

Green Technology Part 3 (2014):

The Sun Daily:

Launch of GBI Interiors Tool

Posted on 12 September 2014 - 06:33pm

Imran Hilmy

newsdesk@thesundaily.com

GEORGE TOWN : In going one step further towards sustainable interior management in Malaysia, Green Building Index (GBI) with Malaysian Green Building Confederation and Malaysian Institute of Interior Designs have collaborated together to launch the GBI Interiors Tool at Penang Town Hall today. Penang Island Municipal Council secretary Ir. Ang Aing Thye who launched the new initiative said it was an appropriate part for the Penang Green Council's Penang International Green Carnival which will start on Sunday. GBI initiative is in line with Penang state government strong advocacy in promoting green buildings and sustainable built environment in the state," he said.

Ang also recognized that 25% of the buildings are registered, and 10% have been certified. "We have GBI certified buildings on both the Penang island and mainland and it ranges from terraced houses, condominiums, offices, industrial buildings and even the Penang Green Council office, which has made me proud," he said. GBI Interior tools is a rating system that was created to address the issues concerning sustainable interiors in the appropriate context. It is being designed to complement the other GBI tools and was developed locally in a holistic way with the participation of the local industry. "It is actually a green rating tool for buildings and towns which is created to promote sustainability in the environment and also to raise awareness of environmental issues within the industry. "It goes right from inception to operation of the building," said Ir. Ahmad Izdihar Supaat during the GBI Interior Tools presentation.

Ahmad who is the honorary secretary of MGBC also adds that the GBI rating tool provides opportunity for developers and buildings owners to design and construct green, sustainable buildings that can provide energy savings, water savings and also better connectivity to public transport. "What we want is for people to adopt good habits in developing green habit and having a good impact in sustainability management. With this GBI Interior Tools, we hope we can achieve that," he said.

<http://www.thesundaily.my/news/1168234>

Perdana Putra earns platinum ratings in green building index

Posted on 8 September 2014 - 03:15pm

Last updated on 8 September 2014 - 05:58pm



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak and Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin at the GBI Platinum Certification handing over ceremony at Kompleks Perdana Putra, Sept 8, 2014. BERNAMA

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak today announced that Kompleks Perdana Putra has achieved a Platinum rating in the Green Building Index (GBI). Najib said the achievement would make Perdana Putra one of the most energy-efficient buildings in this country besides being categorised as a High Performance Green Building. "It is my intention that this project will become a catalyst for similar initiatives right across Malaysia," he said at the GBI Platinum Certification handing over ceremony here today.

Platinum rating is the higher building performance rating according to GBI Non Residential Existing Building rating tool. This is the first successful large scale upgrading of an existing building on a private finance initiative module undertaken by KFM Holdings Sdn Bhd. GBI is Malaysia's recognised green rating tool for building to promote sustainability in the built environment and raise awareness among developers, architects, engineers, planners, designers, contractors and the public.

Perdana Putra is now approximately one third more energy-efficient than it was before. Najib said beyond Perdana Putra, he would like to see the entire city of Putrajaya transformed into a green, smart and connected city that would showcase Malaysia's economic and technological advancement. "Energy-efficiency projects save money. And investing in low-carbon technologies creates wealth and opportunities for Malaysia. "As evidenced by the thousands of good jobs created in Malaysia by the solar power and LED lighting industries, " he said. – Bernama

<http://www.thesundaily.my/news/1162489>

Developers encouraged to design more 'green buildings'

Posted on 11 November 2014 - 05:34pm

Last updated on 11 November 2014 - 06:22pm

KUALA LUMPUR: The government has always encouraged developers to build green buildings which have long-term benefits. Energy, Green Technology and Water Deputy Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid said such efforts would be continued despite obstacles in regulations pertaining to the building designs. "For planning purposes, the developer has to submit the designs to the local council. To date, there have been several building designs which have the features of a green building.

"This includes designs in air-conditioners and water retention systems for toilets which allow recycled water to be used for other purposes," he said in reply to a question from Datuk Dr Marcus Mojigoh (BN-Putatan) at the Dewan Rakyat sitting here today. Mojigoh wanted to know if the government encouraged developers to incorporate designs of green buildings, in line with its objectives to conserve the environment. Mahdzir said at present, all states in the country had buildings which were environment-friendly and attained the Green Building Index (GBI). "Some buildings have the silver, gold and platinum status, although there are not many with platinum status," he said, while assuring the government would continue encouraging developers to come up with buildings which met GBI requirements.

The platinum status is the highest level of recognition for an environment-friendly building. In reply to a question from Dr Che Rosli Che Mat (PAS-Hulu Langat), Mahdzir said the government would also hold more programmes to increase public awareness on green technology and green buildings which contributed to a better lifestyle. He said the government had set up the Yayasan Hijau Malaysia in March to encourage an eco-friendly lifestyle among the public. – Bernama

<http://www.thesundaily.my/news/1224143>

Has red gone green?

