KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 26 NOVEMBER 2016 (SABTU)

Bil	Tajuk	Akhbar
1.	Damp weather to go on till Dec 1	The Star
2.	SIRIM Industry Night 2016	New Straits Times
3.	Re-energising technology development & research	New Straits Times
4.	SIRIM delivers impactful, sustainable solutions	New Straits Times
5.	SIRIM QAS enhances service quality	New Straits Times
6.	Nurture SME growth plan on track	New Straits Times
7.	The journey: SIRIM Berhad's 20 years of corporatisation	New Straits Times
8.	SIRIM set to propel solar industry to new level	New Straits Times
9.	SIRIM helps healthcare industry find new solutions	New Straits Times
10.	Boosting green technology	New Straits Times
11.	Malaysia's leading certification, inspection and testing body	New Straits Times

KERATAN AKHBAR
THE STAR (NATION) : MUKA SURAT 23
TARIKH: 26 NOVEMBER 2016 (SABTU)

Damp weather to go on till Dec 1

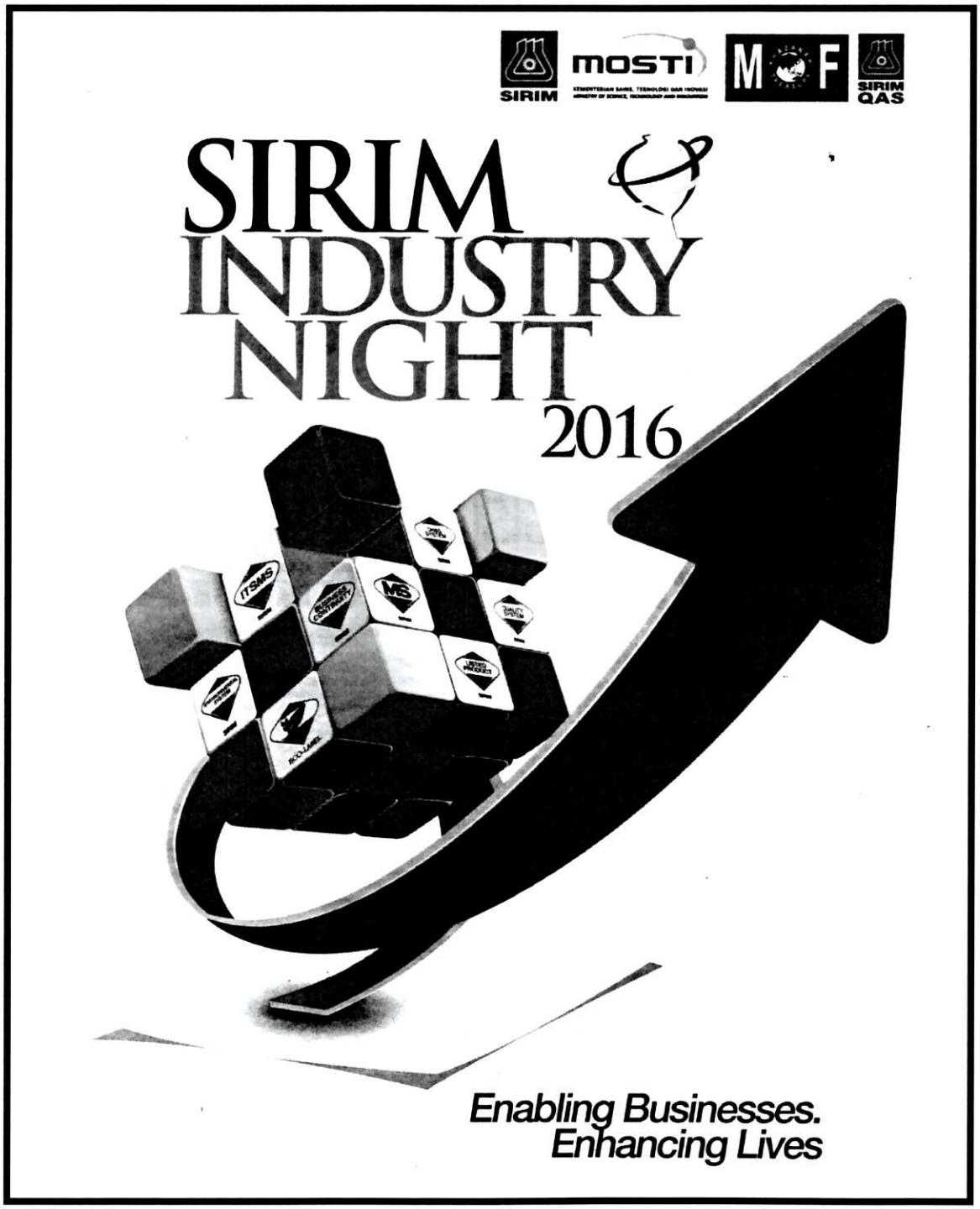
PETALING JAYA: Rain and thunderstorms have been forecast for all states in the peninsula in the afternoon and early evening until Dec 1.

The Malaysian Meteorological Department said damp conditions were expected in the east coast from Tuesday.

