

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 07 MEI 2014 (RABU)

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Kamera SPECT bantu kesan barah payudara

Kamera gamma dinaik taraf dengan penambahan kollimator bagi membantu pesakit barah payudara.

UNIVERSITI Putra Malaysia (UPM) berjaya menghasilkan sebuah kamera diagnostik pengimejan nuklear mudah alih dipertingkatkan dengan kaedah pengesanan sinar gamma bagi membantu mengesan kanser payudara.

Kamera itu mampu mempamerkan tumor atau sista secara tiga dimensi (3D) bagi membolehkan doktor mendapat paparan yang lebih jelas dan besar sekali gus mudah mengambil sampel biopsi.

Dicipta oleh ketua Jabatan Kejuruteraan Komputer dan Sistem Komunikasi, Fakulti Kejuruteraan UPM, Prof. Madya Dr. Iqbal Saripan, peranti tersebut tergolong sebagai kamera *Single-Photon Emission Computed Tomography* (SPECT).

Sebelum ini, beliau banyak melakukan kajian-kajian asas mengenai peranti pengimejan nuklear yang menggunakan sinar gamma dua dimensi.

Dalam penyelidikannya, mesin tersebut boleh dipanjangkan hayatnya melalui ketepatan diagnostik secara 3D.

Jika mesin-mesin itu ditingkatkan, ia mampu mengurangkan kos pembelian peranti baharu yang mahal.

Menurutnya, secara perbandingan, mesin jenis sinar-X biasa tidak menggunakan tenaga sebanyak sinar gamma selain tidak mampu melihat

melalui tulang.

"Bagaimanapun, sinar gamma hanya mampu mengesan tumor dan ketumbuhan luar biasa di dalam tubuh setelah seseorang pesakit disuntik dengan isotop radio berukuran lemah dalam tempoh tertentu," ujarnya.

Selepas berbincang dengan beberapa pihak termasuk syarikat pengeluar seperti Toshiba dan Siemens Iqbal berkata, penambahan kollimator membantu

meningkatkan prestasi sinar gamma tersebut.

Melalui usaha tersebut, beliau berjaya mendaftarkan satu paten berkaitan kollimator kasa dawai dan memenangi beberapa anugerah di peringkat kebangsaan dan antarabangsa.

Ketika ini, Iqbal dan pasukannya sudah bersedia untuk memasang kamera mudah alih sinar gamma prototaip ciptaannya atau

SPECT untuk mengesan barah payudara.

Hasil maklumat yang dikumpul pasukan penyelidikannya, kamera mudah alih SPECT ini digunakan terhadap wanita muda dan ibu yang mempunyai susu badan.

Iqbal menerima Anugerah Saintis Muda daripada Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Datuk Dr. Ewon Ebin pada November lepas, manakala pada bulan berikutnya, beliau menerima pengiktirafan daripada Akademi Sains Malaysia.



IQBAL bersama peralatan kamera SPECT yang boleh digunakan dalam rawatan kanser payudara.

PENCIPTAAN teknologi tersebut membantu pihak hospital mengurangkan kos pembelian mesin baharu. - Gambar hiasan.



New **Sarawak Tribune**

Important to preserve traditional knowledge

By : NORNASHEILA ZAIDI

Date Posted : Tuesday 06-May-2014

KOTA SAMARAHAN: The state government is dedicated to develop skills and infrastructure that are necessary through various initiatives to ensure that we develop our bioeconomy in a way which is truly sustainable and beneficial to our local communities.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Adenan Satem said that the Sarawak Corridor Of Renewable Energy (SCORE) was included in one of the initiatives where SCORE will play a vital role in ensuring that the state not only retains but also grows in terms of manpower and scientific excellence in our bioeconomy.

"Sarawak, is rich in diversity in terms of its ethnic communities and biological resources and each of these communities have for centuries relied on traditional knowledge handed down through generations to utilise the resources sustainably and manage the resources around them.

"Therefore, it is important to preserve traditional knowledge and ensure that it is given a high level of recognition in its possible contribution as a starting point in developing a bioeconomy," said Adenan.

Adenan said this in his text speech which was read by Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang during the opening ceremony of **Bio Borneo 2014 Conference and Exhibition** with the theme 'Sustaining the Bioeconomy Community' held at DeTAR Putra of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) near here yesterday.

According to Adenan, it was also important to document, research and protect the Intellectual Property (IPs) arising from this pathway.