Posted on 7 July 2014 - 01:02pm



Has no-frills Tune Hotel decided to go green? Environmentally, yes, but surely not in experience, providing international accommodation at good deals and great savings. Complementing the newly opened second terminal in Sepang, Tune Hotel klia2 recently launched its first green, energy-efficient hotel within its chain. The hotel received plaudits in the industry. Beyond the conventional green products of LED lights and energy efficient equipment, Tune Hotels klia2 has taken the green initiative further by employing a holistic sustainable agenda and driven it into its building design right from the beginning. The hotel has since been awarded a provisional Gold Rating by the Green Building Index (GBI) accreditation panel and was subsequently presented as the first demo-project under the Building Sector Energy Efficiency Project (BSEEP), a national project implemented by the Malaysian Public Works Department in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), co-funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

BSEEP's goal is to reduce the overall impact from the building, where emissions are concerned, by promoting energy conserving processes in the design and blueprint of new buildings. On hand to officiate at the opening of the hotel was Deputy Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid, who also presented the Gold GBI certification to TuneHotel CEO Mark Lankester at the event. The GBI body was represented by its chairman Von Kok Leong. Tune Hotel klia2's blueprint demonstrates various aspects of energy efficient buildings. As a BSEEP demonstration project, Tune Hotel klia2 will provide real-time data to help gain the confidence of others where feasibility, unabridged performance and economical as well as environmentally-friendly benefits of using energy-efficient building technology is concerned, The hotel is intended to be an example, an archetype in supporting the design and construction of future real-life energy efficient buildings in the country.

A key green feature of Tune Hotel klia2 is its water efficiency scheme, which is estimated to save more than 40% in water consumption compared to the conventionally-designed approach used in hotels. The harvested water in this scheme is used for water closet (WC) facilities, cleaning and irrigation purposes. Landscaping and the selection of plants also play a major role, where only native or locally adaptive greens which require minimal or almost no irrigation are used. In terms of connectivity and location, guests of Tune Hotel klia2 will be able to enjoy easy access to Kuala Lumpur city and its suburbs as the klia2 terminal is serviced by buses and taxis, as well as the Express Rail Link (ERL) that connects it to KL Sentral.

For guests arriving at or departing from the KLIA main terminal, they can use the shuttle service via the ERL that costs just RM2 one way or take a stroll via a covered link bridge to get to Tune Hotel klia2. There are currently 45 hotels under the Tune Hotel chain. These are located in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, England, Scotland, Australia, India and Japan.

<http://www.thesundaily.my/news/1104460>

Najib says stakeholders will be consulted on Sedition Act (excerpt from article)

Posted on 8 September 2014 - 11:15am

Last updated on 8 September 2014 - 10:56pm

Karen Arukesamy

newsdesk@thesundaily.com

Meanwhile, Najib announced that Kompleks Perdana Putra has achieved a platinum rating in the Green Building Index (GBI), which would make it one of the most energy-efficient buildings in the country besides being categorised as a High Performance Green Building, reports Bernama. "It is my intention that this project will become a catalyst for similar initiatives right across Malaysia," he said at the GBI Platinum Certification handing-over ceremony here today.

<http://www.thesundaily.my/news/1162197>

Penang signs with Temasek to set up RM11.3b SSO hub

Posted on 3 June 2014 - 05:40am

Aaron Ngui

newsdesk@thesundaily.com

GEORGE TOWN: Penang Development Corp (PDC) has signed an agreement with Singapore's Temasek Holdings to establish a RM11.3 billion gross development value shared services hub in Bayan Lepas and Batu Kawan, according to InvestPenang director Datuk Lee Kah Choon. Lee said PDC will make way for the setting up of a Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Prime office building at the current 2.7 hectare site (ha) and the Penang International Technology Park will be developed on a 80ha site at the mainland.

He said BPO Prime would take about three years to established, with the proposal including a 25-storey large office floor plan tower and a 29-storey small office tower. While PITP is targeted to be completed in stages by 2021 with the area segmented into different industries, which will include a medical hub and advanced technology parks. "The construction cost is about RM8 billion and given a multiplier effect of times three, we are looking at a project which can contribute some RM24 billion to the economy," Lee said in a media briefing yesterday.

He also expressed his optimism over filling the more than 838,000 sq m of office space the two projects will create as he said there was interest from many companies in locating their businesses in Penang. Lee said the demand was there for office space which were Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) certified and green building index (GBI) certified of which the two projects were planned to be. "If I have the building tomorrow, I can fill them up immediately," he quipped. The venture sees Penang looking to tap into the US\$458 billion (RM1.4 trillion) SSO industry.

