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## Deepening Science, Technology cooperation with S Africa



Ewon (right) and Hanekom speaking to reporters after the meeting.

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia and the Republic of South Africa on Wednesday have agreed to strengthen cooperation on Science and Technology through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which is expected to be signed early next year in South Africa.

This was agreed upon during a bilateral meeting between Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, and his South African counterpart, Derek Hanekom at the Ministry on Wednesday afternoon.

During the bilateral meeting, both sides finalised the draft MoU and had also

identified several areas of cooperation to be implemented under a Plan of Action. The areas include meteorology, oceanography, ICT, biotechnology, space sciences, energy security, climate change and human services.

Both countries also agreed to encourage and promote cooperation in the following areas:

joint research, development and design projects, including mutual exchange of research findings, scientific and technical information and documentation; exchange of scientists, specialists and researchers participating in the execution of

the joint projects, and joint conferences, symposia, courses, seminars and exhibitions.

The MoU will provide for knowledge sharing and expertise as well as facilitate scientific and technological capabilities for the purpose of advancing the economies of both countries. Both countries will also support the participation of their public and private sectors including universities, institutions, societies and organisations in the joint collaboration projects.

Hanekom was in Malaysia accompanying the South African President in his state visit to Malaysia

from 25th to 27th August 2013. His programme also includes visits to MIMOS Berhad and MTDC.

The secretary general of MOSTI, Dato' Dr Rosli Mohamed was also present during the bilateral meeting. South African officials from the Department of Science and Technology present during the meeting include Mamboneni Muofhe, deputy director-general of International Cooperation and Resources, Nuruness Moolla, Chief of Staff of the Minister's Office, and Bongu Mkhize, Deputy Director, Overseas Bilateral Cooperation (Americas and Asia). - (PR)