He also pointed out that the importance of traditional knowledge of ethnic communities and its connection to intellectual property has been highlighted at the international level.

As early as 2001, the state had directed Sarawak Biodiversity Centre or SBC to facilitate traditional knowledge documentation among our ethnic communities knowing that it has wide potential for discovering new applications, Adenan said.

He added that the knowledge in the communities was declining in terms of preservation and practice.

"Traditional Knowledge or TK is a lead for scientific discovery and sometimes it is considered a short cut for pharmaceutical research.

"TK is not only useful for medicinal purpose but it also leads the way to the discovery of new food source, nutrition and health promoting plants.

"SBC also works closely with the indigenous communities through its Traditional Knowledge Documentation Programme to identify plants of potential and also to ensure that the communities receive equitable sharing of benefits should their knowledge on these plants lead to commercialisation," Adenan said.

In an effort to get the community on board bioeconomy activities, SBC will be amending its ordinance to define access to genetic resources and benefit sharing for the communities whose knowledge provide leads to commercial or product development.

Also present at the ceremony yesterday was the Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Datuk Dr Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah.



Score Pacu Industri Bioekonomi Sarawak

KOTA SAMARAHAN, (Bernama) -- Koridor Tenaga Diperbaharui Sarawak (SCORE) akan memainkan peranan penting dalam memastikan negeri itu berkembang dalam aspek tenaga kerja dan kecemerlangan saintifik dalam bioekonominya.

Ketua Menteri Sarawak Tan Sri Adenan Satem berkata bagi memastikan bioekonomi dibangunkan dalam kaedah benar-benar mampan dan berfaedah kepada masyarakat tempatan, kerajaan negeri berusaha untuk membangunkan kemahiran dan infrastruktur yang perlu, melalui pelbagai inisiatif termasuk SCORE.

Beliau berkata selain kaya dengan sumber semula jadi dan biodiversiti, Sarawak juga kaya dengan kepelbagaian manusia iaitu lebih 30 masyarakat etnik di negeri itu.

"Kepentingan pengetahuan tradisi mengenai masyarakat etnik dan hubungannya kepada harta intelek telah dibangkitkan pada peringkat antarabangsa," katanya dalam ucapannya pada **Persidangan dan Pameran Bio Borneo 2014** di Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) di sini Isnin.

Ucapan beliau dibacakan oleh Timbalan Ketua Menteri Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang.

Adenan berkata kerajaan negeri telah mengarahkan Pusat Biodiversiti Sarawak (SBC) untuk membantu pendokumentasian pengetahuan tradisi dalam kalangan masyarakat etnik, menyedari bahawa ia mempunyai potensi besar untuk menemui permohonan baharu.

Beliau berkata pengetahuan tradisi merupakan petunjuk bagi penemuan saintifik dan kadangkala diambilkira sebagai jalan pintas bagi penyelidikan farmaseutikal.

"Pengetahuan tradisi bukan sahaja berguna bagi tujuan perubatan, tetapi juga menjadi petunjuk kepada penemuan sumber makanan baharu, nutrisi dan kesihatan yang menggalakkan tumbuhan," katanya.

Adenan berkata SBC bekerjasama rapat dengan masyarakat Orang Asli melalui program pendokumentasian pengetahuan tradisinya untuk mengenal pasti tumbuhan yang berpotensi dan memastikan masyarakat menerima faedah perkongsian yang

saksama berikutan pengetahuan mereka mengenai tumbuhan membawa kepada pengkomersilan.

"Dalam usaha kerajaan negeri mendapatkan masyarakat dengan aktiviti bioekonomi, SBC akan meminda ordinannya untuk menentukan akses kepada sumber-sumber genetik dan perkongsian faedah bagi masyarakat yang pengetahuannya membawa kepada pengkomersilan atau pembangunan produk," katanya.

Beliau berkata bidang pertanian yang berpotensi dan aspek agronomi bagi tumbuhan yang berguna dilaksanakan oleh Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak, yang akan memacu penyelidikan dan pembangunan bagi tanaman baharu dan amalan terbaik dalam mengusahakan tanaman makanan asli.

"Ekonomi berasaskan bio atau bioekonomi merangkumi visi Sarawak ke arah pertanian yang mampan, tanaman baharu dan perikanan serta penggunaan sumber biologi yang mampan bagi pelbagai permohonan.

