

# tion

Vet officers puzzled  
by biting cow >N18



Niki is  
tweeterific  
this Wednesday

Tags: youth,  
@biz, facebook

# Eyeing M'sia for trials

## Pharmaceutical firms view country as ideal location for research

By SIRA HABIBU  
sira@thestar.com.my

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Pharmaceutical giants view Malaysia as an ideal location to carry out diagnostic and clinical trials for the global market.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said priority could be given to such value-added trials as Malaysia's multi-ethnic composition represented a big portion of the global population.

"This also augurs well for Malaysia that aspires to be a successful global biotechnology hub," he said, adding that the country had the competitive edge as it had the necessary resources.

Najib said this after chairing the 4th IAP meeting at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre here yesterday.

The Prime Minister also said a powerhouse research centre would be established in Malaysia to promote research and development.

Najib said Malaysia has attracted 135 Bio Nexus companies with a total investment of RM1.51bil.

"These companies had recorded revenues in the excess of RM700mil," he said, adding that they had also created more than 2,260 knowledgeable workers.

Bio nexus programme is a key element of the National Biotechnology Policy.

"Currently the biotechnology industry con-



**Light moment:** Najib at the meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him are Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili (left) and the Prime Minister's Science advisor Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Zaharudin Idrus.

tributes 2.2% to the GDP (Gross Domestic Produce). The target is to achieve 2.5% by 2011," said Najib.

Malaysia would also implement the green economy policy to reduce carbon monoxide emission.

University of Aberdeen Institute of Medical Science lecturer Professor Anne Glover said

Malaysia could serve as a one-stop centre for clinical trials due to its multi-ethnic population.

"Pharmaceutical companies are interested to use the resources here," she said.

Alexandre F. Jetzer-Chung of Novartis International AG said Malaysia had a bigger potential as it had impressive information technology and medical facilities.