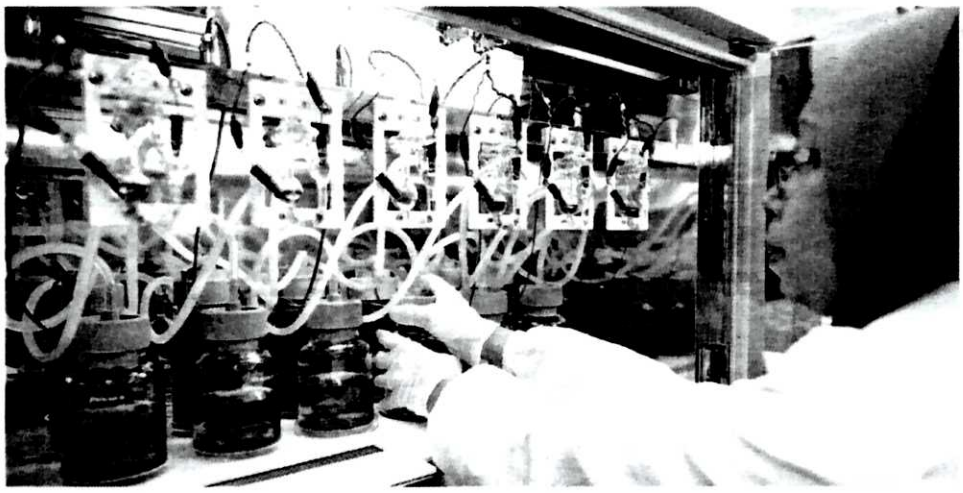
During the same period, Sarawak is expected to have rain and thunderstorms in the evening, particularly in the central and eastern parts.

In Sabah, rain is expected in the west coast, Kudat and Sandakan in the early morning.

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEWS STRAITS TIMES (SIRIM INDUSTRY NIGHT 2016)
MUKA SURAT 1
TARIKH : 26 NOVEMBER 2016 (SABTU)



KERATAN AKHBAR
NEWS STRAITS TIMES (SIRIM INDUSTRY NIGHT 2016)
MUKA SURAT 2
TARIKH : 26 NOVEMBER 2016 (SABTU)



RE-ENERGISING TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT & RESEARCH

SHAH ALAM

RESEARCH and development (R&D) contributes directly to Malaysia's level of prosperity and the well-being of individuals and the society in general.

It is the key ingredient that could drive the country towards its goal of achieving a high-income nation status by 2020.

Innovation, on the other hand, is a differentiating factor that is driving profitability and long-term growth.

Advancement in technology, business processes and ideas afforded by innovation will enhance the country's competitiveness, productivity and economic growth.

SIRIM Bhd chairman Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali said innovation seems to be the buzzword today and is often open to different meanings or interpretations.

"The area which is most dear to me is the engineering and technological side of innovation. This is where the real value creation will be," he said.

With state-of-the-art infrastructure and skillful personnel, SIRIM continues to deliver its mandate to the nation, economy and society.

The agency will continue to do what it does best and wants to be Malaysian industries' close friend by continuing to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs), businesses and other firms to penetrate further into local and overseas markets.

SIRIM Bhd chairman Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali

Its mission to make businesses compete better through quality and technology innovations has enabled its customers to move up the value chain.

Ahmad Tajuddin said process innovation and so on will improve production, efficiency is also important but the real value creation will be product innovation based on new technologies and new techniques of manufacturing to create better quality products that will find markets far and wide and fetch higher prices.

"This will, in turn create higher income for the company and for the nation. The real challenge for SIRIM is to move on in the value chain," he said.

SIRIM remains committed in developing local SMEs' capabilities in quality and technology by offering advisory, consultancy and training services.

According to Ahmad Tajuddin, SIRIM's biggest challenge remains the re-energisation of the research and technology division.

He hopes that the SIRIM Fraunhofer initiative will gather impetus and bring excitement to those in the labs.

"We will continue to build on the Fraunhofer initiative which has big potential for upgrading the capacity and productivity of SMEs.

"As this is a government-funded programme, we need to ensure that visibly there will be output from here quickly," he said.

"There are some companies that have gone through our audits and we see that they can benefit from participating in the programme. We hope this will help build momentum for the future," he added.

At the same time, SIRIM assists in identifying commercialisation opportunities for research output and technologies of research institutions, universities and other organisations.

These are then transferred to companies to enhance their competitiveness to achieve business sustainability.

In addition, SIRIM also promotes technology transfer and helps nurture the development of technology enterprises.

It also has made its business process more agile to respond to customers' needs, thereby increasing greater impact in delivering its services.

"The main products from SIRIM are the services we provide to our clients in the areas of technology and quality. Our role is to assist others, for example companies, in making their products and providing their services. They are our customers," said Ahmad Tajuddin.

If along the way SIRIM comes out with a product through its R&D endeavours, he said the agency will get investors to help produce and market it.

"We are not a 'mint' for products, we are more of the means for our industries to thrive."

In providing quality services, SIRIM strengthens its effort in providing services to enhance the competitiveness of local industries in the market.

"From SIRIM's standpoint - we are here to assist them upgrade their quality and production processes to meet local customers' expectations and at the same time improve efficiency to minimise cost," said Ahmad Tajuddin.

"Packaging is also important. If a product does not look good, it may not get the choice place on the retail shelves in the supermarkets and hypermarkets," he added.

On whether SIRIM will be at par with more advanced institutions from Taiwan, South Korea or Japan in the near future in terms of producing home-grown products and services, Ahmad Tajuddin said: "It is not easy to do that but we must try. The biggest challenge is to get the right talent, people with the required competencies for this endeavour."