"Ini termasuk makanan, farmaseutikal, nutraseutikal dan permohonan industri misalnya bagi biofuel dan bahan kimia semulajadi, melalui inovasi dan penggunaan teknologi," kata Adenan.

SCORE to spearhead Sarawak's bioeconomy industry

KOTA SAMARAHAN (Bernama) - The Sarawak Corridor Of Renewable Energy (SCORE) will play a pivotal role in ensuring the state not only retains, but also grows in terms of manpower and scientific excellence in its bioeconomy.

Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem said to ensure the bioeconomy is developed in a way that is truly sustainable and beneficial to local communities, the state government was dedicated to developing skills and infrastructure that are necessary through various initiatives, including the SCORE.

He said besides being rich in natural resources and biodiversity, Sarawak was also rich in terms of human diversity with more than 30 ethnic communities in the state.

"The importance of traditional knowledge of ethnic communities and its connection to intellectual property has been highlighted at the international level," he added in his speech when officiating the **Bio Borneo 2014 Conference and Exhibition at the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas)** here today.

The text of Adenan's speech was read by Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang who represented him.

Adenan said the state government had directed the Sarawak Biodiversity Centre (SBC) to facilitate traditional knowledge documentation among the ethnic communities knowing that it had wide potential for discovering new applications.

He said traditional knowledge is a lead for scientific discovery and sometimes is considered a short cut for pharmaceutical research.

"Traditional knowledge is not only useful for medical proposes, but also leads the way to the discovery of new food sources, nutrition and health promoting plants," he added.

SBC, Adenan said, works closely with the indigenous communities through its traditional knowledge documentation programmes to identify plants of potential and also ensure that the communities receive equitable sharing of benefits should their knowledge on these plants lead to commercialisation.

"In the state's effort to get the community on board bioeconomy activities, the SBC will be amending its ordinance to define access to genetic resources and benefit sharing for communities whose knowledge provided leads to commercial or product development," he added.

He said the agriculture potential and the agronomy aspects of useful plants is being undertaken by the Sarawak Department of Agriculture, which is spearheading research and development of new crops and best practices in cultivating indigenous food crops.

"A bio-based economy or bioeconomy encapsulates Sarawak's vision towards sustainable **agriculture, new crops and fisheries** as sustainable use of biological resources for various applications.

"It includes food, pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals and industrial applications in for example, biofuels and natural chemicals, through innovation and the use of technology," Adenan added.

Analisis tunjuk hasil positif

Jabatan Kesihatan sahkan air lombong yang dipam ke empangan selamat, patuhi parameter ditetapkan

SABAK BERNAM – Hasil analisis Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Selangor mendapati air lombong yang dipam untuk menambah aliran air di Sungai Selangor bagi memenuhi sumber bekalan air mentah di negeri ini mematuhi parameter ditetapkan.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Tetap Belia dan Sukan, Infrastruktur dan Kemudahan Awam negeri Dr Ahmad Yunus Hairi berkata, penduduk di negeri ini tidak perlu khawatir kerana hasil ujian analisis yang dijalankan itu mendapati ia selamat untuk digunakan.

Menurutnya, keputusan ujian menunjukkan parameter air yang digunakan normal dan tidak bermasalah seperti mana yang didakwa oleh sesetengah pihak kononnya penggunaan air lombong itu memberi

kesan kepada penggunaan kerana tahap kualitinya yang rendah.

“Keputusan parameternya dalam keadaan normal, kerana air lombong yang diambil (dipam) di paras atas bukan di bawah. Contohnya kalau ada logam berat ini sekali pun, ia biasanya berada paras bawah,” katanya kepada *Sinar Harian*.

Ahmad Yunus menjelaskan, usaha kerajaan negeri mengepam air di sembilan bekas lombong itu adalah bagi menambah sumber keperluan air mentah yang dirawat untuk ke-



AHMAD YUNUS

gunaan penduduk di negeri ini.

“Untuk makluman, kita belum guna air lombong ini pun, sebab paras air sungai kita mencukupi untuk kita rawat. Malah ada lebihan. Kita sedut dan simpan ke lombong,” katanya.

Beliau berkata, sebanyak 10,000 juta liter sehari (JLH) air lebihan ini disimpan pada kadar minimum untuk keperluan penduduk meskipun kadar taburan hujan tidak menentu di kawasan tadahan empangan.

