

Briefing on Research Cluster Special Project

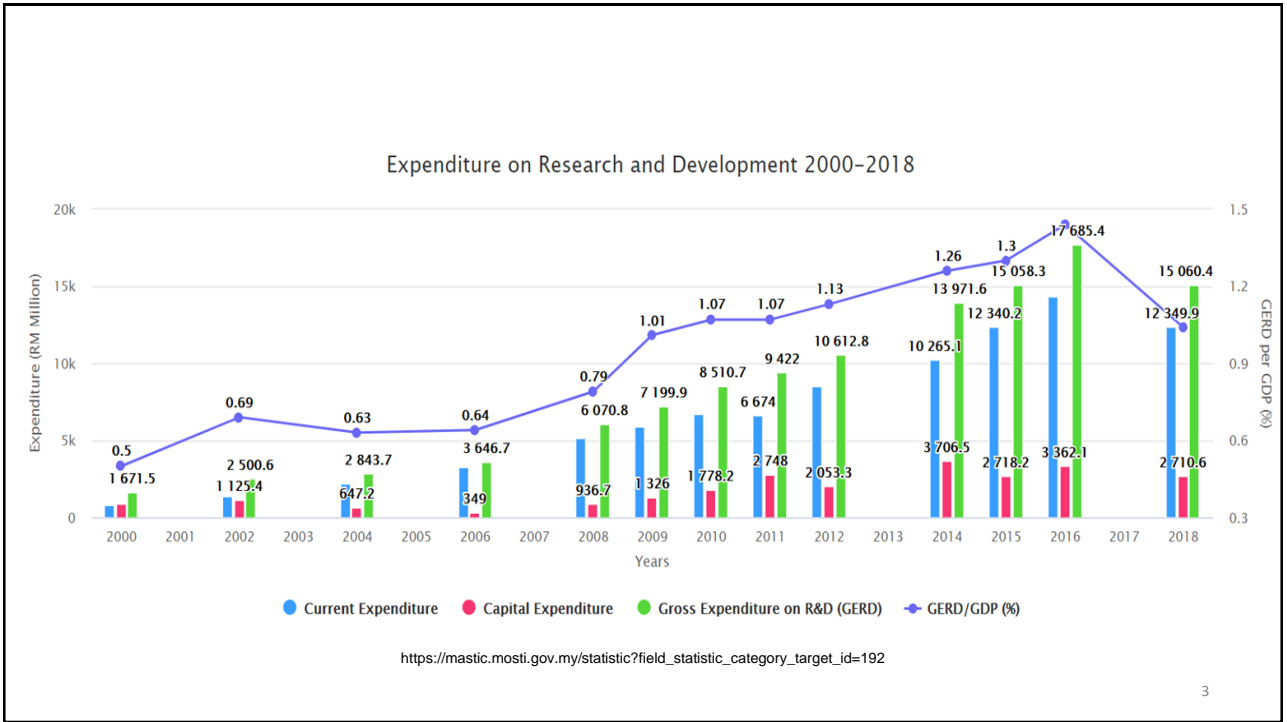
Research Clusters, IPPP, Universiti Malaya
15 June 2022