<http://www.thesundaily.my/news/1066547>

Borneo Post:**Rahsia Estates invests heavily in GBI for Langkawi resort (excerpt from article)**

March 29, 2014, Saturday

KUCHING: Green-building Index (GBI) initiatives and ecological preservation will be Rahsia Estates Sdn Bhd's (Rahsia Estates) main objectives in creative a sustainable and green resort development in Langkawi. Rahsia Estates Resort Residences, Eco-Hotel and Spa, is a new hospitality brand currently being built in Langkawi.

Rahsia Estates chief executive officer Hanizah Abdul Hamid explained, "Set to be completed in 2016, the project's gross development value is RM480 million, incorporating GBI applications and features into its architecture, design, energy usage and landscaping. "The resort is on a 15-acre site along a river estuary at Kampung Temoyong, Kedawang, to the south-east of the island and overlooking Pulau Dayang Bunting." "The project will comprise a 5-star 116-room hotel resort, 30 luxury cabana villas and 130-resort suites together with a non-invasive aesthetic clinic and wellness centre offering both western and traditional Asian-based spa treatments." "It is ideally situated 10 minutes away from the popular Pantai Cenang tourist stretch and also only about 15 minutes away from the island's international airport," informed Hanizah.

Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Haji Mukhriz Mahathir was the guest-of-honour at Rahsia Estates' event held at the Westin Resort and Spa, Langkawi which was attended by leading hoteliers, guests and representatives from the various Kedah state offices and agencies. Hanizah added, "Many significant changes have been made to the project's original architectural, civil and mechanical plans so as to incorporate GBI features into the development, thus the slight delay in its construction on site. "All these changes would make the development and its surroundings a sustainable, green and ecologically friendly model.

"GBI-certified building materials for both interior and exterior spaces will be used wherever possible and sourced locally too. "Water harvesting and its reuse play a prominent role. Rainwater will be harvested from the buildings, diverted by special water drains into dedicated catchment areas where it will be treated, filtered and reused for various purposes. "Sewage water will undergo rigorous treatment, filtered and cleaned for landscape usage, whilst any excess clean water will be discharged into the sea. "Energy saving features, solar panels and LED lightings, Inverter air conditioners together with designs allowing natural ventilation and light will be the norm throughout the resort."

Another first for the brand is that it will be the island's first gated and guarded mixed resort development encompassing a green eco-hotel, hospitality luxury residences and wellness clinic, extending choice privacy and exclusive security to guests, concluded Hanizah.

Read more: <http://www.theborneopost.com/2014/03/29/rahsia-estates-invests-heavily-in-gbi-for-langkawi-resort/#ixzz3nzTfypmc>

Perdana Putra earns Platinum ratings in Green Building Index

September 9, 2014, Tuesday



Najib (front row, third left) and cabinet members tour Perdana Putra building which achieved the High Performance Green Building with the Platinum rating. — Bernama photo

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak yesterday announced that Kompleks Perdana Putra has achieved a Platinum rating in the Green Building Index (GBI). Najib said the achievement would make Perdana Putra one of the most energy-efficient buildings in this country besides being categorised as a High Performance Green Building. “It is my intention that this project will become a catalyst for similar initiatives right across Malaysia,” he said at the GBI Platinum Certification handing over ceremony here yesterday.

Platinum rating is the higher building performance rating according to GBI Non Residential Existing Building rating tool. This is the first successful large scale upgrading of an existing building on a private finance initiative module undertaken by KFM Holdings Sdn Bhd.

GBI is Malaysia’s recognised green rating tool for building to promote sustainability in the built environment and raise awareness among developers, architects, engineers, planners, designers, contractors and public.

Perdana Putra is now approximately one third more energy-efficient than it was before. Najib said beyond Perdana Putra, he would like to see the entire city of Putrajaya transformed into a green, smart and connected city that would showcase Malaysia’s economic and technological advancement. “Energy-efficiency projects save money. And investing in low-carbon technologies creates wealth and opportunities for Malaysia. “As evidenced by the thousands of good jobs created in Malaysia by the solar power and LED lighting industries, “ he said. — Bernama

Read more: <http://www.theborneopost.com/2014/09/09/perdana-putra-earns-platinum-ratings-in-green-building-index/#ixzz3nzfoKp5v>

Sarawak keen to learn from Bali's Green School concept

October 11, 2014, Saturday

BALI, Indonesia: Sarawak is keen to learn from Bali on ways to come up with international integrated resort like the island's Nusa Dua Development Zone. This was stated in a statement from the Ministry of Tourism yesterday regarding a working visit led by its minister Datuk Amar Abang Johari Tun Openg to the tourism magnet from Oct 7 to 10.

