

LAMPIRAN 1
KOSMO (NEGARA) : MUKA SURAT 13
TARIKH : 17 JULAI 2018 (SELASA)

GERHANA
bulan
penuh yang
dirakam di
Kuching
pada 31
Januari
2018.



Gerhana bulan penuh paling lama pada abad ke-21

KUALA LUMPUR - Rakyat Malaysia sekali lagi berpeluang menyaksikan fenomena gerhana bulan penuh yang bakal berlaku pada 28 Julai ini.

Timbalan Ketua Pengarah, **Agensi Angkasa Negara (Angkasa)**, Samsuddin Omar berkata, fenomena ini merupakan yang kedua berlaku pada tahun ini dan turut memberi peluang kepada penduduk di Australia, Afrika, Eropah dan Amerika Selatan untuk turut menyaksikannya.

"Gerhana bulan penuh akan mula kelihatan pada pukul 1.14 pagi hingga pukul 7.28 pagi dan fasa gerhana penuh akan berlangsung selama 1 jam 42 minit 57 saat. Fasa gerhana penuh hampir dua jam itu merupakan fenomena paling lama bagi abad ke-21 (2001 hingga 2100)," jelas beliau.

Menurut beliau, gerhana bulan penuh pada 28 Julai ini boleh dilihat di mana-mana di negara ini tetapi bergantung kepada keadaan cuaca.

"Orang ramai juga sudah tentu tidak akan dapat menyaksikan keseluruhan fasa-fasa gerhana kerana bulan terbenam lebih awal sebelum fasa-fasa tertentu berakhir," katanya.

Sesak nafas sedut habuk

Penduduk resah pencemaran udara, mohon JAS ambil perhatian

ASYRAF MUHAMMAD

RAWANG



JASMI

(KRT) Taman Garing Jaya, Jasmi Osman berkata, jarak antara kilang berkenaan dengan taman ini hanyalah kira-kira satu kilometer.

Jasmi berkata, pihaknya telah merujuk perkara itu kepada **Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS)** pada 22 Jun lalu malah beberapa pegawai telah turun padang membuat tinjauan.

Namun begitu, Jasmi berkata, sehingga kini pihaknya masih belum menerima sebarang maklum balas mengenai status permasalahan



Sumbath menunjukkan cermin keretanya yang kotor diliputi habuk.

tersebut.

"Habuk ini amat mengganggu penduduk kerana ia mengundang banyak masalah kepada penduduk setempat terutama kesihatan.

"Habuk ini mengotorkan kenderaan dan kawasan kediaman kami," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Timbalan Pengerusi Persatuan Penduduk Taman Garing Jaya, A. Sumbath berkata, sebelum ini pihaknya bersama AJK KRT dan persatuan penduduk pernah mengadakan perbincangan dengan pihak pengurusan kilang simen berkenaan.

Selain itu, pihak pengurusan kilang simen terbabit juga pernah menjemput AJK KRT dan persatuan penduduk untuk melawat kilang berkenaan bagi melihat sendiri teknologi baharu yang diguna pakai oleh mereka untuk mengurangkan habuk.

info

Lokasi kilang dengan kediaman penduduk hanya kira-kira satu kilometer sahaja

"Namun, kami pelik kenapa dengan teknologi yang bernilai RM40 juta ini, keadaan habuk di taman ini masih berlaku khususnya pada waktu malam," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Sumbath turut mencadangkan agar JAS dapat meletakkan alat indikator habuk di mana-mana kawasan taman terbabit bagi melihat sejauh mana tahap pencemaran udara yang berlaku di kawasan itu.

Tambahnya, langkah itu dapat membantu JAS mengenal pasti sejauh mana tahap pencemaran yang berlaku bagi mengambil tindakan selanjutnya.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES

PRIVATE SECTOR BOOST FOR AGRICULTURE

The government alone cannot accelerate the goals of ending hunger and malnutrition by 2030; it is crucial to change the way decision-makers view agriculture and poverty reduction programmes, writes
AINUN JAABI



Padi fields in Alor Star, Kedah, the rice bowl of Malaysia.