"We need to grow and make SIRIM attractive enough for people to want to join us. We must quickly build a stature that will enable us to attract the talent that we need and be able to grow and retain them over time," he said.

SIRIM's contributions to the industrial and economic growth have been acknowledged by the public and private sectors and also the international community.

As it moves forward, recognising customers' changing needs, requirements and the competition it faces, the agency will continue to transform itself with the aim of improving the delivery of its services, enhancing of its services and promoting business growth.

For Ahmad Tajuddin, who is in his second stint in SIRIM (he was the director-general of the then Standards and Industrial Research of Malaysia from 1989-1996), he hopes to rejuvenate the organisation and its people.

He believes that with renewed vigour and enthusiasm SIRIM will progress further and will be increasingly expected to lead in the race to advance technology adoption, particularly by the SMEs.

"Innovation, coupled with a conscious fervour to more than match demands of the global marketplace, will drive SIRIM to even greater heights," he said.

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEWS STRAITS TIMES (SIRIM INDUSTRY NIGHT 2016)
MUKA SURAT 3
TARIKH : 26 NOVEMBER 2016 (SABTU)

SIRIM DELIVERS IMPACTFUL, SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

SIRIM Bhd has identified key strategies for next year that include increasing business growth and productivity, strengthening linkages and collaboration as well as nurturing high performance culture to deliver impactful outcomes.

President and group chief executive Datuk Dr Zainal Abidin Mohd Yusof said SIRIM will work to transform itself into a self-sustaining research and development institution, capable of meeting the growing needs of stakeholders, businesses and end users.

"The weaker economic situation has somehow affected our financial concerns but we will continue to deliver our services and work with the industry in meeting their requirements without being reliant on the government," he said.

He said SIRIM will have to transform itself from working on technology-push projects to industry- driven projects.

This is the game changer and to do this, SIRIM will have to "revolutionise" the way it transacts businesses, including processes, mind-sets and competencies, he said.

"We will use technology to improve SMEs' productivity. We will provide solutions and develop market-driven research.

"We will continue to innovate and build capabilities and capacities in new growth areas with the support of the government to facilitate market access for companies. We hope to nurture them to become export driven companies," he said.

SIRIM will have to transform itself from ***working on technology-push projects to industry- driven projects.***

Zainal Abidin said SIRIM will continue to focus on delivering the SIRIM Fraunhofer Programme to increase small and medium enterprises (SMEs) productivity as mandated by the government.

"They (Fraunhofer, Germany) have about 67 different institutions that focuses on technological solutions for the industry.

They focus on specific companies using technology as a vehicle. It is a good model to follow," he said.

Last year, the SIRIM Fraunhofer Programme kicked off its first collaborative effort with a technology audit programme to assess companies in terms of their technology management capabilities and capacities to improve productivity and competitiveness.

Zainal Abidin said SIRIM sees opportunities overseas as well as in the manufacturing sector which is making a move up the value chain.

SIRIM is considering more research and development designs, industrial software and automation, green manufacturing, 3D printing and other manufacturing processes, ranging from the supply and value chain to the end of product's lifecycle and beyond.

Under a five-year transformation plan (2013-2017), SIRIM has been able to provide the industry and end-users total solutions in research and development, and testing and certification through its core businesses in three areas - technology development, technical services and conformity assessment.

"With our strategic plan, we have started to see improved earnings compared with previous years. Cost management is one of the ways to keep our company sustainable," he said.

"Several measures have been implemented that cover restructuring of the company and redeployment of the staff," said Zainal Abidin.

In a move to consolidate SIRIM's operations and services, a number of functions at SIRIM's regional offices have been taken over by the headquarters. Testing and measurement services will still remain at the SIRIM regional offices.

Zainal Abidin said SIRIM continues to make improvements in the number of stakeholders that it helps each year.

This year, 87 technology audits were completed, 41 SMEs' growth nurture projects were approved, 24 technology uptakes were approved and two innovation, three industry standards were produced.

Others include delivery service to green-blue packaging industry in collaboration with KeTTHA for biodegradable packaging projects as well as providing training to 522 entrepreneurs from Angkasa, MARA, ECER EEDP, Lembaga Kemajuan Johor Tenggara.

President and group chief executive ***Datuk Dr Zainal Abidin Mohd Yusof.***

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEWS STRAITS TIMES (SIRIM INDUSTRY NIGHT 2016)
MUKA SURAT 4
TARIKH : 26 NOVEMBER 2016 (SABTU)

SIRIM QAS ENHANCES **SERVICE QUALITY**

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SIRIM QAS International aims to consolidate its position as the leading certification, inspection and testing service provider in Malaysia by providing the widest range of services and ensuring continuous improvement in service quality.

Its managing director Mohd Azanuddin Salleh said SIRIM QAS International would carry on with its customer service improvement programmes next year and in 2018 which would focus on developing a comprehensive customer service and management system and intensifying efforts to promote stronger customer-oriented culture throughout the organisation.

"SIRIM QAS International is now operating in a very different landscape from the one it has grown accustomed to over the years.

"The advent of information technology and the liberalisation of the local certification, inspection and testing market have resulted in the need to consolidate and reorganise our resources to adapt to the changing marketplace.

