TOPIC 6 (PART II)
NATIONAL HIGHER LEARNING POLICY

FEM 3106
Dynamic changes in the scenario of higher education around the world require a drastic change in the Malaysian higher education institutions. If Malaysia is to become a hub / center for educational excellence that ultimately produce human capital with first-class mentality, we need to address certain issues:

1. Quality graduates
2. Employability
3. Ranking of world-class institutions
4. General demand for higher education institutions

All these would have an impact on the achievement of national aspirations.
Since independence, Malaysia has witnessed the main phases of development of ASEAN Economic Transformation.

Related phases play an important role in guiding steps towards developing a competitive state.

In terms of focus and orientation, while the era of the 1960s - 1970s was more labor-oriented, during 1980s - 1990s it was more capital-oriented.
In the new millennium, where the economy is universal (globalize) and varied, the economy is highly-oriented and focused on knowledge.

This means that a country's competitiveness and success in the global arena will depend on the knowledge and innovations produced.

Both these factors put the tasks / responsibilities upon the higher education institutions (HEIs) that produce our future workforce.
Consistent with the 2nd thrust of the National Mission, the state needs to produce human capital with first class mentality to face the challenges of economic development which are based on science and innovation.

Such human capital needs to have knowledge capabilities, skills and traits.
In accordance with the objective of the development of human capital, the National Higher Education Strategic Plan was formulated with the vision to transform higher education in the context of Malaysia as an international hub for higher education excellence.

This transformation lays the foundation to achieve excellence and sustainability of higher education beyond 2020.
Report Review Committee, Review and Make a Certificate About Development and Direction of Higher Education Malaysia which was completed in July 2005 stressed:

- The need of higher education transformation to achieve balance between the individual and the needs of industry and future challenges.
Excerpt report on this matter are as follows:

There are two conflicting thoughts and thus influence policy makers about the goals of education.

1. The first thought is education to meet the utilitarian objectives.
2. The second thought is that education in human development and advancement of knowledge.

Polemics between the two schools of thought became more apparent by the existence of the phenomenon of unemployment among graduates in the country.
This phenomenon has been exploited by utilitarian trend to reinforce their view that the goal of higher education is to prepare technocrats, bureaucrats, scientists, economists and highly specialized professionals, which is required by the job market, the ability to contribute to economic development and industrial development and national trade.
However, the trend still holds that the education of humanity has no relationship to provide a specific expertise in a particular field of employment, or provide employees to serve the industry or economic demands. Educational goals in the course of humanity is to produce a balanced human physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual, a man who continues to explore the development of science, people laden with moral values, and people who uphold national unity and integration.
The Committee considers that the two schools of thought are relevant and important, and as such should be integrated into the movement to enhance the quality of higher education.
27 August 2007, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi launched the National Higher Education Strategic Plan which introduced three special measures to induce transformation and bring reforms to the institutions of higher learning (IHL) in this country.

The strategic plan is a continuation of the Education Development Master Plan (PIPP) prepared by the Ministry of Education for primary education.
National Higher Education Strategic Plan Beyond the Year 2020 planned by the Ministry of Higher Education after obtaining input from students, employers, industry, political parties, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as well as reports of the vice-chancellor and officials of public and private universities.

It also takes into account of the Higher Education Direction Report, Tan Sri Wan Zahid Nordin 2005, the Ninth Malaysia Plan (RMK-9), World Bank Report on higher education in Malaysia and the synergy between the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Higher Education.
Under the long-term plan i.e. the National Higher Education Strategic Plan Beyond the Year 2020:

- Setting goals to improve the quality of students, lecturers capacity, infrastructure of the institutions and build a network with the world-leading higher education institutions.
Three specific steps are:

1. Increasing self-governance among public institutions of higher learning which will be implemented immediately;
2. Perform the audit on the academic performance of all public and private institutions,
3. Introducing the apex university status among the local universities.
National Higher Education Strategic Plan outlines seven thrusts of the plan:

1. widening access and enhancing quality,
2. Improving the quality of teaching and learning,
3. Enhancing research and innovation,
4. Strengthening institutions of higher education,
5. intensifying internationalization;
6. enculturation of lifelong learning;
7. and reinforcing the delivery system of the Higher Education Ministry.
The Plan is supported by a series of short-term Action Plans as outlines under the National Higher Education Action Plan 2007-2010.
STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONS

- **Governance**
  - Introducing a method which allows the Board of Directors (University Board of Directors) of high performance.
  - Ensure the effectiveness of the board.
  - Meet the roles and responsibilities of the board.

- **Leadership**
  - Skills in leadership
...con’t

- Academia
  - Improve the quality of professionalism
  - Develop professional training programs
  - Provide recognition and awards

- Teaching and Learning
  - Enhancement of teaching and learning
Research & Development

- To produce intellectual property and innovation needed to drive the nation to a higher level in the global value-added network and create new jobs.
- To create new knowledge and generate valuable discoveries to enable Malaysia to become a hub of higher education.
- To develop the desired capital to intensify innovation in all economic sectors on an ongoing basis.
THE CATALYSTS FOR COMPREHENSIVE TRANSFORMATION

- Apex University
- MyBrain15
- Academic Performance Audit
- Life-long learning
- Graduates training scheme