WEATHER-RELATED disasters linked to climate change have contributed to the rise in food insecurity.

The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in Southeast Asia with an average of 20 typhoons making landfall every year, which disrupts the volume of agricultural production, exposing farmers to high vulnerability and causing fatalities.

Across Southeast Asia, there are still 60 million undernourished people, which means one in 10 people do not get sufficient vitamins and minerals to lead a healthy life.

Where agriculture is the main economic activity, any form of destruction to the natural resources would highly impact the nutritional status of vulnerable populations, especially children and mothers in emergency-prone countries.

Southeast Asia would be better served if food security and nutrition are no longer viewed as a public sector undertaking. Leaving the responsibility to the government without private sector participation in this journey is not going to accelerate the goals of ending hunger and malnutrition by 2030. It is, therefore, crucial to change the way decision-makers view agriculture and poverty reduction programmes.

Involvement from the private sector is powerful in promoting the use of sustainable agricultural practices to support small-scale farmers, as well as allowing equal access to land, technology and markets.

Malaysia does not experience a comparative advantage in the padi and rice supply chain – it is exploring the possibility of liberalising its supply chain. Padiberas Nasional Bhd (Bernas), which was privatised in 1996, acts as the sole gatekeeper to import rice, manage the rice stockpile, purchase padi from farmers at the guaranteed minimum price of RM1,200 per tonne, including distribution of subsidies to all registered padi farmers, and managing the rice mills.

Bernas' function is to stabilise price and scale-up the local padi and rice supply chain to commercial level.

Liberalisation will help reduce rice monopoly and create a perfect competition market. In leading the way in commercial padi farming, liberalisation forces local farmers and players in the supply chain to deliver quality rice at competitive prices.

While Southeast Asia, combined with the top three regional rice exporters – Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam – can and will continue to "feed the world", the population in the region, however, are mostly at risk of malnutrition. Among the prevalent nutritional problems include inad-

equately and unbalanced dietary intake. Likewise, the sector is dominated by small landholdings of 0.7 to 3.2ha per farm and income received may not be sufficient to accommodate the increase in the cost of living.

Tapping into the underutilised Asean Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR), which was established in 2012, is the low hanging fruit for the rice-consuming countries. APTERR's main goal is to strengthen the food security and poverty reduction via its rice reserve mechanism which can be operationalised as an immediate response against food insecurity. This intervention is timely for Malaysia to consider as our country will be hosting the 7th Meeting of the APTERR Council this year.

Another way of building resilience for enhanced food security and nutrition is to exploit biotechnology and innovation. Having won the 2015 Patent for Humanity Award, the Golden Rice is considered as an achievement in the genetic engineering of rice which contains 50 per cent more vitamin A than the typical white rice, which is essential for good vision, and boosting the immune and reproductive systems. Meanwhile, farmers living along coastal areas in India and China, who have been experiencing production loss due to high content of salt are now cheering for salt-resistant rice. These break-

throughs, however, require evidence-based policies, which refer to obtaining the best way in delivering cost-effective interventions and eliminating concerns about biased research to tackle weather-related risks.

It is widely known that padi farmers are among the poorest and marginalised groups. Thus, it is important for them to be resilient instead of relying on help from external parties. The government and private sector too, should shy away from corporate social responsibility related (CSR) programmes that encourage dependency of farmers. Rather, they should promote programmes that empower these vulnerable groups to increase resilience by responding and recovering from weather-related disasters.

As said by farmer and inspirational speaker Brenda Schoepf: "Once in your life you need a doctor, a lawyer, a policeman and a preacher, but, every day, three times a day, you need a farmer."

Thus, the role of farmers is much more important than we realise and channelling appropriate investments is an appreciation of their hard work.

