



PRESS RELEASE

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

MALAYSIA LAUNCHES RM90 MILLION MATCHING FUND, AIMS TO BECOME GLOBAL ADVANCED SEMICONDUCTOR PACKAGING HUB

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 JULY 2025 – A RM90 million Matching Fund has been launched by the Malaysia Science Endowment (MSE) to empower the nation's semiconductor sector in advanced packaging. This strategic initiative will also meet the increasing global demand for artificial intelligence (AI) chips and boost the country's electrical and electronics (E&E) exports.

According to the Deputy Prime Minister, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah Haji Yusof, the outcome of this semiconductor matching fund is expected to modernise the Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) towards advanced packaging in line with the vision of the National Semiconductor Strategy. This effort also aims to position Malaysia as a global hub in advanced packaging technology, currently dominated by a handful of countries such as Taiwan.

“The total value of this programme is expected to reach RM180 million after receiving RM90 million in matching from industry. This is also the first mission-oriented programme by MSE, with the mission to develop Malaysia’s capability in the field of advanced packaging”, he said in his keynote address at the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) and the 2024 & 2025 Fellowship Conferment Ceremony.

MSE was approved by Parliament on 4 August 2022, with ASM as the implementing entity together with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI). To date, MSE has catalysed transformative collaborations with more than 19 countries, including Japan, China, the United Kingdom, and Türkiye, through bilateral and multilateral frameworks. The research, development, innovation, commercialisation and economy (RDICE) programmes launched with these countries in the form of joint research or capacity-building training have recorded a total match of RM32 million.

YAB Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah added that the ability to coordinate collaboration between the public sector, private sector, and research community is key to producing more relevant and inclusive solutions. Hence, it is important for the Government to have a mechanism to realise high-value, mission-driven and impactful RDICE.

"In this context, MSE is a strategic step to ensure sustainable alternative R&D funding involving collaboration between the government and the private sector. This will reduce reliance on the government alone for RDICE allocations. Taking the opportunity of Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship this year, I also urge scientists and researchers to strengthen regional collaboration networks. Malaysia is committed to playing a leading role in driving mission-oriented R&D to address regional challenges, including climate change, food security and building the ASEAN supply chain", he said.

MOSTI Minister, Yang Berhormat Tuan Chang Lih Kang, in his speech said, "With an allocation of RM170 million under Belanjawan 2025, MSE uses a 50:50 matching fund approach to support high-impact RDICE programmes. MOSTI sees MSE as an innovative approach to stimulate long-term investment, which also increases the visibility and confidence of donors in the national science and technology sector".

At the same event, YAB Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah also presented the Senior Fellow Conferment certificates to Academician Professor Emerita Datuk Dr Asma Ismail FASc (2024), Academician Professor Dato' Dr Ahmad Ibrahim FASc, and Academician Dr Koh Chong Lek FASc (2025). The recognition of these three individuals is based on their significant contributions in their respective fields, thereby qualifying them to use the title "Academician" in front of their names.

YAB Dato' Sri Fadillah, in his keynote, also acknowledged the efforts of ASM, which not only conducts studies and puts forward policy recommendations related to science, technology, innovation and economy (STIE), but also encourages the implementation of strategic initiatives, pilot projects and on-the-ground demonstrations. He stated, "These efforts are in line with the country's long-term goals through the principles of Malaysia MADANI under core values such as Sustainability and Well-being, in which STIE plays an important role in the implementation of related policies to chart Malaysia's direction towards becoming a developed nation by 2030".

Earlier, the ASM Fellowship was conferred on 63 new ASM Fellows for the years 2024 (31 individuals) and 2025 (32 individuals). All of them comprise the country's leading scientists, engineers, and technology experts. Appointment as Fellows entitles them to use the title "Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia" or the post-nominal "FASc" after their names.

The selection of Fellows represents the best individuals nationwide across eight (8) disciplinary groups, namely: Medical and Health Sciences; Engineering Sciences; Chemical Sciences; Biological, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences;

Mathematics, Physics and Earth Sciences; Information Technology and Computer Sciences; Science & Technology Development and Industry; as well as Social Sciences and Humanities. To date, ASM has 535 Fellows comprising 30 Senior Fellows and 505 Ordinary Fellows. Both the “Academician” and “FASc” designations represent the country’s highest science honours under the Academy of Sciences Malaysia Act 1994.

Also present were the Secretary-General of MOSTI, Yang Berbahagia Datuk Seri Hj Hasnol Zam Zam bin Hj Ahmad, President of ASM, Yang Berbahagia Academician Datuk Dr Tengku Mohd Azzman Shariffadeen FASc, and Chief Executive Officer of ASM, Puan Hazami Habib.

The list of the 2024 & 2025 ASM Fellows can be accessed via this website: <https://www.akademisains.gov.my/experts/>.

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NOTE: * Refer to YAB TPM's speech during the event



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