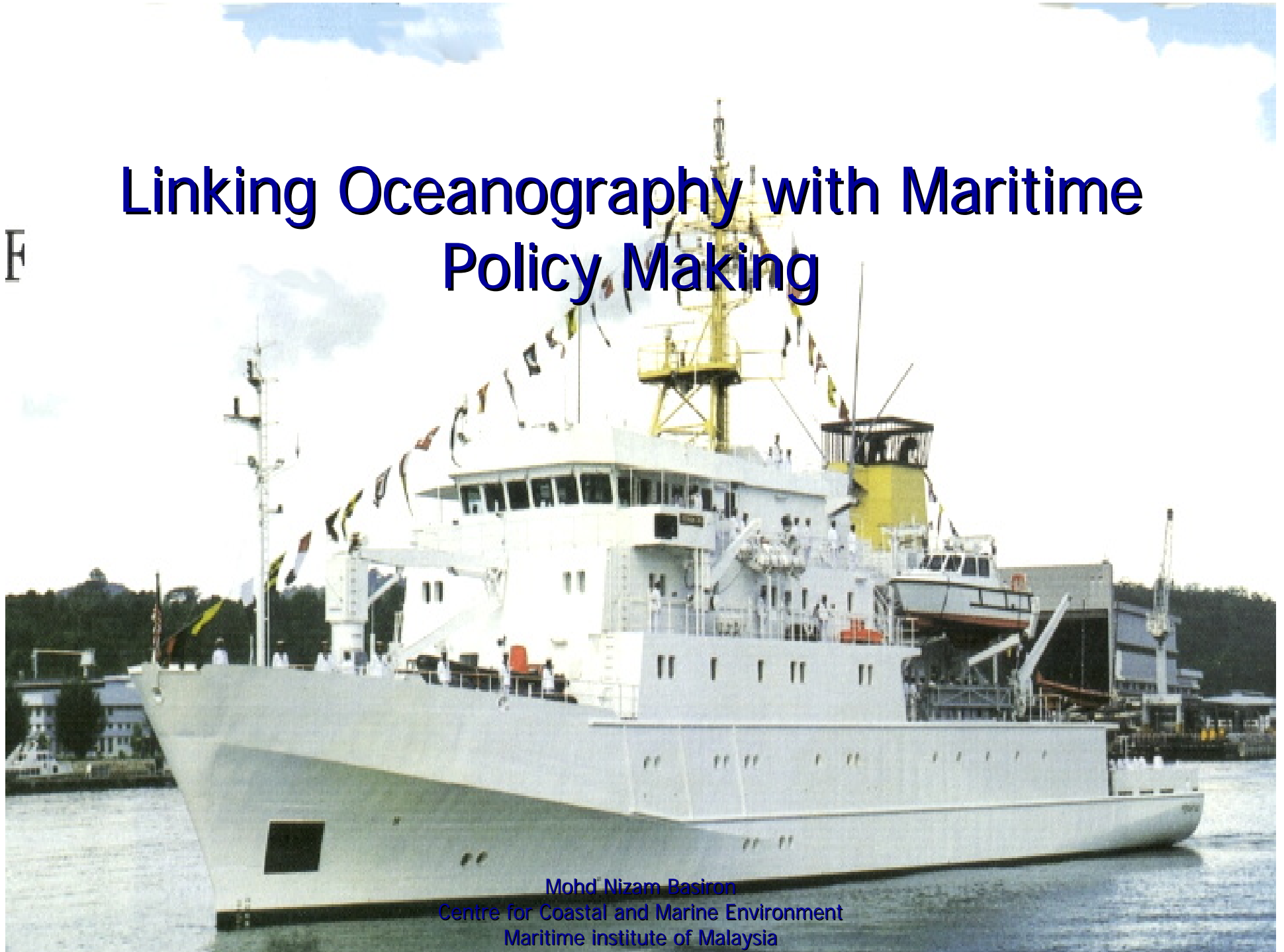


Linking Oceanography with Maritime Policy Making

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Mohd Nizam Basiron
Centre for Coastal and Marine Environment
Maritime Institute of Malaysia

Outline of Presentation

- Introduction
- The Policy-making Process
- Why Oceanography is Important
- Oceanography and Maritime Policy-making in Malaysia – the missing link?
- Linking Research with Policy-making
- Conclusions

Introduction

- Appropriate management of our seas is important
 - to ensure sustainability of goods and services provided
 - minimise conflict between users
 - protect lives and property
 - promote economic development
- Appropriate management requires appropriate policies.
- Modern day ocean management goes beyond fisheries and navigation.

Policy-making

- Is a process which acquires and generates knowledge.
- Knowledge and information are then applied to formulate policies, laws and governmental responses to issues and problems.
- Availability of accurate, up-to-date and appropriately analysed data vital in the process.
- Need for information highlighted at UNCED and WSSD.

Why is Oceanography Important?

- Physical, chemical, biological and geological processes.
- Ecosystems health.
- Coastal and ocean biological diversity.
- Climate variability in relation to global warming.
- Public safety.




