

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN**  
**TARIKH: 23 JANUARI 2015 (JUMAAT)**

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**KERATAN AKHBAR**  
**THE MALAY MAIL (REAL SPACES) : MUKA SURAT 33**  
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**Iris Corp and TPM plan  
RM130m property venture  
in Bukit Jalil**

KUALA LUMPUR — Iris Corporation Bhd plans to invest RM130 million in a property joint venture development with Technology Park Malaysia Corp Sdn Bhd (TPM) in Bukit Jalil.

The company signed a teaming agreement with Technology Park to combine their resources to build and manage a proposed residential development project on a parcel of land in Phase 3 TPM Bukit Jalil.

Iris Corp said that the company proposes to invest in an initial investment sum estimated at RM130 million for the implementation of the first phase of the project.

The estimated investment sum will be utilised for the project subject to, and conditional upon, the procurement of all approvals, fulfilment of conditions precedents and terms and conditions under the agreement, it said.

TPM is the owner of the land and it will provide 28.89 acres for the project. TPM shall sub-lease the land to the special purpose vehicle at a nominal consideration for the purpose of the project.

"Iris Corp shall play the role of investor, contractor and developer and shall inject and provide the investment to construct, develop, complete and manage the project at its own costs and expenses," Iris Corp said.

It added that the JV would enable it to expand its business by constructing residential accommodations (including, but not limited to, town houses and hostels) and high-rise apartments using the IRIS-KOTO Industrial Building System (IBS). The target market for the residential units would be students.

"This project will further synergise the efforts of the company and TPM in creating a holistic technology educational hub proposed to be established in TPM Bukit Jalil," it said.



## Sarawak victims to get same aid as those in peninsula

**KUCHING:** Sarawak flood victims have been assured that they will be given the same federal assistance as those in the peninsula.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Ahmad Maslan said the victims would receive a one-off RM500 aid, as announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak recently.

"We hope the aid will lessen their burden in facing this difficult time," he said after attending a briefing at the state Disaster Committee Operations Room at Wisma Bapa Malaysia here yesterday.

He said the ministry was looking into helping farmers, who had lost their livestock and farms.

As of 4pm yesterday, 3,071 flood victims from 866 families were seeking shelter at 17 relief centres in the state.

The state Education Department said 29 primary and secondary schools were closed, affecting 4,000 students. Eight schools serving as evacuation centres are operating.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin will visit the state today to check on the flood situation in Limbang.

In **Beaufort**, Sabah, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman urged state agencies and non-governmental organisations to help flood victims.

"The situation is under control. The government, via various departments and agencies, will monitor the situation," he said after his visit here and in Membakut.

As of 5pm yesterday, there were

10 relief centres housing more than 4,000 flood victims from more than 70 villages. Floods that hit Penampang after a downpour on Wednesday night subsided at 10am yesterday.

The state Education Department said 34 schools here and in Membakut were closed, as were five in Papar and one in Sipitang. Some schools have been turned into relief centres.

The state weather forecast said rain and thunderstorms were expected until next week.

State Meteorological Department director Abdul Malek Tusin said the downpour, which began on Monday, was brought by the northeasterly monsoon.

"The rain is expected to last until next month, but we are not expecting the 'king tide'."



**Birigitta Justin Liew** carries her daughter through floodwaters in **Kampung Tandoi** in Membakut, Sabah, yesterday. Pic by Edmund Samunting



## Polis Minta Penduduk Pindah Bila Diarah Pihak Berkuasa

BEAUFORT, 22 Jan (Bernama) -- Ketua Polis Daerah Beaufort, DSP Mustaffa Maarof Mustaffa menasihatkan penduduk di kawasan yang terjejas banjir supaya segera berpindah apabila diarah berbuat demikian oleh pihak berkuasa.

Beliau berkata keengganan penduduk berpindah lebih awal, akan menyukarkan pihak berkuasa untuk memberi bantuan.

"Polis telah memberi arahan awal agar berpindah berdasarkan maklumat daripada [Jabatan Meteorologi](#)," katanya di sini hari ini.

Katanya semua agensi kerajaan kini sedang memberi bantuan kepada penduduk yang terjejas banjir di daerah Beaufort dan Membakut.

-- BERNAMA





A rainbow is seen from the Amazon Tall Tower Observatory in Sao Sebastiao do Uatuma in the Amazon forest in Amazonas state, Brazil. The United Nation's Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services has come up with a scaffolding for assessments that integrate the information and insights of indigenous and local knowledge holders as well as experts in the natural, social and engineering science disciplines. Reuters pic

## 'Rosetta Stone' for biodiversity studies

**COMMON PLATFORM:** United Nations agency achieves a meeting of minds despite diverse cultural traditions and concepts

**T**HIS month saw an important milestone reached by the United Nation's young Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES): publication of its first public product.

