UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

FORESIGHT IN MALAYSIA: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Foresight is a systematic, participative process which aims to acquire intelligence on the future based on medium term and long term visions which will assist the present-day decision making process in a collaborative effort. It can also assist the policy making process which in turn shapes the science, technology and innovation on various organizational levels. Since its rapid emergence in the 90s, Malaysia has also involved in such practices. However, little is known about Malaysia's foresight initiative. The foresight initiative conducted by Malaysia since its involvement in 1997 until Malaysia's first technology foresight initiative at the national level does not clearly show Malaysia's position of its foresight initiative. The details of it and the way it is utilized are unknown at this point. This research aims to address this by providing a case study of foresight in Malaysia.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

"Never let the future disturb you. You will meet it, if you have to, with the same weapons of reason which today arm you against the present."
Marcus Aurelius, Roman Emperor, 120-181AD

1.1   Introduction

This chapter serves as an introductory of the research by providing the background of the research which leads to the discussion of the research problem. From the discussion, one research question will be derived from it and thus, research objectives are produced that targets the solitary research aim which will be achieved through the research schedule.

1.2   Research Background

Throughout the history, it is known that man tends to try to have a peak towards to his unknown future. As Chai (2000) puts it, it is a common practice of fortune telling and prognostic in the effort of obtaining insight of the future. Warlords, kings often seek counsel of their appointed seers or fortune tellers to have some sort of anticipatory leverage for their rule or upon their enemies. Fast forward to the 20th and 21st century, countries all over the world started to perform anticipatory initiatives. In that period, one by one of the countries started to exercise these initiatives when they are 'provoked' by certain drivers. These initiatives are what the practitioners and academicians called it: Foresight.

Not to be confused, technology foresight or simply foresight, is of the same matter. Zugrovsky and Pankratova (2007) made note that the term of 'technology foresight' is actually derived from the common focus of foresight being practiced internationally, which is science and technology. However,