

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 23 SEPTEMBER 2015 (RABU)

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Tackling haze at source the answer

WE refer to the letter "Cloud seeding is not the answer" (*The Star*, Sept 17).

The Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry (Mosti) agrees with the writer, Capt (R) Oo Kwan Huat, that rain from successful cloud seeding operations will only provide temporary relief and the haze problem needs to be tackled at the source.

However, tackling the haze at source is easier said than done and indeed we are lucky as the haze problem will be over by October when the inter monsoon starts.

Wetter weather and light and variable wind will ensure that our country will be free from the trans-boundary haze during this period.

Meanwhile, be rest assured as the cloud seeding operation will only be carried out after careful analysis of the safety and success factor of the operation, such as visibility, favourable clouds and the stability of the atmosphere.

**MALAYSIA METEOROLOGICAL
DEPARTMENT
Petaling Jaya**

Bright minds:
The winning team from SMK Convent Butterworth with Komala (right) and MNA research officer Salahbiah Abdul Majid (third from right).



Teacher: Science camp an eye-opener

KAJANG: Chemistry teacher Komala Devi Thanimalai described the Malaysian Nuclear Agency's science camp for teachers and students as an eye-opening programme that stimulates the interest of the participants.

"This camp is an eye-opener for all of us because there is always fear about nuclear technology.

"And for the students, it takes them away from the books to do field work in places like greenhouses and radiation labs, where they carry out experiments for themselves," said Komala, 51, from SMK Convent Butterworth.

She said the students learned a lot about the nuclear field and how science was applied in their daily life.

"This creates more interest and excitement," she added.

Komala's student Norshaza Abdul

Halim, 17, who initially wanted to be a graphic designer, now wants to become a scientist or researcher.

"I always had a negative idea about scientists and that it was tough, but after this I realised it is fun, interesting, challenging and a unique job," said Norshaza, who helped her school win the RM1,000 grand prize for their tissue culture experiment on how to propagate the seed of a dragon fruit.

"In the future, I want to contribute to society and help find a way to prevent cancer," she added.

Wong Tai Howe, 16, from SMK Lutong Miri, said: "I will return to Sarawak with many new experiences. I enjoyed it because I learned how to use the dosimeter and measure radiation with it.

"We were asked a lot of questions about the experiment but we were encouraged by our instructor to

keep trying to answer them. We learned not to give up."

Nuclear Malaysia senior director of management Dr Dahlan Haji Mohd said the camp aimed to have a positive impact by educating teachers and students on the importance of nuclear science and technology.

"By exposing students to the real-life situations that scientists go through, we want them to gain an interest in science and maybe make it their choice in education and also their careers," said Dr Dahlan.

He said 76 participants from 19 schools from different parts of the country took part in the three-day camp at the Nuclear Malaysia grounds in Bangi.

The Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry-funded camp was started in 2013.

KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI) : MUKA SURAT 26
TARIKH: 23 SEPTEMBER 2015 (RABU)



JEREBU kembali melanda bandar raya Kuching dengan Indeks Pencemaran Udara (IPU) di Jalan Diplomatik mencatatkan bacaan 84 tengah hari semalam. - BERNAMA

Jerebu kembali landa Sarawak

KUALA LUMPUR 22 Sept. - Keadaan jerebu yang kembali melanda Sarawak hingga mencatatkan bacaan Indeks Pencemaran Udara (IPU) tidak sihat di Sri Aman, Kuching dan Samarahan turut menjejaskan operasi di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuching (LTAK) hari ini.

Paras IPU di ketiga-tiga bahagian itu menunjukkan peningkatan setiap jam dengan bacaan di Sri Aman (118), Kuching (114) dan Samarahan (112) setakat pukul 5 petang.

Pengurus Kanan Lapangan LTAK Malaysia Airports Sdn. Bhd., Mohd. Nadzim Hashim berkata, sehingga tempoh itu, sebanyak 13 penerbangan mengalami kelewatan, manakala dua penerbangan dibatal-

kan melibatkan sektor penerbangan Mukah-Kuching-Mukah.

Semalam, Pegawai Meteorologi Kanan Jabatan Meteorologi, Pusat Cuaca Nasional, Dr. Mohd. Kamal Mohd. Anip menyatakan bacaan IPU di seluruh negeri akan meningkat berikutan perubahan arah tiupan angin.

Mohd. Kamal berkata, tiupan angin wilayah Kalimantan Tengah, Indonesia akan kembali dalam masa terdekat malah boleh berlarutan dalam tempoh 10 hari lagi.