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The writer is researcher, Technology, Innovation, Environment and Sustainability, at Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Another way of building resilience for enhanced food security and nutrition is to exploit biotechnology and innovation.

LAMPIRAN 4
THE STAR (BUSINESS) : MUKA SURAT B12
TARIKH : 17 JULAI 2018 (SELASA)

EXPANSION MOVE

Great Wall Motor, BMW form joint venture to produce new energy vehicles

KUALA LUMPUR: Great Wall Motor Company Ltd (GWM) and BMW Holding BV have entered into a joint venture (JV) to sell new energy vehicles in the global market.

The joint venture (JV), Spotlight Automotive Ltd, is 50 per

cent owned by each party and has a total investment of 5.1 billion yuan (RM3.15 billion).

Spotlight Automotive is the first battery electric vehicle (BEV) JV project by BMW Group worldwide. It is also a bridgehead for GWM new energy vehicles in-

to the global market.

"The cooperation between GWM and BMW is a new example for open-minded cooperation in the Chinese auto industry, showing the optimisation and integration of global resources.

"It helps GWM and BMW jointly

broaden the international market by integrating their advantages," said GWM and BMW.

The Jiangsu, China-based GWM and BMW said the JV had an estimated standard production of 160,000 vehicles initially and potential increase of annual

production, depending on its future production plan.

"Focusing on the new energy vehicle field, the JV will integrate technology, resource and management advantages of both parties to develop a new generation of BEV," they said.

Terengganu's TDM to build two biogas plants

KEMAMAN: TDM Bhd, a subsidiary of the Terengganu state government, will build two biogas plants costing RM38mil based on green technology (green tech) using the covered lagoon system in Kemaman and Sungai Tong.

Its chief executive officer Datuk Mohamat Muda said the project, which is expected to begin in September this year and completed within a year, will be undertaken by Concord Renewable Energy Sdn Bhd with a vast experience in biogas under the new TDM Transformation programme.

"This project, which uses the boot (built, operate, own and transfer) concept, is fully borne by developers.

"Biogas plant places importance on green tech to ensure sustainable environmental protection, as well as helps to strengthen the existing oil refinery treatment system to avoid polluting the environment," he said at the opening of the bio-organic plant, workers' quarters in Pelantoh, Kemaman here yesterday.

Menteri Besar Ahmad Samsuri Mokhtar, who officiated the event, was also briefed on the project.

Present were Terengganu Infrastructure, Public Utilities, Utilities and Green Technology Committee chairman Mamat Puteh and TDM chairman Datuk Wan Nawawi Wan Ismail.

Mohamat said each biogas plant could produce two megawatts of electricity to be channelled to the Tenaga Nasional Bhd's grid, generating revenue of RM28mil to TDM for 16 years.

He said TDM was also working with Universiti Putra Malaysia on microbial technology research to reduce the purchase of raw materials from abroad. — Bernama

Pendidikan robotik lahir pelajar cemerlang

Kuala Lumpur: Pasukan Sekolah Menengah Teknik (SMT) Johor Bahru muncul juara Pertandingan World Of Robotics National Championship WRC (PRO) 2018 bagi kategori kolej vokasional (KV) dan sekolah menengah teknik, manakala pasukan dari Kolej Permata Pintar Negara memenangi kategori sekolah menengah serta tinggi.

Kedua-dua pasukan itu akan mewakili negara ke Pertandingan International Robotics Competition (IRC) 2018 yang dijadual diadakan di Korea Selatan, Oktober ini.

Pengarah Bahagian Pendidikan Teknik dan Vokasional (BPTV) Kementerian Pendidikan (KPM), Zainuren Mohd Nor, berkata pendidikan kejuruteraan robotik adalah antara inisiatif terbaik untuk menyediakan generasi muda kini, terutama bagi berdepan cabaran alam pekerjaan kelak.