"SIRIM QAS International will continue in its pursuit to be the preferred provider of certification, inspection and testing services in Malaysia and the region, providing the widest range of value-for-money services, excellent customer service and high level of technical excellence," he said in an interview recently.

"We are fully aware of our core strengths, for example our broad range of services and shall continue to refine our service offerings based on the changing demands of the market, providing the right services, at the right price, at the highest quality of service.

"We shall revamp our marketing and communication plans to increase awareness on our services, leveraging on the diversity of our customers, their segments and the extreme reach of their products," he added.

Azanuddin said SIRIM QAS International would also continue to look for new areas of business to be grown organically or via acquisitions, both locally and overseas.

Over the past 20 years, Azanuddin said SIRIM QAS International has assisted more than 16,000 organisations gain greater market acceptance in Malaysia and overseas as well as gain greater customer confidence in their products and services.

"One of the benefits gained by an organisation certified under our management system certification scheme is the scheme provides third party assurance to customers that the organisation has a sound management system in place which meets the requirements of international standards," he said.

"Product certification provides an independent assurance that the product is manufactured under an effective system of testing, supervision and control. It also provides the user/ consumer an assurance of product safety and reliability," he added.

Through its certification and testing services, SIRIM QAS International has also been supporting regulatory bodies in the implementation of technical regulations for mandatory products.

These products include electrical appliances, motorcyclist safety helmets, seatbelts for motorists, fire protection equipment as well as communications and multimedia equipment that are regulated by the Energy Commission, Electrical Inspectorate Unit of Sarawak, Road Transport Department, Fire and Rescue Department Malaysia and Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission respectively.

SIRIM QAS International is recognised internationally, it demonstrates a high degree of competency, impartially and credibility in the area of conformity assessment.

"SIRIM QAS International is also accepted as an IQNet Partner, an international certification network formed by 36 partner organisations with more than 200 subsidiaries.

"The certification, inspection and testing services offered by SIRIM QAS International are conducted in accordance with international standards.

"These accreditations and recognitions facilitate the acceptance of our certifications and test reports locally and abroad," said Azanuddin.

SIRIM QAS International managing director Mohd Azanuddin Salleh.

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEWS STRAITS TIMES (SIRIM INDUSTRY NIGHT 2016)
MUKA SURAT 5
TARIKH : 26 NOVEMBER 2016 (SABTU)

NURTURE SME GROWTH PLAN ON TRACK

Nurture SME Growth programme targets *40 companies for packaging and labelling projects, and another 20 companies to undergo technology-based entrepreneur development programme.*

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SIRIM Bhd's Nurture SME Growth programme is well on track in attaining its target of enhancing, upgrading 60 companies this year.

The programme is one of sub-programmes in SIRIM-Fraunhofer programme with an aim of increasing the productivity levels of medium, small and micro enterprises, in particularly through technology penetration and upgrading.

It has been divided into three areas, namely packaging and labelling, technology-based entrepreneur development and technology-based entrepreneur development through home-grown technologies.

SIRIM Industrial Research principal consultant for vice-president's office Nor Azlan Mohd Ramli said the research organisation has set out a target of 40 companies to be identified and selected for the packaging and labelling projects, while 20 companies would undergo technology based entrepreneur development programme.

To date, he said under the packaging and labelling programme, more than 20 projects (companies) have started out and 16 companies have been approved and already in various stages of implementation for the technology based entrepreneur development.

"We are very confident that we can achieve our target as we have planned it well (from the start) and (looking at the feedback for this programme) the uptakes from the industries are very positive," he told Business Times in an interview recently.

In order to increase productivity, Nor Azlan said it can be realised through the expansion of business activities, enhancement in production process, product quality and reduced rejection rate.

"The key focus here is technology intervention, that makes us unique in carrying out this programme. So whatever intervention that we do, it has to possess elements that involve technology penetration and upgrading," he said.

In Malaysia, although 98 per cent of the firms on the companies' registry are SMEs, the contribution to the gross domestic product is only 33 per cent.

As SMEs form the backbone of the country's economy, Nor Azlan said it is important to see growing innovative SMEs in the market.

He said technology intervention will result in SMEs adoption of technological innovations to improve operations, boost productivity and increase competitiveness.

"This is achieved through the optimisation of material, energy, capital and labour as well as the introduction of new technology, particularly in mechanisation and automation for improvement of production processes," he said.

"And for SIRIM, we believe productivity improvement in SMEs would have a significant impact on the country's economy," he added.

Under the Nurture SME Growth programme, a maximum grant of up to RM50,000 (for packaging and labelling) and up to RM200,000 (for entrepreneur development) will be given to each successful company.

Selected and participating companies will get an 80:20 matching grant of which 80 per cent of all costs related to the programme will be borne by the government and the companies will only have to fund the remainder, said Nor Azlan.

Companies that are interested to undertake the programme are required to communicate directly with the SIRIM secretariat.

Currently, participation is open to all local SMEs involved in the manufacturing and services sectors.

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEWS STRAITS TIMES (SIRIM INDUSTRY NIGHT 2016)
MUKA SURAT 6
TARIKH : 26 NOVEMBER 2016 (SABTU)

THE JOURNEY: SIRIM BERHAD'S 20 YEARS OF CORPORATISATION

SEPTEMBER, 1996
The Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia was corporatised to be known as SIRIM Berhad. SIRIM Berhad incorporated under the Companies Act is vested with all the rights, privileges and obligations of SIRIM.

