

**KEMENTERIAN TENAGA, SAINS, TEKNOLOGI, ALAM SEKITAR DAN PERUBAHAN IKLIM**

Bil	Berita	Media	Capaian Berita Penuh
17 DISEMBER 2018 (ISNIN)			
1.	<p><u>Ahli perniagaan wanita perlu lebih proaktif cari ilmu keusahawanan</u></p> <p>Antara enam dana awam dalam membantu usahawan ialah daripada Unit Peneraju Agenda Bumiputera (TERAJU) melalui Skim Usahawan Permulaan Bumiputera, Tabung Ekonomi Kumpulan Usaha Niaga (TEKUN) dengan Skim Pembiayaan Program Temannita, selain bantuan Perbadanan Usahawan Nasional Berhad, MARA, SME Bank dan Cradle Fund Sdn Bhd.</p>	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
2.	<p><u>Problem that needs to be attended to urgently</u></p> <p>THE <i>Sunday Star</i> editorial yesterday, "Climate change – it's time we changed, too", is a good and necessary wake-up call. As Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin put it: Two years after Malaysia signed the Paris Agreement, nothing much has been done by us.</p>	The Star	Klik pada tajuk berita dan rujuk lampiran 1
3.	<p><u>Sustainable Development Goals: What next?</u></p> <p>What this means is that the achievement of the SDGs cannot be the sole responsibility of the Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Ministry but would also require very active involvement from the other</p>	The Star	Klik pada tajuk berita dan rujuk lampiran 2



	ministries to say the least.		
4.	<p><u>Need for more climate action</u></p> <p>Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister, Yang Berhormat Yeo Bee Yin, addressed the high-level segment of the UN climate change conference in Poland on Wednesday.</p>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 3
5.	<p><u>Cidekick rancang hasilkan aplikasi kerja sambilan</u></p> <p>Cidekick Sdn Bhd, pembekal penyelesaian tenaga kerja sambilan merancang untuk menghasilkan aplikasi mudah alih menerusi pembiayaan dari program DEQ800 oleh Cradle Fund Sdn Bhd (Cradle) berjumlah RM 775,000</p>	Harian Metro	Rujuk lampiran 4
6.	<p><u>Highway to have charging stations</u></p> <p>Present was Malaysian Green Technology Corporation (MGTC) acting chief executive officer Syed Ahmad Syed Mustafa.</p>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 5
16 DISEMBER 2018 (AHAD)			
7.	<p><u>Amaran angin kencang, laut bergelora hingga Selasa</u></p> <p>Menurut kenyataan Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia hari ini angin kencang dengan ukuran berkenaan juga dijangka melanda kawasan perairan Tioman, selatan Condore, Bunguran, selatan Reef North, Layang-Layang, Reef South, Labuan dan Palawan.</p>	Sinar Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
8.	<p><u>Anti-Lynas group claims some govt agencies closed one eye to allow hazardous waste</u></p> <p>He said to date, the Cabinet had yet to say anything even though the Energy, Science,</p>	The Star	Klik pada tajuk berita

	Technology, Environment and Climate Change Ministry had decided to impose additional pre-conditions on Lynas' licence renewal.		
9.	<p><u>Brace for rainy days ahead, says dept</u></p> <p>According to the Malaysian Meteorological Department, the country is still in the north-east monsoon phase, which started in November and is expected to last until March.</p>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 6
15 DISEMBER 2018 (SABTU)			
10.	<p><u>Lynas: Shipping out WLP a 'last resort' option</u></p> <p>Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin recently called on Lynas to honour its commitment to ship out its waste considering the risk of the residue accumulation.</p>	The Star	Klik pada tajuk berita
11.	<p><u>Impose stop-work order on Lynas, says long-time critic Wong Tack</u></p> <p>Bentong MP Wong Tack, a fierce critic of rare earths company Lynas, has called on Energy, Science, Technology, Environment, and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin to issue an immediate stop-work order against the company.</p>	Free Malaysia Today	Klik pada tajuk berita
12.	<p><u>Tiada surcaj tarif elektrik kepada pengguna domestik</u></p> <p>Tiada surcaj tarif elektrik akan dikenakan kepada semua pengguna domestik di Semenanjung Malaysia bagi tempoh 1 Januari hingga 30 Jun 2019 walaupun</p>	Sinar Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita



	kerajaan bersetuju meneruskan pelaksanaan mekanisme kos tak berimbang (ICPT) bagi tempoh tersebut, kata Suruhanjaya Tenaga.		
13.	<p><u>Amaran cuaca buruk di Kelantan, Terengganu</u></p> <p>Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia hari ini mengeluarkan amaran cuaca buruk hujan lebat di Kelantan dan Terengganu yang dijangka berterusan sehingga Isnin (17 Disember).</p>	Kosmo!	Klik pada tajuk berita
14.	<p><u>Hulu Terengganu kembali banjir</u></p> <p>Sementara itu, Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia hari ini mengeluarkan amaran hujan lebat dijangka berterusan melanda beberapa kawasan di negeri ini sehingga Isnin ini (17 Disember 2018).</p>	Sinar Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
15.	<p><u>BMW installs chargers at Ramada Plaza Melaka hotel</u></p> <p>BMW Group Malaysia's PHEVs are also supported by the ChargEV platform through its partnership with the Malaysian Green Technology Corporation.</p>	Paultan.org	Klik pada tajuk berita
16.	<p><u>PLUS offers free solar EV charging at Ayer Keroh R&R</u></p> <p>Highway operator PLUS Malaysia has opened its first solar-powered electric vehicle charging station at the Ayer Keroh southbound R&R area on the North-South Expressway. Built in a collaboration with the Malaysian Green Technology Corporation (GreenTech Malaysia) and the United Nations Industry Development Organisation (UNIDO), the facility offers free, 100% renewable energy for charging EVs.</p>	Paultan.org	Klik pada tajuk berita



