established a National Working Group led and coordinated by IKMAS of UKM.
18. Our colleagues from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation played a critical part in facilitating the success of the Working Group, by providing guidance and information in the analytical work.
19. Also contributing to the process were policy experts from various government institutions, as well as the international consortium of experts consisting of UNESCO, UNESCAP and University College Dublin.
20. Based on broad-based consultations, and for the great potential for ensuring the future prosperity of Malaysia and the wider ASEAN region, **the National Policy on Science, Technology and Innovation** was chosen as a focus of the analytical work. The

experience derived through this exercise will be useful, and will be deployed as needed, in other policy areas as well.

21. It is also important to note that Malaysia is one of three countries where the project is being implemented. Funded within the **Malaysian Funds in Trust** framework, this project has also been launched in Timor-Leste, and will soon commence in Cambodia as well.
22. This reflects the commitment of Malaysia to share its experiences and best practices within the wider Southeast Asian region, and to use the available platforms of knowledge exchange – such as **Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST)**, towards this purpose.
23. As the President of the Management of Social Transformations Programme, I am committed to promoting social sciences as an integral part of the country's knowledge base, on which our social and economic growth must be based. And this is why we consider this project so important.
24. UNESCO, our committed and long-term partner in promoting social inclusion, will make sure that the experiences and the outputs derived through this project are made available to global audiences, through various intergovernmental platform, such as the **MOST programme**, and also through the Inclusive Policy Laboratory, which will soon enable policymakers from around the world to access this information and to apply this knowledge to their countries as well, in a real South-South cooperation spirit.

## **Forum of Ministers of Social Development for the Asia-Pacific**

25. I am pleased to inform you that under my Presidency of the Intergovernmental Council of MOST, Malaysia will host the Forum of Ministers of Social Development for the Asia-Pacific, expected to be held in March 2017. It will be the first such Forum for the Asia-Pacific region.
26. The aim of the Forum – a flagship activity of MOST Programme – is to share knowledge, expertise and experience on developing and implementing innovative, evidence-based, effective public policies and to establish relevant, credible and actionable agendas for translating rigorous social science knowledge into policy action.
27. The Forum will be a high-level opportunity to showcase success stories in the region, to identify the priority policy areas for each country, to promote evidence-based policy solutions, to harmonize policies across the national borders, and to enrich the policy design and implementation processes by cutting-edge research from the academic establishment.

## **Conclusion**

28. I would like to thank wholeheartedly my colleagues in the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation for their strong support for this project and for facilitating the work carried out by the working group. I would also like to thank the leadership of IKMAS, as well as the Vice Chancellor of UKM, for their commitment to this

project, and for contributing with their intellectual power to its successful implementation.

29. I would like to thank UNESCO for the deep and engaged partnership with the Malaysian Government that has a long history and a far perspective into the future. I am also very grateful to other organizations that partnered with UNESCO – UNESCAP, as well as University College Dublin, for their important contributions to the project.
30. Thank you all for being here today, and for your commitment to contribute to this important initiative.