Sementara itu di Putrajaya, Cyberjaya dan Sepang dilaporkan semakin pulih apabila bacaan IPU kini berada pada tahap sederhana.

Bagaimanapun lain-lain kawasan di seluruh negara berada

dalam keadaan sederhana dan baik terutama di dua daerah di Sabah iaitu Sandakan dan Kota Kinabalu apabila masing-masing hanya mencatatkan bacaan IPU 29 dan 31.

Jerebu mulai reda sejak 17 September lalu berikutan hujan lebat, namun keadaan itu tidak kekal lama apabila hari ini ruang udara terutama di tiga kawasan di Sarawak dilaporkan kembali membimbangkan.

IPU antara 0 dan 50 adalah baik, 51 hingga 100 (sederhana), 101 hingga 200 (tidak sihat), 201 hingga 300 (sangat tidak sihat) dan 300 ke atas (berbahaya).

Orang ramai boleh merujuk portal <http://apims.doe.gov.my> untuk mengetahui bacaan IPU semasa.

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEW STRAITS TIMES (PRIME NEWS) : MUKA SURAT 10
TARIKH : 23 SEPTEMBER 2015 (RABU)

Short-lived joy for Sarawak folk as haze returns

KUCHING: Joy among Sarawakians over cleaner air quality was cut short after the transboundary haze cast its spell again on the southern part of the state.

Checks with the Department of Environment showed three divisions in the state registering unhealthy Air Pollutant Index (API) readings as of 5pm yesterday.

Kuching was among the worst affected areas with an API reading of 127, a spike from a good reading of 43 recorded during the same time the previous day.

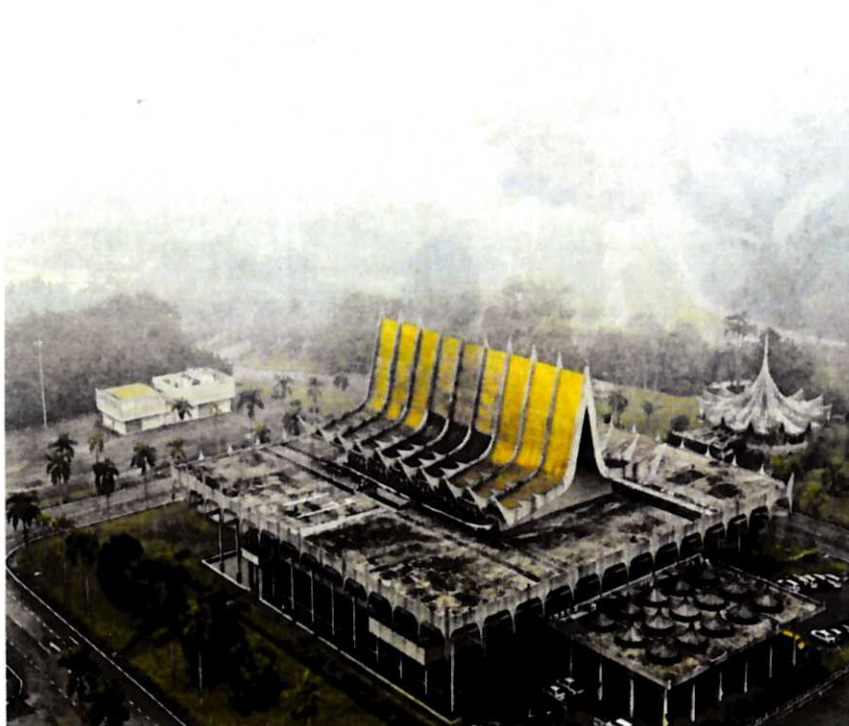
The same trend was identified for the Samarahan and Sri Aman divisions, which recorded unhealthy air pollutant concentrations of 123 and 121, respectively, yesterday. Both divisions had also recorded good API readings the day before.

The department's automatic air stations at 30 other areas nationwide recorded moderate API readings during the same period.

The worsening haze here disrupted flight arrivals and departures at the Kuching International Airport (KIA).

Malaysia Airports Sdn Bhd senior manager at KIA, Mohd Nadzim Hashim, said two flights involving 28 passengers from Mukah to Kuching and Kuching to Mukah were cancelled following low visibility at the airport.

Although he did not name the airline, it was understood that the cancelled flights were operated by community airlines, MASWings Sdn Bhd.



Kuching was affected by the returning haze with an API reading of 127 at 5pm yesterday. Bernama pic

He said the haze also caused the delay of 13 flights, affecting 1,205 passengers.