MARCH, 1997
The year also saw the operationalisation of the first wholly-owned subsidiary, SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd, to take over all certification activities from SIRIM Berhad.

FEBRUARY, 1998
Signing ceremony of Technology Agreement Outright Sales of Internal Tyre Lubricant between SIRIM Berhad and DMIB Berhad, the first commercialised technology for SIRIM Berhad

MARCH, 1999

MARCH, 1999
The Malaysia Good Design Mark 1998 was established in a ceremony attended by YB Datuk Law Hieng Ding, Minister of Science Technology and Environment

AMREC, Kulim

2000
The Advance Materials Research Centre (AMREC) in Kulim High Technology Park was completed and started its operation early of the year, focussing on applied research on the use of advanced material for specific industrial demand.

The Industrial Automation and Mechatronics Centre undertook eight contract research projects namely airborne fire-fighting system for helicopter, automatic assembly system for electric meter, automobile electrode indexing system for diode manufacturing and mobile oil palm shredder.

2001
The Industrial Instrumentation and Electronics Centre developed e-Jari, a fingerprint verification access control system using the latest sensor technology

2002
Three branch offices were opened – Sarawak, Perak and Terengganu (East Coast)

2003
The official launch of SIRIM's first wholly-owned subsidiary, SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd in conjunction with SIRIM Industry Night 2003

2004
A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by SIRIM with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa to enable collaboration in industrial research and technology.


NOVEMBER, 2010

JULY, 2009
An agreement was signed by SIRIM and International Islamic University Malaysia to develop the Advanced Delivery System Using Locally-Produced Implantable Antibiotics-Incorporated Apatite Beads for Bone Repair – "BioDDS"

NOVEMBER, 2010
SIRIM teamed up with Proton and MOSTI to produce a reality-tv show, IDEA: Malaysian Inventors' Challenge that identifies local innovation or invention that can be commercialised.

2005
Malaysia's first Cosmeceutical, Xanzwhite, a skin lightening made from extract of ginger is ready for the market.

APRIL, 2006
- Soft-Launching of National Centre for Machinery and Tooling Technology
- Launching of Mould and Die Centre

AUGUST, 2007
The official launch of SIRIM Sabah branch office in Kota Kinabalu.

2008
Five companies became the first companies to be certified with MS1900:2005, Quality Management System, Requirements from Islamic Perspective


APRIL, 2006

JULY, 2011
Malaysia's first fully automated Polyhydroxylalkanoate (PHA) Bioplastics Pilot Plant that enables the production of versatile biodegradable plastic materials from palm oil, was launched. The plant charts a new milestone in the country's efforts to provide alternative to non-biodegradable petroleum-based plastics.

MARCH, 2012
SIRIM partnered with 17 other parties to develop research related programs regarding the utilisation of oil palm biomass for bio-based sustainable industrial chemical and material production, under a government initiative, the Oil Palm Biomass Cen-

SIRIM, Sabah

JULY, 2011

SAMBUNGAN...
NEWS STRAITS TIMES (SIRIM INDUSTRY NIGHT 2016)
MUKA SURAT 7
TARIKH : 26 NOVEMBER 2016 (SABTU)

THE JOURNEY: SIRIM BERHAD'S 20 YEARS OF CORPORATISATION

DECEMBER, 2014

ter (OPBC), to provide its expertise in the related field of palm oil and biomass such as pre-processing of palm oil biomass for further downstream processing and the development of standards for biomass.

JUNE, 2012
SIRIM's microhydro system was installed for the Sunok Long house community in Kampung Sri Stamang 2, at Lubok Antu, Batang Ai, Sarawak. The community now enjoyed 24 hours of electricity generated by the 18.3 kW microhydro system.

JUNE, 2012

FEBRUARY, 2013
SIRIM introduced its 5-year Transformation Plan (2013-2017) for innovative success involves six strategies, while its priority areas revolves around three flagships namely Medical Device Flagship, Energy and Environment Flagship and Plant and Machinery Flagship.

DECEMBER, 2013
Two renewable energy projects were installed at Tg. Simpang Mengayau in Kudat, Sabah namely the 'Application of Wind Technology System for Energy Generation' and 'Sustainable Thin Film PV Building and the Renewable Energy Generation'. The projects had successfully generated 25 kw of wind turbine power and 9.8 kw of solar energy that lighted up a nearby resort.

DECEMBER, 2014
SIRIM was mandated by the government to enhance and upgrade technology applications among local SMEs. A strategic cooperation was established with renowned German research organisation, Fraunhofer Gesellschaft Institute (Fraunhofer), Europe's largest application-oriented research organisation, to adapt the German eco-system of SME development, and to collaborate in advanced technologies, commercialisation and upscaling.

SIRIM's first Public-Private Partnership, SIRIM Measurement Technology (SMT) Sdn. Bhd. was established to provide a comprehensive solutions for market measurement technology. A joint-venture company between SIRIM Bhd. and DreamCatcher Consulting Sdn. Bhd, SMT is a new eco-system partner and the Authorized Technology Partner for Keysight in Malaysia.

MAY, 2015

MAY, 2015
Tan Sri Datuk Ir. Dr. Ahmad Tajuddin Ali returned to SIRIM for his second stint, this time as Chairman of the Board of Directors. Ahmad Tajuddin was the Director-General of SIRIM from 1989 to 1996.

