

# **Academic Leadership: Transforming Higher Education Leadership & Nation Building in Malaysia**

*by*

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**AKEPT** HIGHER  
EDUCATION  
LEADERSHIP  
ACADEMY



MINISTRY  
OF HIGHER  
EDUCATION  
MALAYSIA

# Introduction

- Throughout history, knowledge, education, innovation, creativity and academic excellence plays crucial roles in ensuring greatness and sustainability of any civilization.
- Education, knowledge, scholars and intellectuals are pillars to building a society, a nation and ultimately the world.

# Introduction

- Knowledge creation and accumulation are truly important to create and sustain greatness.
- The most highly acknowledge driving force of any transformation agenda are the individuals that shape the minds of the society

# ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

- A leader needs to be charismatic and visionary.
- A leader needs to have the ability to lead and motivate others, at the same time possess a high level of energy needed to bring about change and transformation
- Our educational and academic roles must be manifested in us being leaders both at our institutions and society at large.

# POLITICAL AND SOCIAL WILL

- The Malaysian approach to the creation of a progressive society is guided by the principle that knowledge is power and education is paramount to development.
- academicians are important pillars for nation building, and the more efforts are being put in place to ensure that the universities are given the right support to enhance further the strength of its academics

# POLITICAL AND SOCIAL WILL

- various strategies and action plans directly or indirectly provide the platforms that offer avenues for academic leaders to optimize their innovation and ideas, enhance creativity, knowledge discovery and ultimately contribute to well-being of society.
- strategic approach through the National Higher Education Strategic Plan and its National Higher Education Action Plan was formulated and implemented in 2007.

# POLITICAL AND SOCIAL WILL

- 23 Critical Agenda Projects which include academia, academic leadership and talent management.
- success of the Critical Agenda Project is crucial in ensuring the success our higher education agenda & to create the human capital that is desired for nation building towards a high income society by 2020.

# POLITICAL AND SOCIAL WILL

- The National Council of Professors was launched by the Prime Minister on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 - “National Think Tank” –
- announcement of three professors on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010 as Distinguished Professor also known as “Professor Ulung”
- shows the relevance of us, academics, as an anchor in ensuring effective development for the country.

# CHALLENGES OF ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

- The tensions and opportunities inherent in the forces of globalization have made it necessary for many nations including Malaysia to revisit their approach in navigating their society.

# CHALLENGES OF ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

- one of the greatest challenges is to continue to strengthened our universities, our academics, our researchers and provide the right eco-systems to generate bigger numbers of academic leaders.
- These academic leaders must ensure that their contributions are aligned with the agenda of the nation.

# CHALLENGES OF ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

- Academic leaders must be able to continue in the pursuit to enhance research excellence and commercialization within the compounds of the universities & to create a vibrant economy for the country.
- Academia-Industry relation is crucial & the academic leader should be leading and driving results together with the industries.

# CHALLENGES OF ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

- academic leader must also be the entrepreneur that possess the mind-set & embodiment of new knowledge where they are characterized by some sets of innovation, competitiveness, willingness to take risks.
- academic leaders must continue to enhance their teaching skills by preparing students to be knowledgeable, competitive and resilient.

# CHALLENGES OF ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

- get good talents to join this noble profession
- rethink of innovative strategies on how to retain and attract good talents to join the academia.
- talent management and succession planning are integral to the academic leaders in our higher education institutions.

# Role of AKEPT

- set-up with the purpose of strengthening the academia, researcher & ultimately creation of effective managers & academic leaders in the university.
- Focuses on increasing innovation & creativity
- Empowering academia in the areas of teaching & learning
- Giving attention to succession planning in HEIs

# CONCLUSION

- The global scenario indicates that knowledge, creativity & innovation are significant to our modern lives.
- Ideas & knowledge discovery together with determination and hard work needed to build greater nation and bring more progress.
- These challenges that cut across borders have strengthen the roles, relevance and demands for the academics & academic leaders.