"As of 3pm, the visibility at the airport was at 1km," said Nadzim.

The Natural Resources and Envi-

ronment Ministry said the Meteorology Department and Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) will continue conducting cloud-seeding operations in Sarawak until this Friday.

The exercise, said the ministry,

would depend on cloud availability and density, as well as visibility at the affected areas.

"The department and RMAF conducted cloud-seeding exercises from Sept 15 until Sept 17 to bring

respite from the haze.

"While the operation conducted in the peninsula has ceased following improvement in the air quality, clouding-seeding will continue in Sarawak until this Friday," said the ministry.

It said the recurrence of the problem in Sarawak was due to cross-border haze from Kalimantan, Indonesia.

On a related matter, 3,371 open fire burning cases were identified in the country until Sunday.

The ministry had issued compound involving 215 cases during the same period. In addition, 18 cases were brought to court, 15 were given warning notices and 41 issued warning letters.

Singapore-based Asean Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC) identified 474 and 26 hotspots in several parts of Kalimantan and Sumatra, respectively, as of yesterday.

Based on satellite images picked up by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, ASMC also identified three hotspots in Malaysia — in Terengganu, Johor and Sabah.

"Showers in recent days had reduced the extent of haze area in Sumatra. Isolated hotspots and smoke haze were detected mainly in southern Sumatra.

"Kalimantan, however, remained shrouded in widespread smog as dry weather conditions prevailed," said ASMC.

IPU beberapa bandar utama di Sarawak meningkat

Kuching: Jerebu kembali melanda Sarawak semalam, apabila beberapa bandar utama mencatatkan peningkatan mendadak Indeks Pencemaran Udara (IPU), dipercayai berpunca daripada 474 titik panas di Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Sehingga jam 3 petang, bandar raya ini mencatatkan bacaan IPU 109 melepasi paras kualiti udara tidak sihat, diikuti Samarahan (106) dan Sri Aman (117), sekali gus menunjukkan peningkatan sekali ganda berbanding bacaan direkodkan kelmarin.

Jerebu mula melanda seawal jam 8 pagi, dan keadaan bertambah buruk dalam tempoh beberapa jam selepas apabila jarak pandangan antara 500 hingga ke 1,000 meter.

Perubahan arah angin

Jurucakap Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) Sarawak ketika dihubungi memaklumkan keadaan berjerebu berpunca daripada perubahan arah angin yang membawa bersama jerebu dari negara jiran.

"Sarawak dijangka mengalami keadaan berjerebu tidak menentu sehingga penghujung bulan ini didorong peralihan monsun, termasuk perubahan arah laluan angin," katanya.

Sementara itu, sehingga jam 3 petang, dua penerbangan dibatalkan membatalkan pesawat Twin Otter MAS-Wings bagi laluan Kuching - Mukah - Kuching.

Pengurus Kanan, Malaysia Airports Bhd, Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuching (LTAK), Mohd Nadzim Hashim, berkata berikutan keadaan jerebu, 13 penerbangan mengalami kelewatan, masing-masing lima pelepasan dan lapan ketibaan.

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**Sarawak
dijangka
mengalami
keadaan
berjerebu tidak
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sehingga
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laluan angin”**

**Jurucakap JAS
Sarawak**

Pembenihan awan

Di Kuala Lumpur, Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (MetMalaysia), Datuk Che Gayah Ismail, berkata pihaknya sedang berusaha untuk melaksanakan pembenihan awan di kawasan terjejas itu.

"Namun operasi hari ini (semalam) terpaksa ditangguhkan berikutan jarak penglihatan rendah di kawasan itu dan juga ketiadaan awan yang sesuai," katanya.

Beliau berkata, MetMalaysia juga membuat tinjauan cuaca berikutan satu lekukan tropika terbentuk di Timur Filipina dijangka mengalami ribut tropika mulai semalam dan akan bergerak ke arah barat Barat Laut menuju perairan Jepun.

"Ia menyebabkan kejadian angin kencang dan laut bergelora di perairan Laut China Selatan, esok dan dijangka berterusan sehingga 28 September ini," katanya.

Cyclone making haze worse

After brief respite, air quality levels drop again in several states

By RAZAK AHMAD, MUGUNTAN VANAR
and JOASH EE DE SILVA
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PETALING JAYA: The haze is back after a hiatus of several days and the air quality is now getting worse in Sarawak and several other parts of the country.

A cyclone in the Philippines is carrying winds with smoke particles from land-clearing fires in Indonesia towards Malaysia.

