PREPARING UNIVERSITIES FOR FUTURE CHALLENGES

Azlan said the blueprint, which will be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak on April 7, was a direct continuity of the blueprint for schools.

"This is important as both the school and higher education systems are related to each other.

"The MEB (HE) is thus timely. We need a blueprint such as this to act as a framework to move forward.

"To me, the blueprint ensures that local institutions of higher learning are able to endorse the mission and vision of the country."

Azlan noted that one of the issues the blueprint dealt with was ensuring that universities served the community, industry and other stakeholders.

"At the end of the day, excellence achieved in universities must translate as a benefit for the industry, the community and stakeholders, because we are not merely serving the academic community.

"For the industry, they are interested in seeing whether varsities create industry-relevant graduates.

"For the community, they are interested in seeing whether universities create human capital who contribute to community development," he said.

This, Azlan said, was termed "quadruple helix" where learning institutions, the government, the industry and the community cooperate as a unit to render better results as a nation.

When asked about the role of each institution in carrying out the blueprint for future implementation, Azlan stressed that a strategic framework must be drawn up by individual institutions.

"This way, while we build success in our campuses, we simultaneously ensure that the national mission is realised.

"With the blueprint in motion coupled with the institution's framework, we can make sure the mission of MEB (HE) becomes a reality."