Beliau berkata, pendekatan berkenaan adalah selaras perkembangan revolusi perindustrian keem-

pat (Industri 4.0) yang ditekankan KPM kini.

"Ramai yang bimbang revolusi ini (Industri 4.0) akan menyebabkan kadar pengangguran tinggi, namun kita perlu sediakan diri untuk menyahut cabaran ini bagi membantu membangunkan negara membabitkan pelbagai sektor.

"Membangunkan ekonomi negara, tidak hanya meningkatkan produktiviti, sebaliknya berupaya menjadikan kos lebih rendah serta hasil melonjak berlipat ganda.

"Oleh itu, ilmu dan pengalaman yang dipelajari dalam kejuruteraan robotik ini pastinya akan memberikan pendedahan dan pendekatan yang berguna kepada anak-anak kita bagi memudahkan mereka untuk memahami operasi industri kelak," katanya.

Pendidikan TVET

Beliau berkata demikian ketika berucap merasmikan penutupan WRC (PRO) 2018 yang diadakan di Asia Pacific University, di sini, baru-

baru ini.

Yang turut hadir ialah Pengerusi World Of Robotics Sdn Bhd, Datuk Ahmad Tajudin Jab dan Pengarah Urusan World Of Robotics Sdn Bhd, Lee Yew Kein.

Zainuren berkata, selaku sayap pembangunan pendidikan Latihan dan Pendidikan Teknikal dan Vokasional (TVET) negara, BPTV perlu mengambil inisiatif menjadi institusi pertama untuk membangunkan Makmal Kejuruteraan Robotik Pitsco di setiap KV dan sekolah menengah teknik di Malaysia.

Sebanyak 63 pasukan membabitkan kolej vokasional, sekolah menengah teknik, sekolah menengah dan sekolah menengah tinggi mengambil bahagian dalam acara itu.

Pertandingan WRC (PRO) adalah menggunakan teknologi dan bahan kejuruteraan robotik dari Pitsco Amerika Syarikat yang sudah 47 tahun berkecimpung dalam industri teknologi kejuruteraan robotik serta Sains, Teknologi, Kejuruteraan dan Matematik (STEM).



Zainuren (empat dari kanan) bersama-sama pemenang Pertandingan World Of Robotics National Championship WRC (PRO) 2018, baru-baru ini.

Kolam tadahan tercemar

*Sisa kumbahan
kilang didakwa
punca bau busuk*

ARZIANA MOHAMED
AZAMAN

ALAM JAYA



MOHD NIZAM

Masalah kolam tadahan yang tidak diselenggarakan dengan baik didakwa masih menghantui penduduk di Taman Alam Jaya, di sini sejak hampir dua tahun lalu.

Bukan sahaja berdepan gangguan bau busuk, penduduk mendakwa kolam tadahan sebagai tebatan banjir itu turut dilipahi sisa kumbahan kilang berhampiran tanpa kawalan.

Setiausaha Persatuan Penduduk Taman Alam Jaya, Mohd Nizam Mohd Yasir

mendakwa, masalah itu berlarutan sejak hampir dua tahun lalu tanpa sebarang kerja penyelenggaraan.

"Sebelum ini tak dinafikan ada kerja mendalamkan kolam tadahan itu tapi selepas itu tak diselenggarakan dengan baik dan banyak kilang salurkan sisa kumbahan ke kolam yang sama.

"Tengoklah keadaan kolam tu yang berbau busuk... tengok air pun dah tahu dengan keladak hitam. Saya



Kolam tadahan di Taman Alam Jaya didakwa dicemari sisa kumbahan kilang berhampiran.

bimbang kalau hujan lebat, air kumbahan melimpah ke kawasan berhampiran," katanya.

Menurutnya, penduduk berharap isu ini dapat diberikan perhatian sewajarnya berikutan kawasan itu semakin membangun dengan

pelbagai projek komersial dan perindustrian.