The Sarawak delegation was very impressed with the Green School, a school for children in Year 4 to 12 including 300 foreign students from more than 20 countries. The school highlights on eco-system and green building by emphasising on organic, awareness on eco-system and experiencing natural settings. "The Green School concept and approach would be good for Sarawak in line with the state eco-tourism direction, in creating awareness to all on the need of sustainable development and conservation of our environment," said the statement.

The entourage had a briefing with officials from Bali Tourism Development Board and Nusa Dua developer. The objective of the briefing and meeting is also to seek areas for joint collaboration under the Asean Tourism Framework. Also in the delegation were Assistant Minister of Environment Datu Len Talif Salleh, permanent secretary to the Ministry of Tourism Datu Ik Pahon Joyik, State Planning Unit director Datu Ismawi Ismuni and Yayasan Sarawak director Datu Mohamad Abu Bakar Marzuki.

Read more: <http://www.theborneopost.com/2014/10/11/sarawak-keen-to-learn-from-balis-green-school-concept/#ixzz3oQGCw9TQ>

DBKU to have extra building by May 2016

October 2, 2014, Thursday Sonary Heng, reporters@theborneopost.com

KUCHING: Kuching North City Commission (DBKU) will have an additional office building with well-equipped facilities besides providing a more conducive working environment for the staff. Construction works are expected to begin in March next year, and the building is expected to be completed in May 2016. To be built on a 6.46-acre land, it will comprise six components namely a five-storey administration block including main server room for information communication technology (ICT), service counter block and gallery, landscape, parking lot for cars and motorcycles, a futsal ring and football field.

Datuk Bandar Datuk Abang Abdul Wahap Abang Julai who revealed this also mentioned that the cost of the new building is about RM15 million, adding the building's modern design is based on 'green building' concept which includes natural air ventilation system and rain water storage system. "It will also be equipped with smart energy, whereby it will use light-emitting diode (LED). The new

building's design will also be user-friendly for the disabled," he said at the earth-breaking ceremony at the project site, situated at Jalan Depo in Petra Jaya, yesterday.

Assistant Minister in the Chief Minister's Office (Islamic Affairs) Datuk Daud Rahman officiated at the ceremony. Abdul Wahap further said six divisions would be transferred to the new building namely Infrastructure Maintenance Division, Safety Division, Enforcement Division, Environment Division, Business Development Division and Licensing Division, and would involve 453 employees. On another matter, he expressed his gratitude to various government departments and agencies that had helped DBKU to make their activities and events successful.

Meanwhile, he announced a contribution of RM1,000 the Dyslexia Association of Sarawak under 'DBKU Cares' programme. "This programme is part of the DBKU corporate social responsibility (CSR) and we hope this contribution can help to ease some burden to help Dyslexia students," he said. Later, he accompanied Daud to present certificates of appreciation to three police officers DSP Amihizam Abdul Shukor, ASP Poge Nyaon and SI Anna Kuek for their cooperation with the commission, before they proceeded to the earth breaking ceremony.

Read more: <http://www.theborneopost.com/2014/10/02/dbku-to-have-extra-building-by-may-2016/#ixzz3oQGO03nM>

Green technology masterplan out 2015

December 3, 2014, Wednesday

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Green Technology Corporation (MGTC) is currently drafting a green technology masterplan for the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water. The masterplan, to be implemented early next year, will detail guidelines and direction for companies to reduce carbon intensity by 40 per cent by 2020. "The masterplan required government and private companies to work together and reach the 40 per cent target in energy, transport, building, waste and water," said MGTC Chief Financial Officer Woon Foo Wen on the sidelines of the International Conference on Green Procurement and Eco-Labeling here yesterday.

Earlier, in his speech, Deputy Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid said Malaysia had reduced carbon emission intensity by more than 33 per cent. "The reduction was achieved despite facing difficulties in fulfilling the pledge made in 2009. "The next six years will be critical for us as we want to achieve 40 per cent cut in carbon emissions intensity target. "It is achievable once we can generate cleaner electricity from renewable sources, conserve energy and encourage sustainable clean transport and growing green industries," he said.

The two-day conference is aimed at helping participants understand green procurement practices and the use of ecolables as tools for the green procurement process. Mahdzir said three agencies in Malaysia that provided environmental certification schemes were SIRIM Bhd, Energy Commission of Malaysia and the National Water Services Commission. — Bernama

Read more: <http://www.theborneopost.com/2014/12/03/green-technology-masterplan-out-2015/#ixzz3oQJyVkob>

Malaysia, Netherlands urged to join hands in green technology

October 16, 2014, Thursday

KUALA LUMPUR: The Netherlands and Malaysia, which is in the course of going green, can join hands in developing green technologies, says Netherlands Ambassador to Malaysia Harry Molenaar. “The Netherlands has 30 years of sustainability and green technology development experience and it could offer know-how to Malaysia, in areas including agrilogistics, smart highways and wastewater management,” he said.