“Selain itu, usaha kita adalah menjalankan pembenihan awan

dan menunaikan solat iktikaf bagi mendoakan supaya hujan turun ke tadahan takungan,” katanya.

Dalam pada itu, kerajaan negeri mempelawa semua pihak termasuk universiti tempatan yang berminat untuk membuat analisis mengenai tahap keselamatan air lombong yang disalurkan kepada pengguna di Lembah Klang.

Ahmad Yunus berkata, pendekatan itu diambil kerana timbul beberapa pertikaian dan keraguan daripada pihak tertentu.

“Analisis sampel air lombong berkenaan dilaksanakan oleh Jabatan Kesihatan setiap tahun. Bahkan Lembaga Urus Air Selangor (Luas) juga membuat kajian sampel air kolam daripada penganalisis Institut Piawaian dan Penyelidikan

Perindustrian Malaysia (Sirim).

“Sebab itu, kita buka kepada universiti tempatan termasuk profesor yang berminat atau ingini tahu boleh lakukan kajian,” katanya.

Katanya, tawaran menjalankan analisis berkenaan adalah untuk membuktikan bahawa kerajaan negeri telus.

“Kita buka kepada sesiapa yang berminat, tapi harus mendapatkan kebenaran daripada Luas terlebih dahulu kerana kawasan itu di bawah pewartaan mereka,” katanya.

Sebelum ini, beberapa pakar penyelidik air menggesa kerajaan negeri membuktikan sebarang kelulusan daripada Kementerian Kesihatan berhubung tahap keselamatan air lombong yang dibekalkan kepada pengguna.

Ex-Proton CEO to roll out EV car rental service

> First stage to see the introduction of 30 to 40 cars in the Klang Valley in August

BY EVA YEONG & RUPINDER SINGH
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

PUTRAJAYA: Former Proton Holdings Bhd CEO Datuk Seri Syed Zainal Abidin Syed Mohamed Tahir is starting the country's first electric vehicle (EV) car rental service with investments of up to RM7 million.

CMS Consortium Sdn Bhd, where Syed Zainal is the director, chairman and a shareholder, plans to introduce an EV car sharing programme known as Cohesive Mobility Solution (Comos) in August this year.

Comos is a collaboration between the Malaysia Automotive Institute, Malaysian Green Technology Corp and CMS Consortium.

A quick search at the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM) showed that CMS Consortium was registered on Nov 25, 2013, with a registered address at Bandar Sri Damansara, Kuala Lumpur. It has three direct shareholders, namely Syed Zainal, Emal Mobiliti Sdn Bhd and Dfran Research Technologies Sdn Bhd.

Including Syed Zainal, the company

has five directors. The others are Mohd Fauzy Ahmad, Nizam Hanis Md Ishak, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad and Mustaffa Abdul Razak.

Syed Zainal, Mohd Fauzy and Nizam Hanis are also shareholders and directors of loss-making engineering research and technology solutions company, Dfran.

Interestingly, Dfran shares the same business address as Kima Sdn Bhd, a unit of Nadi Corp Holdings Sdn Bhd, where former Proton chairman Datuk Mohd Nadzmi Mohd Salleh is the executive chairman.

Syed Zainal said CMS Consortium plans to apply for soft loans from the government through agencies like Malaysia Technology Development Corp and Malaysian Industrial Development Finance Bhd to kick start the venture.

"We're talking about initial capital injection of about RM5 million to RM7 million this year alone," he told reporters yesterday at the programme's soft launch by International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed.

Syed Zainal said the company can recoup its investment in two years as it will also provide branding opportunities on its fleet of EVs, an additional revenue stream, on top of the vehicle rental and charging station fees.

The company aims to have 60 EV

cars and 60 charging stations this year, with a target of 3,500 EV cars by 2020.

"We're already talking to companies for yearly leases," Syed Zainal said.

The first stage will roll out 30 to 40 EV cars in the Klang Valley in August and 20 to 30 EV cars in Langkawi in November. It will be available in Malacca, Johor and Penang later this year.

Syed Zainal said the leasing rates of the EV cars will be announced in a month's time, but explained that the hourly rental will be slightly more expensive than that for taxis but affordable.

He added that over the next two to three months it will solicit building owners and hotels to participate in Comos.

Syed Zainal also said the company is working with Kuala Lumpur City Hall to designate green parking zones in the city for EV cars under the programme.