"Banyak kilang dibina di kawasan ini dan masing-masing menumpukan satu kolam tadahan yang ada di kawasan ini. Saya takut limpahan sisa kumbahan akan menjejaskan penduduk

setempat.

"Kalau boleh, isu ini dapat dibaiki dengan kadar segera kerana penduduk dah tak tahan nak hidu bau busuk... lagipun kami risau juga kesannya nanti kalau dibiarkan terlalu lama.

"Mungkin kawasan ta-

info

Kolam tadahan turut dicemari limpahan buih putih dipercayai sisa buangan bahan kimia

man ni agak terpencil sebab tu isu agak dipinggirkan pihak berwajib," katanya yang turut memohon isu kerosakan lampu jalan ke taman itu diberikan tindakan sewajarnya.

Sebelum ini katanya, kolam tadahan itu turut dicemari limpahan buih putih dipercayai sisa pembuangan bahan kimia kilang berhampiran dan menjadi lebih teruk selepas hujan lebat.

"Dulu, kolam tadahan itu dipenuhi buih berbau busuk dan pernah dipanjanjkan kepada pihak berwajib sebab kawasan hutan dibersihkan untuk pembangunan di kawasan berkenaan," katanya.

LAMPIRAN 8
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (MEGA SAINS) : MUKA SURAT 20
TARIKH : 17 JULAI 2018 (SELASA)



NAIB Presiden Taiwan, Chen Chien-jen; Pengerusi Taitra, James Huang; Pengerusi TCA, Tung Tzu-hsien dan Menteri Ekonomi Taiwan, Shen Jiong -chin hadir pada Computex 2018 di Taipei, Taiwan baru-baru ini.

Computex 2018 catat kejayaan

PENGANJURAN Computex 2018 yang diadakan di Taipei, Taiwan baru-baru ini mencatatkan kejayaan yang membanggakan bukan sahaja melibatkan penyertaan yang banyak tetapi menampilkan produk dan konsep inovatif dalam bidang teknologi.

Computex 2018 mempunyai enam tema, termasuk kepintaran buatan (AI), teknologi 5G, Blockchain, Internet of things (IoT), inovasi serta syarikat terbitan (*start-up company*), permainan video, dan realiti maya.

Menerusi beberapa acara pameran, forum dan mesyuarat perolehan, program tersebut menghubungkan rangkaian nilai industri dengan menyediakan syarikat teknologi dan permulaan dengan platform terbaik untuk promosi dan interaksi.

Selain itu, pameran khas InnoVex, yang diadakan di dewan pameran khas didedikasikan untuk syarikat terbitan dan inovatif, berjaya menarik 17,687 pelawat

dalam tempoh tiga hari, iaitu peningkatan lebih daripada 18 peratus berbanding tahun lepas.

Menurut *The Taiwan External Trade Development Council* (Taitra), sebanyak 10 negara teratas yang mempunyai jumlah penyertaan tertinggi adalah Amerika Syarikat, Jepun, China, Hong Kong, Korea Selatan, Thailand, Malaysia, Jerman, India dan Filipina.

Antara ribuan penyertaan dalam pameran teknologi terbesar bertaraf antarabangsa itu, terdapat lima penyertaan dari Malaysia, iaitu satu daripadanya adalah Moovby, yang diwakili Ketua Pegawai Eksekutifnya, **Nik Muhammad Amin**.

Konsep Moovby adalah platform penyewaan kereta iaitu pelancong boleh menyewa kereta yang mereka mahukan, pada bila-bila masa sahaja.

Moovby diwakili komuniti pemilik kereta tempatan yang boleh memberi pendapatan tambahan dengan menyewa kereta mereka. Selamat dan berguna, pasaran tersebut adalah

pembuka jalan kepada perkongsian ekonomi dan industri pelancongan.

Nik Muhammad mengambil kesempatan daripada InnoVex kali ini untuk datang dan memperkenalkan syarikat beliau yang dilancarkan baru-baru ini kepada pelawat dari seluruh dunia.