DECEMBER, 2014

AUGUST, 2016

AUGUST, 2016
The new SIRIM Corporate Values was launched in conjunction with SIRIM's 20th Anniversary of Corporatisation
- Customer-Focus
- Integrity
- Teamwork

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEWS STRAITS TIMES (SIRIM INDUSTRY NIGHT 2016)
MUKA SURAT 8
TARIKH : 26 NOVEMBER 2016 (SABTU)

Malaysia is the third-largest manufacturer of PV modules in the world.

SIRIM SET TO PROPEL **SOLAR INDUSTRY TO NEW LEVEL**

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SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd, the certification, inspection and testing body arm of SIRIM, is set to propel Malaysia's already robust solar or photovoltaic (PV) industry to a new level upon the completion of its new solar panel or PV module testing facilities in the first half of next year.

Its senior general manager of testing services department Nur Fadhilah Muhammad, in a recent interview with Business Times, explained how the new facilities would be instrumental in the growth of the industry.

"The green technology industry, which the PV modules fall into, is something that is relatively new in Malaysia. In fact, I believe it is not even a decade old and Malaysia is already the third-largest manufacturer of PV modules in the world," she said.

Nur Fadhilah said as at end of last year, Malaysia produced 12 per cent of the global PV output capacity, behind China and Taiwan at 48 and 20 per cent, respectively.

"It's actually a robust market considering that we already have 11 manufacturers, and the number is significant because there are only 30 other manufacturers across Southeast Asia."

She was quick to point that not all the 11 firms were local, but they were either foreign entities and joint ventures with local entities.

One PV module manufacturer that stands out is the United States' First Solar Inc, which, in 2007, pumped US$100 million (RM441 million) in a four-line PV module manufacturing plant at Kulim Hi Tech Park (KHTP).

The manufacturing at KHTP has the capability to generate 1,050 megawatts of solar power per year and produce about 8,000 PV modules annually. This is sufficient to power up to 300 households, bigger than the company's existing manufacturing sites in Arizona and Ohio in the US.

"First Solar is one of the success story of the industry and more foreign entities investing or opening manufacturing facilities here for the PV module means more foreign direct investments (FDIs) into our shores. In fact, I believe that upon the completion of testing facilities, more players will come on board," said Nur Fadhilah.

"Right now, it is very costly for firms to have their PV Modules tested before hitting the market as they will have to send them to Europe or America, and then ship them back here. That, would cost them some RM100,000, or more, per testing cycle as there are multiple testing that need to be conducted to ensure the quality of the PV Modules.

"However, once we have completed these facilities, these manufacturers no longer have to send their PV modules overseas, but to us for testing and certification. This way will be more cost-effective to them and eventually to their bottom lines," said Nur Fadhilah.

This initiative is also expected to act as a precaution step to avoid dumping of sub-standards PV modules from entering the Malaysian market.

This is to ensure that the public is receiving safety and quality-assured products and show that the Malaysian industry is able to meet international standards.

Upon completion, the laboratory will have the testing capability according to Malaysian Standard MS IEC 61215:2006 (Crystalline Silicon Terrestrial PV Modules - Design Qualification and Type Approval) and MS 61646:2010 (Thin-film Terrestrial PV Modules - Design Qualification and Type Approval).

The laboratory will also be capable of testing according to the latest edition of standard IEC 61215-1:2016 and IEC 61215-2:2016 which covers both crystalline silicon and thin-film terrestrial PV module types.

Nur Fadhilah stressed that the standards lay down Malaysian or International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) minimum requirements for the design qualification and type approval of terrestrial PV modules suitable for long-term operation in general open-air climates.

"They are intended to apply to all terrestrial flat plate module materials, such as crystalline silicon module types as well as thin-film modules," she said.

She also explained that funding for the testing facilities was provided by the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) which has been working on improving supply chains and the integration of the local PV system.

"MIGHT is lending us support and funding, as per what was outlined in 11th Malaysian Plan (11MP) which targeted green technology as a substantial economic generator by 2020, whereby MIGHT was mandated by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry to initiate and drive development for the PV industry in Malaysia.

"As such, SIRIM QAS International was appointed by MIGHT, under the Regional Hub for Solar Testing, Certification and Training program, to develop a comprehensive testing facility and equipped with the latest technology that provides independent assurance of products compliance in line with national and international standards," she said.