The OEM partners for the programme are Tan Chong and Renault while Celcom will be the service provider handling the billing and payment services. The EV cars to be used in the programme are the Renault Twizy, the Renault Zoe and the Nissan Leaf.

Comos is expected to be officially launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak in August.

Holistic water policy needed

THE recent water shortage has caused much hardship to the people. It also brought about reduced earnings to some eateries and financial losses to some water-dependent industries and to farmers, especially the fruit and vegetable planters.

Many people may wonder why our country located in the near-equatorial region and enjoys abundant rainfall can still suffer from water shortages.

There are several reasons for this. Firstly, annual rainfall in Malaysia is not evenly distributed within a year. There are wet and dry seasons. During a dry season, there are several dry spells separated by short wet spells. Normally, each dry spell lasts for one to two weeks.

The recent dry spell persisted for one-and-a-half months, from the end of January till March 15.

According to the Standardised Precipitation Index definition, this dry spell can be classified as a drought.

Since then rain has occurred but it has so far not been as widespread and intense as during a normal season. This is the case over the Selangor Dam catchment area.

Other reasons are:

> Population and industries have been increasing rapidly leading to increased demand for treated water;

> River pollution;

> Loss of non-revenue water;

> Harvesting of rainwater has not received strong support; and

> The low price consumers pay for treated water results in the wasteful use of this precious commodity.

Since the present wet season of

April and May is short and it will be followed by the next dry season from June to September, we need to solve all these problems in a holistic manner so that people do not have to continue to suffer from water shortage.

I recommend the following:

1) **That the Malaysian**

Meteorological Department consider issuing advisories on the occurrence of drought as soon as a dry spell persists for more than two weeks;

2) Only environmentally-friendly development projects be approved and stringent EIA studies be carried out prior to approval, especially when they involve the clearing of forests. All water catchment areas must be permanently gazetted and protected;

3) Have private sector-sponsored

CSR projects to rehabilitate rivers throughout the country. An example is the Sungai Way river rehabilitation project in Selangor undertaken by the Guinness Anchor Bhd Foundation.

Also, the public needs to be informed where to dispose of unwanted objects such as old refrigerators, old mattresses and old furniture, and vehicle workshops on where to dispose of used motor oil;

4) Harvesting rainwater for domestic and industrial use should be given wide publicity by the governments, both federal and state. Mandatory rain harvesting should be considered for new buildings;

5) To prevent the loss of non-revenue water, old and leaking pipes should be changed. People are encouraged to inform the water authorities as soon as they notice any

burst pipes. Quick action must be taken by the water authorities as soon as they are informed. Hefty fine should be imposed on water theft;

6) The United Nations inter-governmental panel on climate change has warned that global warming could spiral out of control. The impact of the warming climate on water shortage has been felt in many places.

Therefore, we need to act now and start conserving our valuable water resources before it is too late. For example, it is not necessary to wash our cars every day. Do not wash your car and water your garden on rainy days. Guidelines on saving water should be widely publicised; and

7) Educational programmes on water-saving and keeping the drains clean should continue to be taught in schools and be in the print and electronic media regularly. Water authorities should also take the extra step by attaching water-saving tips brochures with the water bill.

A holistic national water policy covering water resources, supply, demand and waste water should be implemented.

Having clean running water at home is a blessing from God. Let us all treasure this precious resource.

We do not want to be faced with a situation where legislation has to be introduced to restrict water usage, similar to certain states in Australia and in the United States.

CHEANG BOON KHEAN
Ex-Director General
Malaysian Meteorological Services
Department (1994-1996)

Lab results show toxins exceed allowable limit

APRIL 10, 2014. The Selangor government gives the go-ahead to pump water from five disused tin mining pools in Bestari Jaya into Sungai Selangor.

The move is a stop-gap solution to the ongoing water crisis that had plagued the state for months.

Soon after the announcement was made, there were ripples. Health, water and environmental experts voiced concerns about the potential health risks.

They said the amount of heavy metals and toxins in the water — lead, chromium, mercury, arsenic and ammonia, among others — was harmful, and if introduced into the potable water system beyond the permissible limits, deadly.

In an effort to downplay the mounting health concerns and long-term effects over the move, the Selangor Water Management Authority (Luas) and state government issued statements to calm an increasingly anxious public.

On April 25, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim gave his assurance that the mining pool water was safe.