It wasn't a biodiversity-related trend analysis nor a policy prescription, however. The first of those from IPBES will appear at about this time next year.

What the organisation published was something more fundamental — the result of two years collaboration by hundreds of experts. It is an agreed scaffolding for assessments that integrate the information and insights of indigenous and local knowledge holders as well as experts in the natural, social and engineering science disciplines.

IPBES is akin to the UN's Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in that it will carry out assessments of existing knowledge in response to governments' and other stakeholders' requests.

Some argue IPBES confronts a challenge as complex as its sister organisation, if not more so. That's because species distribution and population health and protections

vary greatly from one place to another. Solutions, therefore, need to be tailored to a fine local and regional degree.

And the relative contributions of efforts to halt and reverse biodiversity loss also vary enormously — complete success of efforts somewhere with little biodiversity may not be nearly as important as a little success in a megadiverse area in the tropics, for example.

Step one in the ambitious IPBES work programme, however, has been to agree on how to integrate diverse, strongly-held, culturally-formed attitudes and viewpoints in as simple and effective a way as possible. The IPBES' *Conceptual Framework*, published by the Public Library of Science, is the end result, connecting the dots and illustrating the inter-relationships between:

**NATURE** (which includes scientific concepts such as species diversity, ecosystem structure and functioning, the biosphere, the evolutionary process and humankind's shared evolutionary heritage. For indigenous knowledge systems, nature in-

cludes different concepts such as "Mother Earth" and other holistic concepts of land and water as well as traditions, for example.

**NATURE'S** benefits to people (the framework underlines that nature has values beyond providing benefits to people — "intrinsic value, independent of human experience").

**ANTHROPOGENIC** assets (knowledge, technology, financial assets, built infrastructure. Most benefits depend on the joint contribution of nature and anthropogenic assets, e.g., fish need to be caught to act as food).

**INDIRECT** drivers of change (such as institutions deciding access to land, international agreements for protection of endangered species, economic policies).

**DIRECT** drivers of change (which are both natural, e.g. earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tropical cyclones; and human, e.g. habitat conversion, chemical pollution); and,

**"GOOD** quality of life" (interpreted as "human wellbeing" by parts of humanity; to others it may mean "living well in harmony and balance

with Mother Nature". The framework recognises that fulfilled life is a highly values-based and context-dependent idea, one that influences institutions and governance systems.

To quote the paper's authors: "There had been a struggle to find a single word or phrase to capture the essence of each element in a way that respected the range of utilitarian, scientific and spiritual values that make up the diversity of human views of nature."

"The conceptual framework is now a kind of 'Rosetta Stone' for biodiversity concepts that highlights the commonalities between very diverse values sets and seeks to facilitate cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural understanding."

IPBES is now fully embarked on its work programme to produce co-ordinated assessments, policy tools and capacity-building actions. Its first assessment will focus on the issue of pollination and the threats to insect pollinators essential to much of the world's food production. Its second will explore biodiversity and ecosystem services models and scenarios analysis. Many others will follow in years to come.

The conceptual framework was created to change the way such assessments are approached from those before, and to inspire the community, though the changes are "likely to push all engaged parties well beyond their comfort zones", say the authors.

For example, direct drivers of pollination change (such as habitat or climate change, pesticide overuse, pathogens) will be examined alongside their underlying causes, including institutional ones.

State-of-the-art environmental, engineering, social and economic science knowledge will be augmented by and benefit from insights into the impacts of pollinator declines on subsistence agricultural systems, which provide much of the food in some world regions of the world — considerations typically under-represented in case studies.

Guided by the IPBES Task Force on Indigenous and Local Knowledge, assessments will consider trends observed by practitioners and their interpretations, and draw on local and indigenous knowledge that could contribute to solutions.

What IPBES is pioneering foreshadows the future of research — the convergence of different disciplines and knowledge systems to solve problems. Integrative, cross-paradigm, co-produced knowledge is on the agenda of a growing number of national research agencies, international funding bodies and some of the largest scientific networks in the world.

It is an essential step forward. To IPBES, in the words of the authors, "the inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge is not only a matter of equity but also a source of knowledge that we can no longer afford to ignore".



**Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid**, science adviser to the prime minister of Malaysia, is the IPBES' founding chair