Selain itu, pada tahun ke-11, Anugerah Computex d&i menambah tiga lagi anugerah khususnya dalam kategori IoT, syarikat terbitan serta aplikasi dan penyelesaian.

Antara sejumlah 212 aplikasi dari sepuluh negara itu, lima kriteria utama, termasuk inovasi dan penjelasan, fungsi, estetik, tanggungjawab dan kedudukan digunakan untuk memilih enam puluh inovasi yang original.

Antara syarikat yang dianugerahkan seperti Bleu Jour Wincomm, Asus dan Lenovo, yang akan memaparkan produk mereka pada pameran kali ini.

Computex 2018 juga menjadi platform untuk mempromosikan



teknologi AI yang terkini dan aplikasi IoT yang berkembang dengan cepat mengikut trend masa kini.

Sebagai tambahan kepada perkhidmatan yang direka untuk perkomputeran AI dan penyimpanan data yang besar, Gigabyte telah melancarkan sumber perisian awanan hibrid untuk AI dan analisis data, menjalankan pelan hala tuju bagi syarikat IoT ke dalam latihan.

Selain itu, Compal memperkenalkan penyelesaian serba lengkap yang menggabungkan reka bentuk profesional yang maju dan pengkomputeran awan.

Kamera pintar Vivotek juga diperkenalkan untuk generasi seterusnya berkeupayaan analisis imej dan membina pembelajaran algoritma secara mendalam dapat menghasilkan nilai tambah untuk sektor runcit, sebagaimana ia boleh mengira jumlah pengunjung dengan tepat dan jumlah masa mereka berada di sesebuah kedai.

Computex edisi 2019 akan diadakan dari 28 Mei hingga 1 Jun tahun depan. Taitra merancang untuk meningkatkan ruang pameran dengan sasaran 1,700 gerai baharu akan datang.



PENGUNJUNG tertarik dengan pameran realiti maya (kiri) dan robotik di Computex 2018 yang berlangsung dari 5 hingga 9 Jun lalu.

Over a billion struggle to stay cool as Earth warms

OSLO: More than a billion people are at risk from a lack of air conditioning and refrigeration to keep them cool and to preserve food and medicines as global warming brings more high temperatures, a study showed.

More electricity demand for fridges, fans and other appliances will add to man-made climate change unless power generators shift from fossil fuels to cleaner energies, according to the report by the non-profit Sustainable Energy

for All group yesterday.

About 1.1 billion people in Asia, Africa and Latin America – 470 million in rural areas and 630 million slum dwellers in cities – were at risk among the world's 7.6 billion people, it said.

"Cooling becomes more and more important" with climate change, Rachel Kyte, head of the group and special representative for the UN secretary-general for Sustainable Energy for All, said.

In a survey of 52 countries, those

most at risk included India, China, Mozambique, Sudan, Nigeria, Brazil, Pakistan, Indonesia and Bangladesh, it said.

"We have to provide cooling in a super-efficient way," Kyte said.

Companies could find big markets, for instance by developing low-cost, high-efficiency air conditioners to sell to growing middle classes in tropical countries.

And simpler solutions, such as painting roofs white to reflect sunlight, would also help.

The UN's health agency says that heat stress linked to climate change is likely to cause 38,000 extra deaths a year worldwide between 2030 and 2050.

In a heat wave in May, more than 60 people died in Karachi, Pakistan, when heat rose above 40°C.

In remote areas in tropical countries, many people lack electricity and clinics are often unable to store vaccines or medicines that need to be chilled, the study said.

And in city slums, electricity sup-

plies are often intermittent.

Many farmers or fishermen, meanwhile, lack access to a "cold chain" to preserve and transport products to markets. Fresh fish goes off within hours if stored at 30°C but stays fresh for days when chilled.