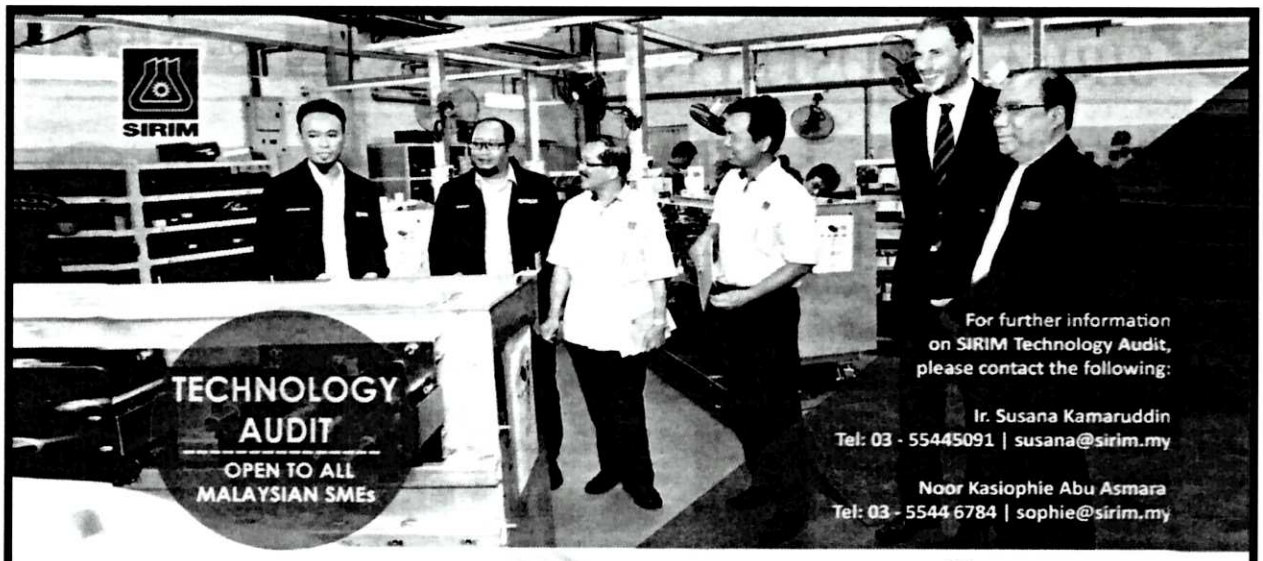
The green growth agenda in the 11MP focuses on a fundamental shift in how Malaysia sees the role of natural resources and the environment in its socio-economic development, protecting both development gains and biodiversity.

To pursue this green growth, the government had put some policy and regulatory frameworks, human capital, green technology investment, and financial instruments.

This transformation will ensure sustainability of the nation's natural resources, minimise pollution, and strengthen energy, food and water security.

Nur Fadhilah Muhammad, *senior general manager of testing services department.*

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEWS STRAITS TIMES (SIRIM INDUSTRY NIGHT 2016)
MUKA SURAT 9
TARIKH : 26 NOVEMBER 2016 (SABTU)



What is Technology Audit

Technology Audit is an assessment of a company in terms of its technology management capability and capacity. The management of technological knowledge and activities relating to the improvement of the technological competitiveness of the company.

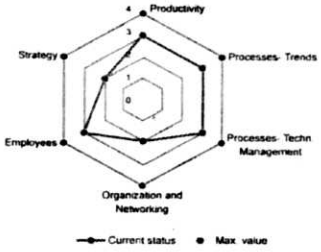
The audit provides the company with an understanding of :

- Strengths and weaknesses
- Potential areas for improvement in managing technology
- Challenges in business environment

SIRIM Technology Audit is a national initiative under the SIRIM-Fraunhofer collaboration which aims at increasing the technology penetration of Malaysian SMEs to boost their productivity and competitiveness. Fraunhofer Institute is Germany's leading technology and R&D institution with a convincing track record in the development of competitive SMEs.

What Are Being Audited

Result are summarized in cobweb diagrams together with strengths, weaknesses and area for improvement for each factor.



How Technology Audit Benefits Your Company

Assessment result from Technology Audit can be used to plan and initiate the following actions:

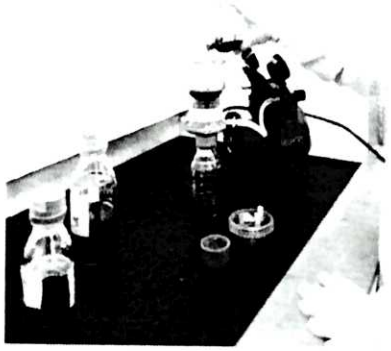
Technology Audit Process

1. Company will be invited to attend a briefing session organized at various venues
2. Register using the application form provided by the Technology Audit secretariat, SIRIM Berhad
3. The secretariat will set a date for the visit to the factory and interview session.
4. SIRIM auditors will meet senior management of the company for interview and tour of the plant.
5. Result presentation to the company's management and discuss the follow-up programmes.

Who Can Participate : **Participation is open to all Malaysian SMEs involved in manufacturing industry and have been in operation for at least two years. Currently companies do not have to pay any fees to participate.**

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEWS STRAITS TIMES (SIRIM INDUSTRY NIGHT 2016)
MUKA SURAT 10
TARIKH : 26 NOVEMBER 2016 (SABTU)

SIRIM HELPS HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY FIND NEW SOLUTIONS



SIRIM plays an important role in improving the safety of medical devices, equipment users and patients.

SHAH ALAM

SIRIM Bhd is offering a wide scope of capabilities in research, development, design and engineering to help the healthcare industry find new medical solutions.

SIRIM's Industrial Biotechnology Research Centre (IBRC) general manager Dr Ahmad Hazri Ab Rashid said one of the offering is medical devices testing, where SIRIM plays an important role in improving the safety of medical devices, equipment users and patients.

Ahmad Hazri said testing is performed on medical devices to determine that the material used is safe and it has the necessary physical and mechanical properties for its proposed function.

In SIRIM, he said all the testing is done according to ISO 10993 series for risk assessment of medical devices and the tests are certified by ISO/EN 17025, under a national unified laboratory accreditation scheme or Skim Akreditasi Makmal Malaysia (SAMM).