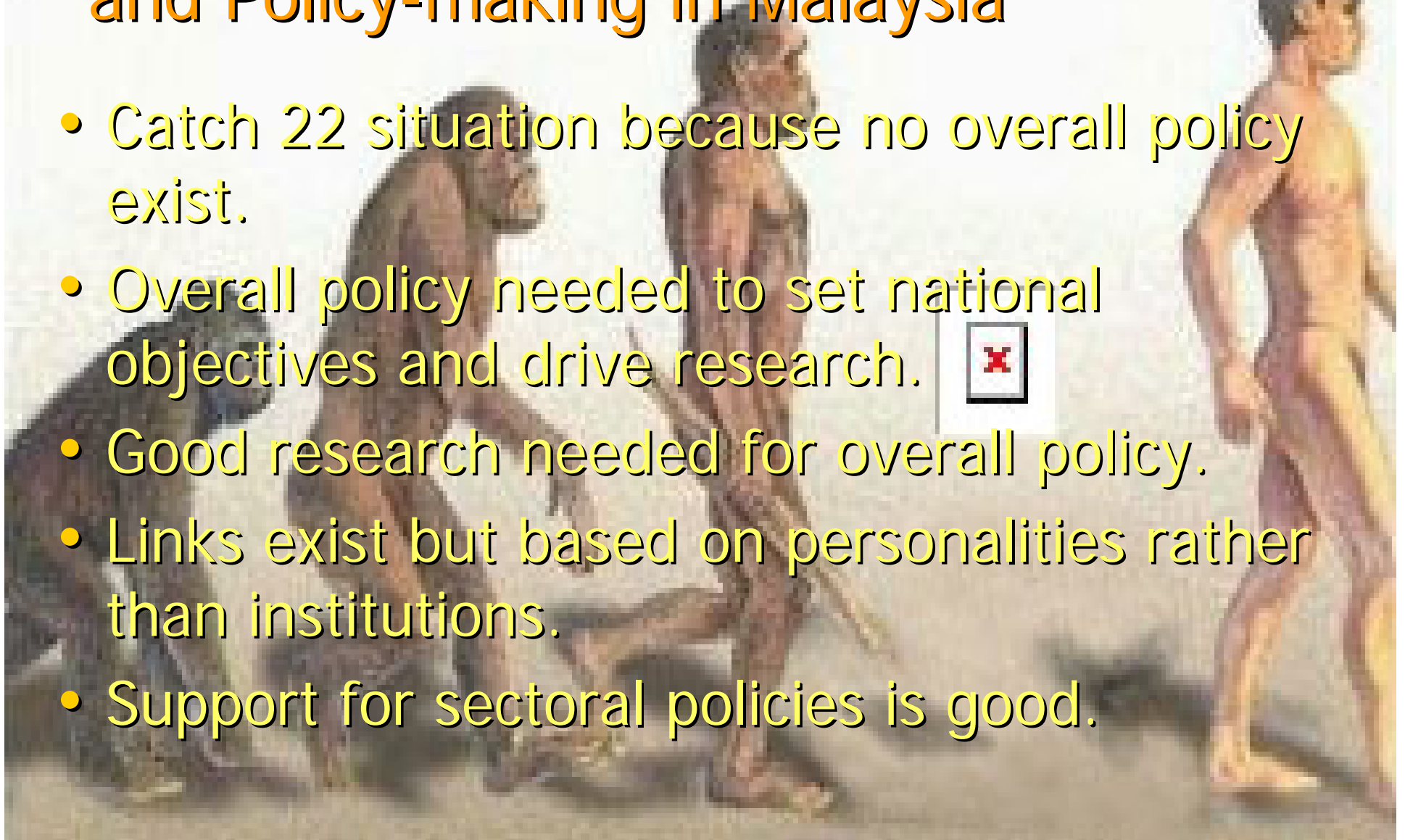
“Scientific information is needed to guide the wise use of coastal resources, to protect the environment, and to improve the quality of life of coastal zone residents. This is becoming more evident as the complexity of the relationships among environment, resources, and the economic and social well being of human populations is fully recognised and as changes and long term threats are discovered”

US National Research Council's Committee on Science and Policy
for the Coastal Ocean, 1995

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The "Missing Link" – Oceanography and Policy-making in Malaysia

- Catch 22 situation because no overall policy exist.
- Overall policy needed to set national objectives and drive research. 
- Good research needed for overall policy.
- Links exist but based on personalities rather than institutions.
- Support for sectoral policies is good.



Linking Research with Policy-making

- Countries like Korea and Indonesia have made progress in linking science to policy-making.
- Need to place research within context of national development.
- Avoid “science-policy” dichotomy.
- Ensure information reaches policy-makers e.g. from recent expeditions.
- Researchers should look beyond journals and conferences for audience.
- Role of NOD as a bridge should be examined.



Conclusions

- There is an urgent need to develop link between research and policy in Malaysia's maritime realm.
- Oceanography has an important role to play as information provider.
- Oceanographers can provide advice to policy makers.
- Opportunity exist as Government may embark on ocean policy work in 9th Malaysia Plan.
- Sectoral linkages should be strengthened.
- NOD has a role to play.

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Thank You