Last week, a study by the University of Birmingham in Britain projected that the number of cooling appliances could quadruple by 2050 to 14 billion worldwide, driving a surge in energy consumption.

— Reuters

HEATWAVE HITS WEST JAPAN

Surging temperatures hampering flood recovery efforts

TOKYO

A BLISTERING heatwave smothered swathes of flood-hit western Japan yesterday, hampering clean-up efforts as survivors and relief workers toil in stifling temperatures a week after devastating inundations that killed more than 200 people.

Tens of thousands of rescue workers are digging through the debris for bodies after Japan's worst weather-related disaster in over three decades, which saw record downpours spark flash flooding and landslides across the region.

The toll of 219 is expected to continue to rise, with at least 21



Police rescue workers searching for missing people in Saka, Hiroshima prefecture, western Japan, recently. EPA PIC

still missing, while the punishing heatwave has pushed the thermometer above 35°C and raised fears for vulnerable people.

Some 4,700 survivors were forced to evacuate the disaster area, where homes were reduced

to rubble by the floods and landslides.

Many remain in shelters, while others have been left without water supply.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga warned survivors, vol-

unteers and the 64,000 rescue workers in the disaster zone of the dangers of heatstroke.

"We are operating in tough conditions, with a severe heatwave in this region," Koji Kunitomi, a spokesman at the Disaster Management Department in flood-hit Okayama prefecture, said.

Sweltering summer weather has swept across Japan in recent days, sending temperatures surging just days after the record rainfall.

The country's meteorological agency has warned that the heat is "more severe" than normal, with temperatures in Okayama hitting a high of 36.8°C, compared with an average high of 31°C in the city.

On Sunday, local media reported that three people had died and more than 2,000 were sent to hospital across the nation due to heatstroke. **AFP**

Ethnic groups profit from green economy

Efforts to improve farmers' livelihood paying off in big way

BEIJING: Hainan has long impressed visitors with its enchanting tropical sea views and quality hotels at its coastal resorts.

But now, the allure of the island province's mountainous central areas is also unfolding – rich and colourful ecological resources, along with the traditional culture of native Li and Miao ethnic groups. It's a splendid mix of national and world intangible cultural heritage.

Qiongzong Li and Miao autonomous county, in the centre of Hainan, is one of the regions that has been transformed thanks to new infrastructure, comprehensive poverty alleviation efforts and the development of ecological civilisation in recent years.

Located in the heart of Hainan's ecological systems, Qiongzong attracted more than 1.32 million

tourists last year with its beautiful natural environment and rich ethnic culture and lifestyles, which are vividly on display in every village and public location around the county.

Of Qiongzong's 216,700 residents, 51.9% are of the Li ethnic group, and 7.1% belonging to the Miao. Surrounded by mountains, including Wuzhi Mountain – the highest peak in Hainan at 1,867m and Limushan, the mother mountain of the Li people – the county had long remained secluded and economically backward.

By the end of 2017, 3,883 of its 74,386 households were still impoverished.

However, in the past five years, especially since 2015, when President Xi Jinping launched a nationwide poverty reduction campaign and vowed to end extreme

poverty by 2020, the county has accelerated its efforts to improve incomes and develop ecological civilisation in line with the plans of the central and provincial governments.

Sun Zhe, the party chief of Qiongzong, said the county has launched many green projects to protect the island's precious ecological systems.

One major project was the countywide rural daily life wastewater treatment project, which was launched in early 2016 to protect the headwaters of Hainan's three major rivers – the Nandu, Changhuang and Wanguan – which supply drinking water on the island.

Li Guoqing, a senior official in charge of publicity for the CPC

Qiongzong, also said under medium-sized palm trees farmers are growing the Chinese herbal medicine *Alpinia oxyphylla*, or raising honey bees, sheep, geese or chickens.

The "economy under the trees" – a popular practice of growing crops or poultry in rural areas – has become an important means to help the farmers escape poverty, with targeted poverty relief support from the county government.