In the Netherlands, the government assumed a critical role in regulating the industry in the initial phase, however, the private sector had later fully embraced the call, making the country highly successful in the green technology sector, he said. Malaysia, therefore, has to get both the private sector and the government in the same camp in the quest of going green, Molenaar said in his keynote address at the International Greentech & Eco Products Malaysia Conference 2014, here today.

Meanwhile, Malaysia Debt Ventures Bhd managing director and chief executive officer Datuk Md Zubir Ansori Yahaya said Malaysian companies have been hindered by the high upfront investment costs and slow returns on investment in the green sector. For instance, a five-megawatt solar farm needs an investment of between RM35 million and RM45 million while a biomass plant with the same capacity required as much as RM60 million, he said. “For companies looking for quick bucks, green technology is not their field because the return on investments will take between 9-12 years,” said Md Zubir, who spoke at the conference. He encouraged more companies to make use of the current financing available in the market.

The Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water has proposed to establish an Islamic green bank in 2016 in a bid to encourage more companies to engage in research and development activities in that sector. The green bank will be modelled after the likes in the United States, the United Kingdom and Japan by offering seed funding. It is planned to succeed the Green Technology Financing Scheme (GTFS) launched in 2010 and will end in December 2015. The GTFS had approved 145 projects with total fund injections nearing RM2 billion as at July this year. — Bernama

Read more: <http://www.theborneopost.com/2014/10/16/malaysia-netherlands-urged-to-join-hands-in-green-technology/#ixzz3oQKs2hXR>

NCIA and partners conduct feasibility study for green technology power station

December 25, 2014, Thursday

KUALA LUMPUR: The Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER) will witness a feasibility study for the potential construction of a 50MW green technology power station. The study on the public-private partnership project will be funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and spearheaded by Japanese-based Panasonic Corp as well as Newjtec Inc. In a statement yesterday, Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) said the study would encompass the development of energy supply and investments derived from photovoltaic energy generation

stations. "The sun irradiance in this region is averagely higher than any other parts in Malaysia and this suits well into the plan for the proposed PEGS in the Northern Corridor," said NCIA chief executive Datuk Redza Rafiq.

Photovoltaic (PV) is a method of converting solar energy into direct current electricity using semi conducting materials that exhibit the photovoltaic effect. The PV effect is the creation of voltage or electric current in a material upon exposure to light. NCIA said the study would determine the feasibility and determine the operational set up of the project. It will also determine the financial model of the project and the socio-economic benefits to be gained by the people in the corridor. — Bernama

Read more: <http://www.theborneopost.com/2014/12/25/ncia-and-partners-conduct-feasibility-study-for-green-technology-power-station/#ixzz3oQM8Wa1S>

Muhyiddin: Green tech as enabler of growth

October 17, 2014, Friday

KUALA LUMPUR: The government will continue to focus on green technology as an effective enabler of economic growth that is environmentally friendly and socially sustainable, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin. He said the government was committed to providing better access to credits, incentives and capacity building programmes to facilitate and boost 'green' investments that would further spur the efforts, particularly within the commercial and private sector fraternity.

The soon to be launched Green Technology Master Plan is a testimony of the government's earnest intention to continuously provide direction and motivation for the growth of, and promising investments, in green economy related technology, he said in his keynote address at the fifth International Greentech and Eco-Product Exhibition (IGEM2014) here yesterday. "The government believes that effective policies and sound frameworks to promote greater investments for green growth will have a direct effect in addressing and dealing with other environment-related changes such as water, energy, food security and health," he said.

However, Muhyiddin stressed that concerted efforts and collaboration from all parties, including industry players and natural resources users, were crucial in building an effective sustainable economy. "I am sure that as a group, we will be able to harness our advantages and optimise our strengths and position to reap the potential benefits from the global green wealth market," he said.

Muhyiddin said according to the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the world demand for environment-friendly products and services was about US\$1.37 trillion (RM4.4 trillion) in 2008, and was expected to increase twice as much by year 2020. Hence, he hoped that industry players would take advantage of the positive sign to adopt a better and sound sustainable and environment-friendly technology as well as product mechanisms. "I urge all industry players to continue to work together to develop new green technologies to harness the enormous potential to create wealth, besides ensuring the well-being of our respective countries and communities," he added.

On research and development (R&D), Muhyiddin said the government and industry players must work together to ensure that viable and practical green technologies could be produced and adopted by market players at a reasonable cost. He said when all parties involved in the process understand that the final eco-products derived from the R&D would be mutually beneficial and commercially viable, then the cost of research could be shared. Muhyiddin also called on the United Nations Committee on Environment and Development (UNCED) to continue to provide financial assistance, capacity building programmes and environmentally sound technology transfers for the developing and less developing countries to manage sustainable green environment. "I also urge governments of developed countries to provide concrete assistance to developing countries to help achieve sustainable environment and resource management," he added. Present were Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili and Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Idris Haron.