Of the 53 areas measured nationwide, the Air Pollutant Index (API) readings rose in 23 of them.

It fell in seven areas and was unchanged in

the rest as at 5pm yesterday compared to readings taken in the same period a day earlier.

Kuching was the highest with 127, followed by Samarahan (123) and Sri Aman (121).

In Port Klang, the air quality worsened from 61 to 69; 52 to 56 in Petaling Jaya; 61 to 71 in Larkin; 71 to 78 in Pasir Gudang; 54 to 65 in Kota Baru; and 53 to 69 in Port Dickson.

A reading of 100 to 200 indicates unhealthy air quality; 201 to 300 is very unhealthy; and above 300 is hazardous. A reading of 51 to 100 is moderate.

In Sabah, the air quality worsened in the south-eastern Tawau district while some inte-

rior areas were also affected yesterday.

Sabah Meteorological Department director Abdul Malik Tussin said visibility fell to about 4km in Tawau, which borders Kalimantan, where some 78 hotspots were recorded.

In the interiors of Keningau and Ranau, visibility was at 6km and 7km respectively. In Kota Kinabalu and Sandakan, it was more than 10km.

"We expect the south-westerly winds to blow until Sept 28, although tropical storms over the South China Sea may help lift the haze briefly from Sabah," said Abdul Malik.

In Kuching, Sarawak, poor visibility yester-

day caused two flights to be cancelled while 13 others were delayed.

Kuching International Airport senior manager Mohd Nadzim Hashim said visibility there dropped to a mere 1km.

In a statement yesterday, the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry said satellite imagery showed more than 470 hotspots in Kalimantan and 26 in Sumatra.



See Page 25
Indonesia in
haze crackdown

KERATAN AKHBAR
THE STAR (NATION) : MUKA SURAT 01
TARIKH: 23 SEPTEMBER 2015 (RABU)

'Find out why students shying away from science subjects'

By NEVILLE SPYKERMAN
and PATRICK LEE
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: A national-level committee is needed to find out why students are not interested in taking up science subjects.

"This has to be done before steps can be taken to reverse the trend," said Universiti Utara Malaysia vice-chancellor Datuk Seri Dr Mohamed Mustafa Ishak.

He said students naturally pursued careers in fields they were interested in and suggested a relook

at how science subjects were taught and learnt.

"We need the data to address the problem so that action can be taken to strike a balance between science and arts," said Dr Mohamed, adding that the Education Ministry has to create enthusiasm for teaching and learning science in classrooms.

He was asked to comment on a study which found that Malaysian students were losing interest in science. Only 21% of those in upper secondary chose to study science subjects in 2014.

The study was carried out by the

Academy of Sciences Malaysia.

Universiti Malaya deputy vice-chancellor (Academic and International) Prof Dr Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud said science should be made relevant to students.

"Students need to see the connection between science and their possible careers," he said.

He said there might be a perception that science subjects were more difficult than arts.

"Courses like business are seen as more attractive options," he said.

National Space Agency (Angkasa)

director-general Dr Noordin Ahmad said students should be allowed to choose the subjects that they wanted to study rather than forcing them into the arts or science streams.

He said students might not like the options of subjects in the science stream.

"Ultimately, companies want well-rounded graduates," he said.

A Form Five student, who only wanted to be known as Marie, opted for the arts stream after finding science "boring".

"I didn't find the subjects interest-

ing," said the 17-year-old from Kuala Lumpur, whose ambition is to become a manga (Japanese graphic comic) artist.

Jing Min, 16, said he was forced to go into the science stream by his parents.

"I don't really like biology but the other subjects are okay," said the Form Four student from Damansara.



For more stories:
See Page 4

KERATAN AKHBAR
THE STAR (EVENTS) : MUKA SURAT 21
TARIKH : 23 SEPTEMBER 2015 (RABU)



1 MAKING IT SAFER FOR NETIZENS
(Third from left) CyberSecurity Malaysia chief executive officer Dr Amirudin Abdul Wahab, Deputy Education Minister P. Kamalanathan P. Panchanathan and DiGi Telecommunications Sustainability programme manager Philip Ling presenting the grand prize of RM2,000 to the teacher and students of Sekolah Tun Fatimah, Johor Baru for the DiGi CyberSafe Video Script competition. The campaign called on secondary school students to develop and submit scripts or videos on Internet safety and resiliency, an effort by the telco to improve awareness of online safety and foster responsible digital citizenship among school students.