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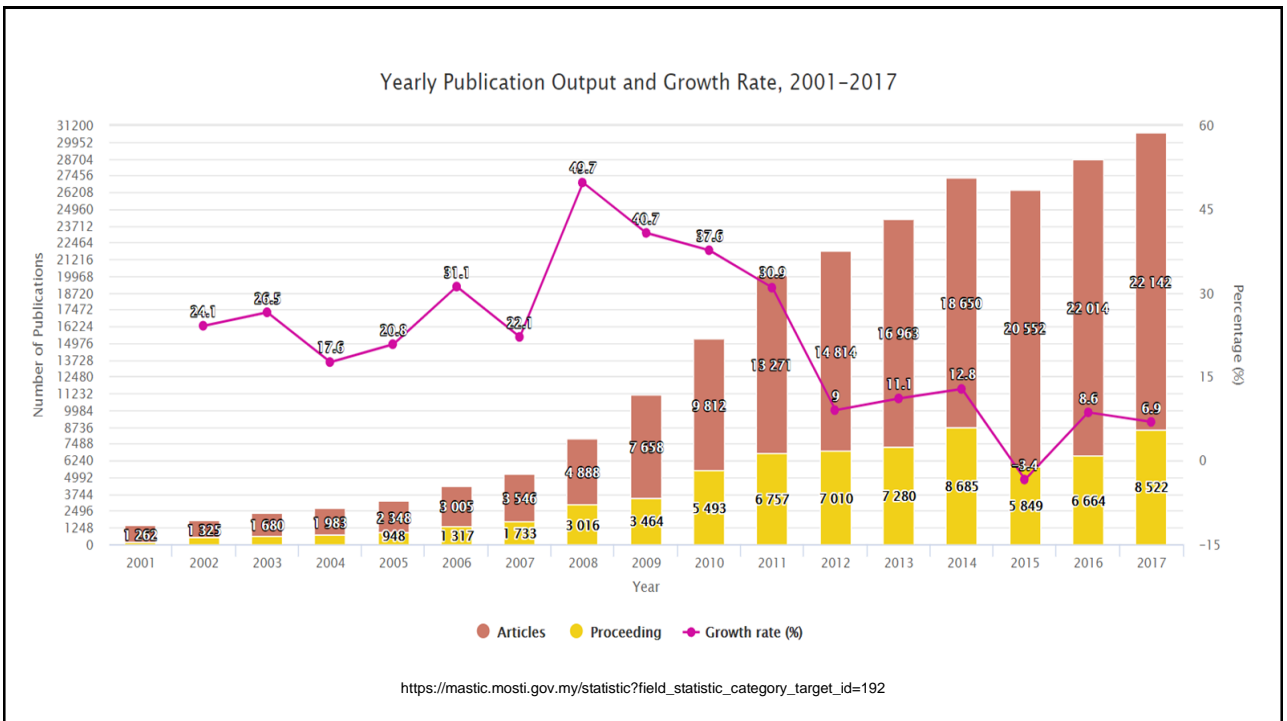
Outline

- Background
- Research Cluster Special Project
- Summary of Concept Paper Guidelines

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“Taken together, the findings suggest that Malaysia is realizing a return-on-research investment dollars and is one of the most productive nations in comparison to five other Asian nations and territories analyzed in the report.”

Malaysia’s R&D investment paying off with higher research productivity and improved University Ranking

Elsevier

Kuala Lumpur, November 5, 2019

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OECD Reviews of Innovation Policy
MALAYSIA 2016

Some observations related to university:

- *‘Lack of demand-oriented research...’*
- *‘Lack of relevance of university R&D to industry...’*
- *‘Lack of cooperation with industry in general...’*
- *‘Malaysia also lacks platform or programmes that encourage interdisciplinarity and multi-perspective approaches...’*



Recommendation related to university research:

*‘...strengthen excellence and relevance of research with **enhanced potential for commercialization** and for **addressing societal challenges**...’*

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The Institute of Strategic and International Studies

Pandemic Economics: The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Malaysian Economy

Pandemic Economics: the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Malaysian economy¹

Calvin Cheng
Analyst, Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia

Synopsis

- COVID-19 has had devastating impacts on the Malaysian economy. The sources of damage to the Malaysian economy are twofold: The first is the external, arising from the impacts of the coronavirus abroad, while the second is domestically generated due mainly to earlier nationwide movement restrictions.
- In terms of economic growth, the impacts from the crisis have been severe. The Malaysian economy contracted by 17.1 percent year-on-year in 2Q2020—the steepest amount since the aftermath of the Asian Financial Crisis in 1998.
- The COVID-19 crisis has also deeply affected the Malaysian labour market and Malaysian workers. The unemployment rate is still hovering at multi-decade highs, while marginalised worker groups like women, youth, and lesser-educated workers have been the hardest hit by the COVID-19 crisis.
- There is still room for more fiscal expansion. Due to the unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 crisis and the large distributional impacts, policy action can go even further to alleviating some of these pressures in the immediate-term as well as increasing economic growth and productivity for the longer-term.

“...The Malaysian economy contracted by 17.1 percent year-on-year in Q2, 2020 – the steepest amount since the aftermath of the Asian Financial Crisis in 1998.”