"Our service offerings for the medical device industry are based on industry standards and our testing labs are managed by highly educated, trained and experienced people," he told Business Times in an interview recently.

Under the ISO 10993 series, Ahmad Hazri said testing covers the areas of characterisation, cytotoxicity, sensitisation, irritation, system toxicity, genotoxicity, implantation, hemocompatibility and degradation.

The devices and the materials used need to be fully characterised and the extent to which the devices or materials are characterised depend on the type of material, end use of the device, function of the material within the device and availability of existing data on the material.

Dr Ahmad Hazri Ab Rashid *SIRIM's Industrial Biotechnology Research Centre (IBRC) general manager.*

"At SIRIM, we have developed most of the testing services outlined above under the ISO 10993 series," he said.

"We have also developed a number of further tests under the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development guidelines for the testing of chemicals, section four, covering in-vitro and in-vivo toxicity," he added.

SIRIM is offering quality testing services at reasonable prices and efficient delivery time.

It also offers value additions such as consultancies or advice on testing needs to be done by companies in order to comply with regulatory requirements.

"We welcome companies and medical equipment suppliers to send their products to the laboratory for testing, as it will cut costs significantly compared with sending them for similar tests overseas.

"We are also able to assist the companies in the interpretation of testing data and where possible suggest a way forward," said Ahmad Hazri.

To further enhance its laboratory capabilities in conducting testing services for medical devices, Ahmad Hazri said SIRIM is in the midst of upgrading its existing laboratory facilities in Shah Alam, Selangor, and Kulim, Kedah.

He said the move is to expand the scope for medical device safety and biocompatibility evaluation which includes biocompatibility, microbiological, physical-chemical characterisation, morphology and degradation of medical devices.

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BOOSTING **GREEN TECHNOLOGY**

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IN encouraging technological advancement in environmental protection, SIRIM Bhd is stepping up its efforts in providing consultations for businesses that intent to use environmental-friendly technology.

Through its Environmental Technology Research Centre (ETRC), SIRIM has been involved in research and development, as well as providing technical services to support the development of green technology products, equipment, and systems.

"In SIRIM, we provide various technology options to different set of interested parties in helping to preserve the environment and conduct technology verification for clients requiring third party performance monitoring of their marketed environmental technologies," said general manager for ETRC Isnazunita Ismail.

The ETRC focuses on environmental related research and technologies.

SIRIM's focus areas for environmental management and technology are life cycle assessment (LCA) applications, environmental labelling, pollution abatement/treatment, waste management, environmental technology verification as well as product safety and hazardous assessment.

To ensure the success of this area, Isnazunita said SIRIM has teamed up with both local and international parties. The agency's local collaborations include the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water, Department of Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Economic Planning Unit, Solid Waste Corporation and Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers.

Meanwhile, its international strategic partners are EU Switch Asia or EU-AsiaProEco (EU), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), ASEM SME EcoInnovation Centre (ASEIC) and the Carbon Trust.

Touching on pollution abatement, Isnazunita said it refers to technology applied or measures taken to reduce pollution and/or its impacts on the environment.

She said the latest technologies developed by SIRIM are photocatalytic treatment system for groundwater/wastewater treatment and food waste digester (SimbionteA).

SimbionteA stands for "SIRIM Biogas & Alternative Energy" which is an in-house brand name of the "Anaerobic Digestion" (AD) technology being developed by a group of SIRIM engineers and researchers.

Overall the AD SimbionteA system can be used to treat organic wastes from industry, agroindustry and household solid waste (kitchen waste).

"For food waste from households or food court, it can reduce the amount of organic waste going to the landfill and hence reduce the green-house gas emission," said Isnazunita.

"SIRIM has the expertise not only in the production of electricity from biogas but also develops biogas purification technology, gas storage system for the application of biomethane (bio natural gas) as fuel for vehicles and cooking gas from other sources of organic waste," she added.

SIRIM is in the process of expanding its use in Kuala Lumpur, Malacca, Selangor and Lojing, Kelantan, by using other raw materials such as crop residues and biodegradable food packaging wastes taken from designated green food serving premises.

The latter is part of activities under the Green-Blue Packaging project.

Explaining on environmental management, Isnazunita said it employs life cycle thinking approach in finding practical ways to save water, energy, and materials, and reducing negative environmental impact of a product or service.

She said environmentally sound technologies or ESTs are technologies that have the potential for significantly improved environmental performance relative to other technologies.

"ESTs protect the environment, are less polluting, use resources in a sustainable manner, recycle more of their wastes and products, and handle all residual wastes in a more environmentally acceptable way than the technologies for which they are substitutes. ESTs are not just individual technologies," she said.

"They can also be defined as total systems that include know-how, procedures, goods and services, and equipment, as well as organisational and managerial procedures for promoting environmental sustainability," she added.

In Malaysia, SIRIM is instrumental in developing the Malaysia Life Cycle Inventory Database (MyLCID), which is an important component required to propagate the use of LCA among local industries, especially in churning out ecodesigns of products and services with reduced carbon footprints or other environmental impacts.

The MyLCID is an output of the Ninth Malaysia Plan (2005 -2010).

The database of Life Cycle Inventory (LCI) datasets support the ecolabelling programmes, life cycle assessment studies, eco-design, environmental declaration communication and other environmental management initiatives that require life cycle inventory information.

ISNAZUNITA ISMAIL

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