The three day IGEM2014 themed "Creating Green Wealth" features over 200 exhibitors from 20 countries, showcasing the latest green technology products and services across 600 booths. Organised by the Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry, IGEM2014 is expected to attract over 60,000 local and foreign participants and generate about RM1.2 billion in business leads. — Bernama

Read more: <http://www.theborneopost.com/2014/10/17/muhyiddin-green-tech-as-enabler-of-growth/#ixzz3oQPgr3XO>

Green Tech anticipates green financing demand at RM70 bln by 2030

July 31, 2014, Thursday

KUALA LUMPUR: Demand for green technology financing is anticipated to accelerate to RM70 billion between 2015 and 2030, due to the sector's huge untapped potential. Chief executive officer of Malaysian Green Technology Corporation (GreenTech) Ahmad Hadri Haris said financing played a key role in boosting the growth of green technology and Malaysia is recognised as a country with established green financing. "Malaysia's green financing is unique. "While others like the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan and Australia have a dedicated green financing bank, we work with existing banks to mobilise the Green Technology Financing Scheme (GTFS)," he told Bernama. He said as of June, 23 banks had participated in the GTFS, including Malaysian Debt Ventures Bhd (MDV), with RM1.95 billion disbursed for 141 projects and 2,014 jobs created, alongside reducing carbon emission (CO2) by 2.29 million tonne annually.

The GTFS was initiated in 2010 for a period of five years and targets both producers and users of green technology, with a total funding allocation of RM3.5 billion by the government. The scheme which offers a rebate of two per cent per annum on interest charged by financial institutions, also comes with a government guarantee of up to 60 per cent of the financed amount. Greentech is tasked as the facilitator in assessing projects and assisting coordination between applicants and financial institutions.

When the GTFS ends in December next year, Ahmad Hadri said he is in favour of the global trend initiated by the United Kingdom to have a dedicated green investment bank to further unlock the

value of green technology. He said a dedicated investment agency which appreciates and understands green technology will have greater appetite to look for more viable projects and this will also create more opportunities in moving towards the goal of Malaysia becoming a green technology hub. "Besides, there are tremendous opportunities to finance green projects around Asia due to the potential in countries like Indonesia, Vietnam and India for such financing," he added. He said for the 11th Malaysia Plan with regards to green financing, GreenTech is working directly with MDV. — Bernama

Read more: <http://www.theborneopost.com/2014/07/31/green-tech-anticipates-green-financing-demand-at-rm70-bln-by-2030/#ixzz3oQQj6eBM>

RM1.8 bln soft loans still available

March 2, 2014, Sunday Rebecca Chong

KOTA KINABALU: A total of RM1.8 billion in soft loans are still available for entrepreneurs, hence the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water wants more co-operation between financial institutions and the ministry in giving out loans to entrepreneurs involved in the green energy sector. Its deputy minister, Dato' Seri Mahdzir Khalid said that financial institutions played an important role in encouraging the development of green technology in the country by providing soft loans to the industry players.

Mahdzir revealed that the government had set aside RM3.5 billion in 2010 as soft loan allocation for green energy entrepreneurs and to date, only RM1.7 billion had been utilized. "I hope that there will be more entrepreneurs from Sabah who will grab this opportunity to invest in green energy sector as RM1.8 billion of soft loan is still available," he said, adding that there were already a few of the industry players from Sabah who had received soft loans for biomass development. Mahdzir said this during a press conference after the opening of Sabah Towards Green Growth Seminar at Promenade Hotel here, yesterday.

The seminar conducted by the ministry was attended by 150 participants and 100 of them are officers from public and private sectors, 40 students from local university and ten PUSPANITA members. With the objective of spreading information on Malaysia's green technology policies, the seminar also aims to identify and understand issues and challenges faced by the green technology sector.

Mahdzir also said that Sabah's progress in green technology development was satisfactory by giving an example that a program to overcome climate change worth RM16 million was recently signed between the Sabah Forestry Department and the European Union. He also announced the setting up of Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA) Kota Kinabalu branch in the near future to encourage the green energy development in the State. "Green technology sector is the main sector that could contribute towards the reduction of carbon emission as well as a catalyst for green economy development. "According to a report by the United Nation Environment Program (UNEP) and International Labour Organization (ILO), the total world market for the environment friendly products and services are estimated to be RM4.4 trillion (USD 1.37 trillion)" he added.

