



MSA, UMP ORGANISED A RARE EARTH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

Rare earth industry setting up operations here in Malaysia will help boost its economy for it will allow the country to be competitive in green technology, globally.

There are risks in all technologies but the most important thing is how the risks are managed and how it will be safe to the environment and contribute productively to the economy.

Based on this viewpoint, the Malaysia Science Academy (MSA) and Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) organised a rare earth international seminar at Astaka Hall, Gambang campus on February 28, 2013.

The theme was 'Safety, Health, Environment, Economy and Technologies' and it was officially opened by MSA Rare Earth Action Committee Chairman, Datuk Ir. (Dr.) Ahmad Zaidee Laidin.

The one-day seminar was aimed at identifying potential impact of technology using rare earth in green-technology industries for the development

and investment in Malaysia.

It was also to identify potential impacts on the safety, health and environment of people living around the area as well as research and innovative measures.

Ir. (Dr.) Ahmad Zaidee Laidin, in his speech, stated that some of the reasons why people in Malaysia protested against the opening of a rare earth processing factory was due to misunderstanding and concerns over chemical leakages that could cause radiation.

As such, it was important that the right and latest information was presented, he added.

"A seminar such as this will help to channel the latest news and gives positive impact. It will also present important elements that will benefit Malaysians," he said.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said, the seminar was a manifestation of the commitment by MSA and UMP in order to

provide accurate information about the material and rare earth industry, its potentials, prospects and impacts to the people.

"I believe the seminar will be very useful in providing the understanding and knowledge about the material and the industry itself, especially the kind of economic returns it will give to the people and nation.

"The seminar is the right platform to discuss the various perspectives, views and reasoning on rare earth amongst the intellectuals and impartial adults. It is hoped that it is not troubled by baseless controversies.

"On this, UMP is committed in making the same stand as MSA on promoting a better understanding about industries relating to rare earth materials. This rarely happens among the people in Malaysia especially among the Kuantan residents themselves," he said when addressing some 500 guests who attended the seminar.