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Impact Oriented Interdisciplinary Research (IIRG)

NICHE AREAS

- Cultural, Heritage and Civilization
- Behavioral Studies
- Cancer
- Active Ageing
- Nature-inspired Technology (Drug Discovery)
- Energy
- Materials



THRUST AREAS

- Education for the Future
- Smart Society
- Innovative Health
- Mental Well-Being
- Lifestyle Diseases
- Curiosity-driven Fundamental Research
- IR4.0
- Water & Environment
- Sustainable living

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Top management strongly feels that

UM must put additional efforts to support the national economy through R&D, knowledge transfer and related activities

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Aim

The Special Project (SP) aims at working on research programmes that have the potential to provide **solutions to critical national or global issues** through high impact research activities.

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MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF SPECIAL PROJECTS

1. Act as a precursor to securing substantial external grants
2. Targeted at solving real world issues of national/global significance with the potential to create impact.
3. Involves the co-creation of research projects via the formulation and implementation of the project together with stakeholders outside academia.
4. Led by UM researchers but the project can involve experts from other universities.
5. Interdisciplinary research team working on a focused problem/issue
6. The research team should demonstrate a good track record in the proposed area of research (papers, expertise, etc.).

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FOCUS AREAS

Main Focus Area: RMK12



Others

Topics under other government and international policies, roadmaps etc. will also be considered:

- National Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Policy
- Other relevant government policies, plan and road maps
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) etc. etc.

If applicable, proposed research should be in line with National Policy on Science, Technology & Innovation (NPSTI), 10-10 Malaysian Science, Technology, Innovation and Economy (MySTIE) Framework.

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Main Deliverables of Special Projects

- Secure an external grant in the course of carrying out this project.
- Build strategic partnership with stakeholders.
- Demonstrate a clear pathway towards impact and achievement of the outcomes related to the solutions to the problem identified.
- Scholarly output (high quality publications).
- Patents, other IP, and/or evidence of technology/product/process development (as applicable).
- Policy papers, guidelines, manuals, artistic/creative work etc. (as applicable).

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1. Title

2. Affiliations and contact details of PI and Co-PI *(The research team should comprise researchers from different disciplines who can contribute towards addressing a focused research issue.)*

3. Stakeholder engagement

- *Explain your engagement with stakeholders. Describe who your stakeholders are, how you have engaged with them and the extent that you have engaged with them.*
- *Roles and contribution of stakeholders in this project.*

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4. Background of research *(Background and purpose: clear and concise description of the research topic. Include a brief summary of the literature – citing only seminal, significant, and compelling sources – to provide the context for your project and discuss what others have discovered and/or accomplished, the purpose of your research, describe the “so what?”; why the project matters)*

5. Targeted national/international issue *(What is the national/international issue to be addressed? How do you know that this is an issue? Why is it important to address this issue?)*

6. Proposed solution *(What is your solution? How do you propose to address this issue? What is the significance of the solution? Benefit ? Who will benefit ? How ? Explain how your proposed solution will address the issue in the immediate, short or long term)*

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7. Objective of research (*Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timebound*)

8. Brief methodology

9. Targeted external grant (What external grants and amount do you target for additional funding for your project?)

10. Maximum allowable grant from internal grant: RM150,000.00 per project

11. Project duration: 2 years

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FORMAT OF CONCEPT PAPER

- Maximum length of concept paper: 5 pages (excluding references)
- Font: New Times Roman
- Font size: 11
- Line spacing: Single

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Timeline

No.	Process	Timeline (Date)
1.	Briefing session on Concept Paper	15 June 2022
2.	Concept paper submission	15 July 2022
3.	Screening of concept papers based on set criteria	18-21 July 2022
4.	Announcement of shortlisted concept papers	22 July 2022
5.	Evaluation and pitching of concept papers	1-12 August 2022
6.	Announcement of applicants selected to submit full proposals	15 August 2022
7.	Briefing on full proposal	17 August 2022
8.	Submission for Full Proposal	3 October 2022
9.	Evaluation of full proposal	31 October 2022
10.	Approval from TNC (P&I)	4 November 2022
11.	Announcement of successful proposals	7 November 2022