"The mining pools have been identified as alternative water sources by the Selangor Water Management Authority since 2009."

On April 30, he went on record again when he announced the end to water rationing in Selangor.

This time, Khalid said the sample

of water from the mining pool showed no chemical elements or heavy metals in it, and the water quality was in compliance with the parameters set by the state Health Department.

However, he did not back his claims with toxicity results from the Chemistry Department or anyone else.

He reassured the public again the next day.

Over a period of two days, the NST gathered water samples from these mining ponds to find out their toxicity levels.

The team hoped against hope that Khalid was right.

The team had earlier called the Chemistry Department to see if it could send its samples in on Friday, but were told that there were no slots available because Luas had made bookings earlier.

Luas had told the Chemistry Department that it was going to send in its samples "soon".

This, after it had been pumping water from the pools into Sungai Selangor for about two months.

Checks by the NST on May 3 revealed that a Luas team visited the area on May 2 and 3.

On May 1, the team took water samples from the Sungai Darah and Hang Tuah network of mining pools.

These are interconnected by a series of underground pipes and

channels.

The first pool in the Sungai Darah network is not far from the Unisel campus in Bestari Jaya.

From here, water is pumped into the adjacent pool connected by a large pipe and, subsequently, into the next one until it reaches the last mining pool in the Sungai Darah system.

From here, the water will be channelled into Sungai Selangor.

Mercury was peaking at 34°C when the team arrived in Bestari Jaya. Anglers dotted the landscape looking for the perfect catch.

The soil around the disused mining ponds looked firm and solid.

However, the team found out otherwise on more than one occasion.

Every step was measured, deliberate and had to be planned.

In one instance, a team member was sucked in by quicksand and was in real danger. Quick thinking and good fortune prevented a tragedy.

The samples from the first outing were obtained near the water's edge. The aim was to establish a baseline for the analysis.

If there were traces of toxic elements in the first batch of samples, the team would return later, get additional samples and run a battery of tests on them.

Eight samples stored in plastic bottles were collected in the first expedition.

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Sample's lead content sky-high

→ From Page 9

Each sample was sealed, labelled, catalogued and photographed. Extra care was placed to ensure that their integrity was not compromised.

They were packed into a box and delivered the next day to A&A Scientific Resources Sdn Bhd, an independent laboratory in Shah Alam, for analysis.

Optimally, the samples should be analysed within 24 hours. When we reached the lab, we were told that it could only conduct a comprehensive analysis on our samples on Monday.

Instead, we asked the lab technicians if they could just do a raw water sample test, without subjecting the samples to the "digestion" process.

Within a few hours, we had the results.

Under the Health Ministry's Recommended Water Quality Criteria, the permissible level for lead in water should not exceed 0.05mg/l.

However, the highest reading obtained from one of the samples we collected showed a lead content of 1.49mg/l — almost 30 times more than the safe level.

After further discussions with wa-

ter experts and scientists, the team decided a second expedition was imperative to get a more comprehensive, accurate and detailed sampling.

This included getting samples further afar from the water's edge and from an even greater depth.

That meant getting fresh bottles with caps that could be sealed and opened only when they reached a certain depth, a telescopic rod and some rolls of duct tape to anchor the bottles to the rod.

The team also spent the next day consolidating its findings, and checking and cross-checking the locations of the pools.

