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Malaysia

Biotechnology

Biotechnology Update

2006

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Report Highlights:

The National Biodiversity-Biotechnology Council approved the Biosafety Bill on September 29, 2006 and to be tabled in the next Parliamentary session, most likely in December.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Kuala Lumpur [MY1]
[MY]

Executive Summary

As published in the New Straits Times dated September 30, 2006 (see below), the National Biodiversity-Biotechnology Council, chaired by the Malaysian Prime Minister approved the Biosafety Bill on September 29, 2006. The Bill would be tabled in the next Parliament session towards the end of the year. Due to the Official Secret Act, the details of the Bill could not be disclosed and no press statement was made. However, the Council recognized the benefits of adopting biotechnology to turn Malaysia into a highly industrialized nation by 2020.

Malaysians can do better, says Abdullah

30 Sep 2006

[Farrah Naz Karim](#)

PUTRAJAYA:

In its fifth meeting chaired by the Prime Minister yesterday morning, the National Biodiversity-Biotechnology Council approved the Biosafety Act, which would be tabled in the next parliamentary session.

The Council discussed the implications of the Act on the country's biotechnology industry and decided to give it the go-ahead.

Managing director of HOVID David Ho said the Act is aimed at regulating genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and making sure that the use of GMOs did not result in negative implications to the environment and human health.

The Biosafety Act is expected to complete the National Biotechnology Policy with a set of rules that will allow the industry to grow in a regulated manner.

Biotechnology is one of five core technologies which will turn Malaysia into a highly industrialised nation by 2020.

Biotechnology includes the injecting of nucleic acid into cells or fusion of cells beyond their taxonomic family, which will result in more efficiently grown crops and less usage of pesticides and herbicides.

Ho said the Biosafety Act could also help control bio-terrorism, which involves the production of toxic materials used for acts of violence.

The Act will take into consideration access to biological resources and benefit sharing from such resources.

This includes royalty rights and prior informed consent to gain access to biological resources.

The Council took into consideration the application of biotechnology for the breeding of wild species of commercial value, specifically the seladang, for the purpose of conservation.

The Council also approved the decision of establishing a Natural History Museum in Malaysia and the formation of the National Technical Committee on Biodiversity Inventory.