Official data show that more than 4,000 households raised 610,000 honey bee hives last year, producing 457.5 tonnes of honey worth 36.6 million yuan (RM22.15mil).

Qiongzong's honey products and green oranges have earned national collective geographical

trademarks thanks to their unique local ecological nourishment.

Farmers are improving their lot through rural tourism businesses, such as Li- and Miao-style household hotels, restaurants and stores.

Li added that construction of ecological civilisation has markedly improved the communal spirit of residents.

"Also of importance are projects that have opened access to things such as electricity and natural gas.

"Built for farmers with county loans at low interest rates, the projects have reduced air pollution, cut consumption of firewood and helped foster green low-carbon lifestyles," Li said. — China Daily/Asia News Network



Sweet income: Beekeeper Jiang Shanhai showing the harvest from his farm in Qiongzong, Hainan province. — China Daily/Asia News Network

First British space port to be in Scotland

LONDON: The British Space agency announced that it had chosen a peninsula on Scotland's north coast as the site of the country's first space port.

"Scotland is the best place in Britain to reach in-demand satellite orbits with vertically launched rockets," the agency said in a statement.

According to the head of the agency, Graham Turnock, the new space port will "help kickstart an exciting new era for the Britain space industry".

The choice of Sutherland for the new space port confirms Scotland's ambitions in the sector.

According to industry experts, Glasgow is the city, outside of the United States, which produces the most satellites, specialising in small devices which can be used for weather forecasts like GPS systems.

Britain is seeking to develop its own space industry after its role in European space projects was called into question by Brexit. — AFP

Lebih 1 bilion orang hadapi masalah sejukkan badan, simpan makanan

Bumi menjadi semakin panas

OSLO, Norway – Lebih satu bilion orang berdepan risiko kekurangan alat penyaman udara dan peti sejuk untuk menyejukkan badan mereka dan menyimpan makanan serta ubat ketika lebih banyak suhu tinggi direkodkan akibat pemanasan global, kata satu kajian semalam.

Permintaan tenaga elektrik untuk peti sejuk, kipas angin dan peralatan lain juga meningkat dan akan memburukkan lagi impak perubahan iklim melainkan sumber bahan api fosil diganti dengan tenaga lebih bersih, demikian menurut laporan agensi Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL).

Agensi Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu itu berkata, kira-

kira 1.1 bilion orang di Asia, Afrika dan Amerika Latin atau merangkumi 470 juta penduduk di kawasan pedalaman dan 630 juta warga setinggan bandar, merupakan antara yang terjejas akibat kekurangan penyaman udara dan peti sejuk.

"Fungsi penyejukan menjadi lebih penting ekoran perubahan iklim," kata ketua SEforALL, Rachel Kyte kepada agensi berita Reuters.

Dalam kaji selidik melibatkan 52 negara itu, negara yang paling berisiko ialah India, China, Mozambique, Sudan, Nigeria, Brazil, Pakistan, Indonesia dan Bangladesh, kata SEforALL.

"Kita perlu menyediakan penyejukan dengan cara yang amat efisien," kata Kyte lagi.

Menurutnya, syarikat-syarikat dapat mencari pasaran besar dengan mengeluarkan alat penyaman udara murah dan efisien untuk dijual kepada golongan sederhana yang semakin meningkat di negara-negara tropika.

Katanya lagi, penyelesaian lebih mudah seperti mengecat bumbung dengan warna putih untuk memantulkan pancaran matahari atau mereka semula bangunan supaya dapat membebaskan haba juga membantu.

Menurut SEforALL, haba akibat pemanasan global dijangka menyebabkan 38,000 kematian tambahan di seluruh dunia setiap tahun antara tahun 2030 hingga 2050. – Reuters



ORANG ramai menyejukkan badan di sebuah pancuran air di Quebec ketika gelombang panas melanda Kanada bulan ini.