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Comos EcoRide tarikan ke Melaka

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KUALA LUMPUR 17 Okt. - Sektor pelancongan di negeri bersejarah, Melaka dijangka melonjak berikutan pengenalan kereta elektrik dalam kalangan pelancong yang akan dilancarkan seawat-lewatnya awal bulan depan.

Pengerusi Eksekutif CMS Consortium Sdn. Bhd. (Comos), Datuk Seri Syed Zainal Abidin Syed Mohamed Tahir berkata, pihaknya menandatangani memorandum persefahaman (MoU) dengan kerajaan negeri Melaka bagi penggunaan kenderaan elektrik dikenali sebagai Comos EcoRide itu,

semalam.

Katanya, MoU itu selari dengan matlamat kerajaan negeri Melaka yang ingin mencapai status negeri bandar teknologi hijau menjelang 2020.

“Langkah kerajaan negeri Melaka ini telah dilaksanakan di Eropah sebagai tarikan pelancong. Kami juga menyasarkan penggunaan di Kuala Lumpur dan Putrajaya,” katanya dalam sidang akhbar di Pameran Produk-produk Eco dan Teknologi Hijau Antarabangsa di sini hari ini.

Mengulas lanjut, Syed Zainal Abidin berkata, pihaknya mengadakan kerjasama dengan Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. (Nissan) dan Renault SA (Renault) bagi menge-

luarkan kereta elektrik tersebut.

Katanya, mereka juga mempunyai kerjasama dengan pertumbuhan bukan berasaskan keuntungan di bawah Kementerian Tenaga, Teknologi Hijau dan Air iaitu Malaysian Green Technology Corporation (MGTC) dan Institut Automatif Malaysia (MAI) bagi membangunkan industri permotoran negara untuk tempoh tiga hingga lima tahun akan datang.

Sementara itu, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif MGTC, Ir. Ahmad Hadri Haris berkata, terdapat beberapa cabaran pada peringkat awal untuk mengeluarkan kereta elektrik di negara ini termasuk tanggapan masyarakat bahawa harga kenderaan tersebut adalah mahal.



TIMBALAN Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Datuk Dr. Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah menaiki kereta teknologi hijau sambil diiringi Tan Sri Mustafa Mansur semasa majlis menandatangani MOU antara Green Tech dan Jabatan Standard Malaysia di Pusat Konvensyen Kuala Lumpur, semalam. - UTUSAN/NASIRRUDDIN YAZID



Kilang Lynas Keluar Sisa Radioaktif Tahap Rendah - Pasukan IAEA

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 Okt (Bernama) -- Pakar Agensi Tenaga Atom Antarabangsa (IAEA) memutuskan bahawa kilang pemrosesan nadir bumi Lynas dekat Kuantan, mengeluarkan paras sisa radioaktif yang sangat rendah.

Keputusan itu dibuat oleh pasukan pakar IAEA selepas misi pemeriksaan susulan bebas bagi mengkaji semula keselamatan radiasi di kemudahan pemrosesan nadir bumi tersebut.

"Risiko radiologi kilang Lynas sangat rendah berikutan paras radioaktif yang rendah," kata ketua pasukan dan pengarah Bahagian Kitaran Bahan Api Nuklear dan Teknologi Sisa, Jabatan Tenaga Nuklear IAEA, Juan Carlos Lentijo, dalam satu kenyataan.

Beliau berkata dalam pemantauan awal, misi susulan itu mendapati kilang terbabit sudah melaksanakan 11 cadangan yang dikemukakan oleh agensi antarabangsa berkenaan semasa misi kajian dibuat pada 2011.

"Malaysia aktif mengemas kini peraturan, selari dengan kebanyakan standard keselamatan IAEA terkini," katanya.

Nadir bumi merupakan elemen yang digunakan dalam kebanyakan aplikasi berteknologi tinggi, daripada telefon mudah alih sehingga turbin angin.

Memandangkan bijih yang dihasilkan itu turut mengandungi bahan radioaktif semula jadi seperti torium atau uranium, proses itu mengeluarkan sisa radioaktif pada paras yang sangat rendah, yang mesti diurus dengan baik.

-- BERNAMA



IAEA reports no long-term plan for Lynas waste

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Friday gave a passing safety grade to a controversial Malaysia rare earths plant, but raised concerns that there was no long-term plan for properly disposing of the plant's potentially radioactive waste.

The rare earths processing plant in the state of Pahang has generated opposition from green groups who fear radioactive contamination and have accused authorities and Lynas of overriding public concern.

In a report, the IAEA said it saw little risk of contamination due to the low-level radiation involved, and that its investigators were "not able to identify any instances of non-compliance" with international standards.

However, it also appeared to underscore environmentalists' concerns that Australian miner Lynas Corp has no long-term plan for the disposal of waste from the plant.

"Lynas needs to demonstrate that the disposal of solid waste can be carried out in a safe manner over the long-term," the report said.

It recommended that Malaysian authorities require Lynas to come up with a plan.

"There is a lack of a plan for managing the waste from the decommissioning and dismantling of the plant at the end of its life," it said.

The IAEA said its report was based on a 2011 visit to the plant, when it was still under construction.

Lynas began processing rare earths there in late 2012, after a delay of more than a year due to strong opposition.

Lynas hopes the US\$800 million (RM2.6 billion) plant can help break the Chinese stranglehold on the market for rare earths, which are used in everything from missile technology to mobile phones.

Malaysian protesters staged several large rallies before the plant opened, saying they feared radioactive contamination.

Efforts to block the plant through the courts have so far failed.

The Australian miner has insisted the plant is safe, saying any radioactive waste would be low-level and safely disposed of.

The Malaysia government has strongly thrown its support behind the project, as part of plans to develop rural areas via big-ticket foreign-invested projects.

The IAEA also said Malaysian regulatory authorities and Lynas "are encouraged to maintain a proactive approach to relations with the media, public and other stakeholders" to address what it called "continuing widespread misconceptions about the plant". – AFP, October 17, 2014.

- See more at: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/iaea-teams-says-lynas-plant-generates-low-level-radioactive-waste-bernama#sthash.C1CYwxY8.dpuf>

IAEA: Lynas plant safety showing good progress

PUTRAJAYA: A team of experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has undertaken a review of radiation safety at the Lynas rare earth processing facility in Gebeng, Kuantan.

The review, carried out at the request of the Malaysian Government, looked into progress on 11 recommendations made by the IAEA international review mission to the Lynas Advanced Materials Plant (LAMP) in June 2011 while the plant was under construction.

The eight-member team met officials from national and local governments, Malaysia's Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB), staff of Lynas Corporation Ltd and other stake-

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- JUAN CARLOS LENTIJO

holders that included non-governmental organisations and local residents.

It also visited the plant, which has been operating since 2012.

"The IAEA team was very pleased with the openness of the Malaysian institutions, Lynas and other stakeholders in providing information and views.

"This was very helpful for our understanding of the situation," said team leader Juan Carlos Lentijo, IAEA's Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Waste Technology Division director, in a statement.

In its preliminary observations, they found that good progress had been made in implementing the recommendations at the plant, which generates residues containing an extremely low level of radioactivity.

The team has said that the waste management plan should focus on

environmental monitoring activities that give due emphasis to monitoring of liquid discharges.

Communication-wise, matters such as the basis of the financial fund to be paid by Lynas for long-term waste management and decommissioning should be communicated more clearly.

"The AELB and Lynas are encouraged to maintain good relations with the media, public and other stakeholders to address continuing widespread misconceptions about the plant and radiation issues," the statement said.

The review mission's final report will be submitted to the Government at the end of this month.