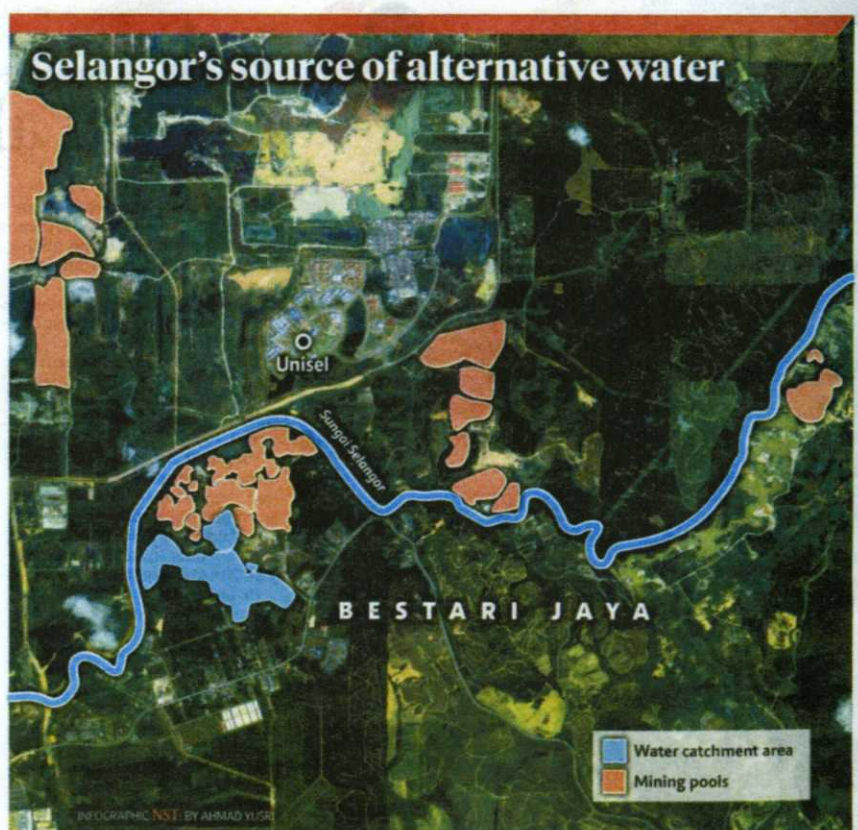
For the second expedition, the team took five samples. Again, each sample was sealed, labelled, catalogued and photographed.

As an added measure, each bottle cap was duct-taped to ensure that the sample was not compromised.

The samples were delivered to the Shah Alam lab the next day.

This time, a battery of tests were conducted on the samples to detect the presence of other heavy metals.

In all, the samples were tested for 12 elements — lead, zinc, iron, mercury, arsenic, copper, silver, cadmium, nickel, manganese, chromium and stannum.



KERATAN AKHBAR
BERITA HARIAN (DUNIA): MUKA SURAT 36
TARIKH: 07 MEI 2014 (RABU)

Tujuh daerah diisytihar zon bencana

» Gempa bumi musnahkan kampung, 3,500 rumah

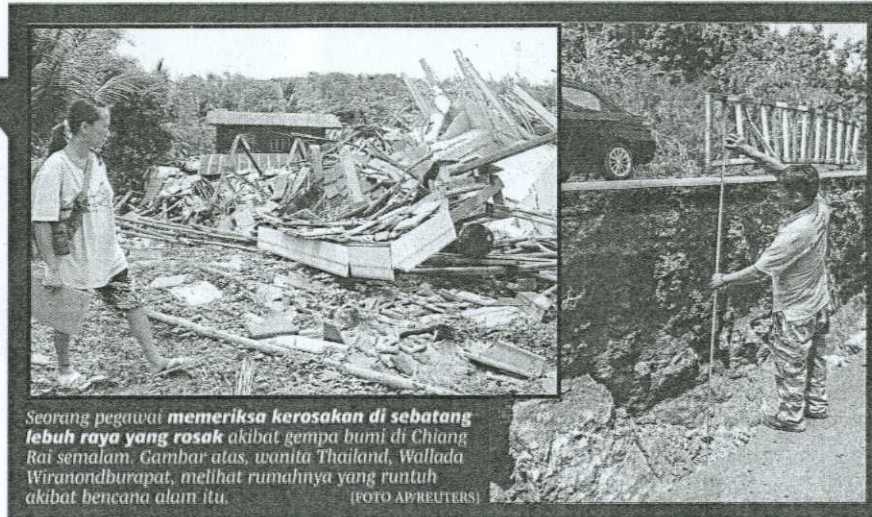
■ Chiang Rai

Tujuh daerah di Chiang Mai, Utara Thailand, yang dilanda gempa bumi dengan magnitud 6.3 kelmarin, diisytiharkan sebagai zon bencana gempa, lapor agensi berita Thai New Agency (TNA).

Daerah yang diisytiharkan oleh Gabenor Chiang Rai, Pongsak Wangsamer ialah Phan, Mae Lao, Mae Suai, Wiang Chai, Muang, Pa Daet dan Phaya Mengrai.

Kajian terbaharu mendapati gempa bumi kuat itu menyebabkan kerosakan pada 401 perkampungan di 34 kawasan dalam daerah terbabit, di mana empat rumah ranap sama sekali dan kira-kira 3,500 yang lain mengalami kerosakan.