Mahdzir also said in an effort to encourage usage of renewal energy to generate electricity, the government had also enhanced the Feed-in-Tariff (FiT) by expanding it in the State starting January 1, this year. According to him, as of December 31, last year, out of the total 149.78 MW renewable energy generated by Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah, the state had contributed 36.5 MW or 24.37% to the total output, and were all connected to the grid. "This is a big contribution towards the country's effort to reduce dependency of fossil based energy source," he said. He also urged for all relevant parties to multiply their efforts towards the implementation of green initiative of Malaysia so that the target to reduce carbon intensity by 40% is achieved by the 2020.

Also present during the seminar were Deputy State Secretary Datuk Pounis @ Joseph Guntavid, and Chief Secretary of Energy, Green Technology, and Water Ministry, Datuk Loo Took Gee. A green energy carnival will also be held in conjunction with the seminar that will be officiated by the Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin at the Likas Sports Complex, here.

Read more: <http://www.theborneopost.com/2014/03/02/rm1-8-bln-soft-loans-still-available/#ixzz3oQVn9wGQ>

Bank ministry proposes to set up green bank, exempt GST on green products

September 12, 2014, Friday

KUALA LUMPUR: The Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water has proposed in Budget 2015 the setting up of an Islamic green bank and the exemption of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on green products. "The proposed establishment of a green bank is an upgrade of the ministry's Green Technology Financing Scheme (GTFS), launched in 2010 to offer loans to green projects through commercial lenders," said Malaysian Green Technology Corp chief executive officer, Ahmad Hadri Haris.

Malaysian Green Technology is a not-for-profit organisation under the purview of the ministry. The GTFS scheme, which had approved 145 projects with a fund injection of nearly RM2 billion as at July this year, offers financing through commercial lenders. "Commercial lenders require a stringent approval process, such as the evaluation of a company's size and capital, as well as the commercial value of a project seeking funds. "The establishment of a dedicated venture capital fund will help spur the growth of the green technologies," Ahmad Hadri told reporters on the sidelines of the sneak preview of the fifth International Green Tech & Eco Products Exhibition and Conference Malaysia, here yesterday.

He said the proposed green bank would follow the business model of Malaysia Venture Capital Management Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Minister of Finance Inc. "The seed capital for the green bank will not come from the government, but be raised internationally such as India, China or the Middle East," Ahmad Hadri said. Ahmad Hadri said the green bank was targeted as a syariah-compliant venture capital fund to set it apart from other green banks, such as those in the US, the UK and Japan. Meanwhile, the ministry has also proposed for GST exemption on green products having the MyHijau Mark. Under the proposal, those purchasing energy-saving electrical appliances could be exempted from the GST, which will take effect on Apr 1, 2015. — Bernama

Read more: <http://www.theborneopost.com/2014/09/12/bank-ministry-proposes-to-set-up-green-bank-exempt-gst-on-green-products/#ixzz3oQWXARa6>

100 more schools for Green Schools Campaign

March 7, 2014, Friday

MIRI: The Association of Independent Power Producers in Malaysia (Penjana Bebas) and Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water plans to install 5kWp solar panels in another 100 schools nationwide. Initial work on Phase 3 of the Green Schools Campaign is in progress and installations are expected to be completed in 2015. Phase 1 was completed in 2009 and Phase 2 in 2011. Under Phase 1 and Phase 2, the schools in Sarawak that were involved were SMK Lutong, Kolej Tun Dato Tuanku Hj Bujang, and SMK St Joseph. More schools in the state are expected to benefit in Phase 3.

In a press statement, the ministry said the completion of Phase 3 would result in an increase in the total power capacity of all the participating schools from the current 190kWp to 690kWp. The campaign is a joint public-private partnership to empower national schools with sustainable technologies to enable students to learn and gain exposure on renewable energy at the grassroots level.

Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Maximus Johnity Ongkili said the campaign echoed the government's green agenda and was intended to encourage communities to adopt sustainable living practices and reduce national carbon emissions levels. "Given the current context of climate change and finite energy resources, this is no longer an option, but a necessity. "Through the campaign, we are educating students about the potential offered by green technologies and encouraging empowerment at the grassroots level. What they learn in school today will have a spiralling effect on the communities and a profound impact on the environment in the future."

The launch of the campaign in 2009 saw five schools installed with 5kWp solar panels systems by early 2011. Given its impact and effectiveness in educating students on renewable energy, Penjana Bebas and the ministry then selected an additional 30 schools to participate in Phase 2 of the campaign in 2013. Installations were completed in December. As of November last year, all the participating schools had collectively generated close to 263,000 kWh of clean renewable energy, avoiding over 204,471 kg of harmful CO2 emissions. With the addition of 100 schools, they would be able to produce a total of over 472,260 kWh of clean renewable energy annually and avoid over 367,160 kg of CO2 emissions each year.