Sekurang-kurangnya 10 kuil tempatan, tiga sekolah, tiga hospital, sebuah hotel dan sebatang jalan raya turut terjejas.



Seorang pegawai memeriksa kerosakan di sebatang lebuh raya yang rosak akibat gempa bumi di Chiang Rai semalam. Gambar atas, wanita Thailand, Wallada Wiranondburapat, melihat rumahnya yang runtuh akibat bencana alam itu. (FOTO AP/REUTERS)

Empat gegaran susulan

Pongsak berkata, keselamatan masih menjadi kebimbangan utama berikutan empat gegaran susulan dicatatkan setiap jam secara purata setakat ini.

Beliau berkata, pihak berkuasa kerja raya diarahkan untuk me-

eriksa bangunan besar ketika pihak berkuasa bencana tempatan dan pentadbir diarahkan untuk segera membantu mangsa.

Sementara itu, Ketua Polis Kebangsaan, Jeneral Adul Saengsingkaew mengarahkan polis pengawal sempadan mempercepat-

kan penghantaran bantuan kepada mangsa yang tinggal di dalam khemah, selain mengarahkan pembaikan rumah yang rosak di daerah Mae La, Muang dan Phan.

Mereka juga diarahkan berse- dia untuk misi menyelamatkan.

Gegaran susulan berterusan menimbulkan kebimbangan di wilayah utara Thailand sehingga semalam, kata pihak berkuasa di sana.

Enam gegaran besar

"Sehingga lewat kelmarin (Isnin), ada enam gegaran besar dengan magnitud antara 5.0 hingga 5.9 dan terakhir pada pagi ini (semalam)," kata jurucakap Jabatan Meteorologi Thailand, Burin Wechbunthung.

Katanya, sekurang-kurangnya berpuluh gegaran kecil melanda kawasan terbabit.

Sementara itu, Thailand semalam mengalami gempa bumi kedua dalam masa dua hari.

Satu gempa bumi berukuran 5.2 skala Richter melanda kawasan kira-kira 122 kilometer ke timur laut Chiang Mai pada 8.58 pagi, lapor Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia.

Gempa ini berikutan satu gegaran berukuran 6.2 skala Richter yang melanda daerah Phan di Chiang Rai pada 6.08, kelmarin.

Jabatan itu dalam satu kenyataan berkata, gempa semalam tidak menyebabkan ancaman tsunami seperti kelmarin.

BERNAMA/AGENCI



Thailand Dilanda Gempa Bumi Kedua Dalam Tempoh Dua Hari

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 Mei (Bernama) -- Thailand hari ini dilanda gempa bumi kedua dalam tempoh dua hari.

Gempa bumi berukuran 5.2 pada skala Richter melanda 122km barat laut Chiang Mai pada 8.58 pagi Selasa, menurut laporan [Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia](#).

Gempa ini berlaku berikutan gegaran terdahulu pada magnitud 6.2 yang melanda daerah Phan di Chiang Rai pada 6.08 pagi, semalam.

Menurut kenyataan jabatan itu hari ini, gempa bumi berkenaan tidak menimbulkan sebarang ancaman tsunami, sebagaimana gempa pada Isnin.

-- BERNAMA



Lynas Harap Dapat Kumpul A\$40 Juta Daripada Pelabur



MELBOURNE, 6 Mei (Bernama) -- Pelombong nadir bumi, Lynas Corporation, berharap dapat mengumpul sehingga A\$40 juta daripada pelabur untuk meningkatkan rizab modal kerjanya, demikian lapor Australian Associated Press (AAP).

Lynas, yang menggantungkan dagangan sahamnya minggu lepas berkata ia akan melancarkan pelan pembelian saham taja jamin penuh untuk mengumpulkan sekurang-kurangnya A\$30 juta.

Ia juga boleh mengumpul sehingga A\$10 juta lagi menggunakan tawaran saham "top up".

Pengerusinya Nicholas Curtis berkata wang itu akan menyediakan asas kewangan kukuh bagi Lynas dan menangani sebarang kebimbangan mudah tunai.

"Peningkatan ekuiti itu akan menjamin keperluan modal kerja jangka pendek kami," beliau dipetik sebagai berkata oleh AAP pada Selasa.

Lynas juga berkata ia akan sekali lagi mengubah terma kemudahan hutang Sojitz/JOGMEC.

Saham Lynas kali terakhir diniagakan pada A16.5 cents.

-- BERNAMA