Penjana Bebas' acting honorary president Dr Ong Peng Su said by incorporating green technologies into schools and providing an everyday learning tool, the campaign offered a unique educational platform for students to explore and understand the importance of environmental stewardship. "The Green Schools Campaign not only generates learning opportunities for school children, but also savings for the schools from the electricity produced by their systems." To instil greater awareness about green technology, the ministry has approved additional funds to roll out a holistic awareness programme in the participating schools this year. Further information about this campaign is available at www.greenschools.com.my.

Read more: <http://www.theborneopost.com/2014/03/07/100-more-schools-for-green-schools-campaign/#ixzz3oQWoy8MZ>

IDS seminar on energy for a greener Sabah (excerpt from article)

September 6, 2014, Saturday

KOTA KINABALU: The Institute for Development Studies (IDS) Sabah, in partnership with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), will be organising a seminar entitled Sustainable Green Energy for a Greener Sabah here on September 10. In a statement yesterday, Executive Director of IDS, Datuk Mohd Hasnol Ayub said that Malaysia currently relies heavily on traditional energy production such as coal, oil and natural gas for its supply of energy.

However, this traditional energy is non-renewable and will eventually dwindle becoming more expensive and environmentally damaging. He said the government was seeking actively to intensify the development of green technology, which is not only renewable but also capable of assisting society in the context of socio-economic development as well as environment preservation.

Mohd Hasnol said that main aim of the seminar was to provide the latest information related to advancement made in green technology, insights into new business opportunity related to green technology and understanding government's policies, support mechanisms available and incentives for the development of green energy in the country. Besides that, in line with the federal government's efforts to develop green technology, the Sabah State Government has encouraged the use and practices of green technology in order to gradually reduce dependency on traditional energy. Most importantly, this seminar is organize to address how the Sabah community especially major players such as the private sector and NGOs can capitalise on green technology into higher green economy, he said.

Mohd Hasnol pointed out that the state has taken initiatives in formulating policies and making recommendations on tackling green technology and renewable energy issues such as the setting up of the Sabah Green Technology and Climate Changes Committee and the Renewable Energy Association of Sabah (REASabah). Six working papers will be presented by industry experts, both from the government and private sectors. The papers include Green Technology: Incentives and Financial Assistances for the Private Sector; The German Expertise: Sharing Knowledge and experiences; Opportunity in Mini Hydro Development Project in Rural Area: A Case Study; Development Project on Renewable Energy: Issues and Prospects; Commercializing Biomass Sector and Opportunity in the Waste Management: Wealth Creation.

Read more: <http://www.theborneopost.com/2014/09/06/ids-seminar-on-energy-for-a-greener-sabah/#ixzz3oQbke4GU>

KK bus stops, taxi stands going green

May 25, 2014, Sunday

KOTA KINABALU: Fifty-five bus stops around the city centre are now equipped with green technology and solar lighting while 10 taxi stands are in the process of also using the same technology. Disclosing this here yesterday, City Hall Mayor Datuk Abidin Madingkir said that as all the new bus stops would be using green technology and solar power, City Hall is in the process of converting all existing bus stops and taxi stands to be powered by solar that would be carried out in stages. "Sabah is most suited for harnessing solar power, among Malaysian states, and with improved technologies, I hope there will be more individuals, companies and NGOs, coming forward to put action behind our sworn love for our environment," he said at the ground-breaking ceremony of Kampung Air Green Solar Taxi Stand project by Kota Kinabalu Teo Chew Association, here yesterday. The green taxi stand at Kampung Air is estimated to cost RM200,000.

Meanwhile, Abidin said there was still much to be done for Kota Kinabalu City to spread awareness on sustainable development and lifestyle. "The people should be convinced that going green is not just following a trend or seek publicity, but these are sustainability practices in everything we do to protect our environment for our future generation," he said. Abidin also reminded the public to refrain from vandalizing bus stops, taxi stands or other public facilities. "I would like to seek the assistance from the public to report to us or the police should they come across with such activities," he added. Abidin also said that City Hall was in the midst of implementing a one-way system at Jalan Tun Fuad Stephen, in some parts of the city under the Kota Kinabalu CBD Traffic Management Plan, as part of its efforts to improve traffic flow and public transport system in the city centre.

Present at the ceremony were Assistant Minister in the Chief Minister's Department cum Minister in-charge of City Hall Datuk Edward Yong Ooi Fah, former deputy chief minister Datuk Dr Yee Moh Chai, Sabah Teo Chew Association president Datuk Edward Khoo Keok Hai and Kota Kinabalu Teo Chew Association president Chua Soon Ping.

Read more: <http://www.theborneopost.com/2014/05/25/kk-bus-stops-taxi-stands-going-green/#ixzz3oQcDDtaZ>