17.	<p><u>Stop-work order must be issued to Lynas immediately</u></p> <p>Finally, with a new government running the country after May 9, and a highly capable minister in charge of the Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Ministry, Lynas can no longer lie to the people.</p>	Malaysiakini	Klik pada tajuk berita
18.	<p><u>TNB gets government approval to continue ICPT mechanism</u></p> <p>The government has, via a letter from the Energy Commission, given its approval for Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) to continue implementing the imbalance cost pass-through (ICPT) mechanism in the first half of next year.</p>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 7

TEMPATAN

Bil	Berita	Media	Capaian Berita Penuh
17 DISEMBER 2018 (ISNIN)			
19.	<p><u>Penang boy helps cook up a storm with award-winning robot</u></p> <p>The robots are coming – that is the refrain we are increasingly hearing. Once largely confined to the manufacturing sector, the presence of robots is being felt more and more in our homes, hospitals, restaurants and entertainment spaces.</p>	Free Malaysia Today	Klik pada tajuk berita
20.	<p><u>Anti-Lynas group alleges misconduct by regulators</u></p>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 8

	Anti-Lynas group Save Malaysia, Stop Lynas is alleging there are elements of misconduct on the part of regulators, which have allowed the rare earth materials producer to continue operations.		
21.	<p><u>Remove the politics when dealing with the Lynas issue</u></p> <p>With regard to the residue, or “radioactive waste”, as Lynas opponents like to call it, produced at Lynas, it actually contains very little radioactive material. The residue actually still looks like soil.</p>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 9
22.	<p>Automation is the way to go</p> <p>Rise of robots: Factories in China are replacing workers with automation, a pivot that’s encouraged by rising wages and the move away from low-cost manufacturing – something that Malaysia should look into.</p>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 10
16 DISEMBER 2018 (AHAD)			
23.	<p><u>Dorong PKS ke tahap lebih tinggi jadi fokus SME Bank</u></p> <p>Sehingga kini, Bank berkenaan sudah menyenaraikan 21 inisiatif, termasuk langkah utamanya dalam transformasi teknologi digital, strategi pembangunan PKS berdasarkan persekitaran ekonomi yang sentiasa berubah dan mencabar, dicirikan oleh globalisasi, liberalisasi serta kemajuan dalam teknologi maklumat dan komunikasi, selaras keinginan kerajaan untuk Revolusi Industri 4.0 (IR4.0).</p>	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
24.	<u>Revisiting and revising KPIs</u>	New Sunday Times	Klik pada tajuk berita

	Why aberrant? Precisely because humans are not machines and that human life cannot be automated like we do robots. Artificial intelligence (AI) and human intelligence are two very distinctive make-ups and creations. When that distinction is blurred it becomes not just an aberration but seriously problematic.		
25.	<p><u>Shenzhen, China's reform pioneer, leads tech revolution</u></p> <p>The metropolis is now seeking to reinvent itself as the home of Chinese innovation, in line with Beijing's "Made in China 2025" plan to dominate key hi-tech industries such as robotics, electric vehicles and artificial intelligence.</p>	Free Malaysia Today	Klik pada tajuk berita
26.	<p><u>187 mangsa banjir di Kuala Selangor</u></p> <p>Seramai 187 mangsa banjir membabitkan 58 keluarga ditempatkan di Pusat Pemindahan Sementara (PPS) Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Pasangan, di sini, sejak 5 Disember lalu sehingga pagi ini.</p>	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
27.	<p><u>Rantau Panjang mula ditenggelami air</u></p> <p>Beberapa kampung di sekitar pinggir Sungai Golok sudah ditenggelami air sedalam 0.5 meter sejak semalam antaranya Jeram Perdah, Lancang, Bongo, Kelawar, Jejawi, Teresan dan Putat 7.</p>	Mingguan Malaysia	Klik pada tajuk berita dan rujuk lampiran 11
28.	<p><u>Program 'Back to School 2019' bantu 200 murid</u></p> <p>Program 'Back to School 2019' anjuran Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) diteruskan tahun ini dengan 200 murid lagi dari keluarga miskin sekitar Dewan Undangan Negeri (Dun) Sikamat, menerima bantuan keperluan</p>	Sinar Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita

	persekolahan.		
29.	<p><u>The Saudis just can't seem to become the Saudi Arabia of solar</u></p> <p>Around the world, high oil prices tend to accelerate the shift to renewable energy and electric vehicles. In Saudi Arabia, they have the opposite effect.</p>	Free Malaysia Today	Klik pada tajuk berita
30.	<p><u>TNB terus beri kehidupan lebih baik dan cerah</u></p> <p>Bagi memberi gambaran sejauh mana pencapaian TNB, seseorang boleh mengatakan bahawa kira-kira 99.9 peratus Semenanjung mendapat manfaat daripada program elektrik TNB.</p>	Berita Harian	Rujuk lampiran 12
15 DISEMBER 2018 (SABTU)			
31.	<p><u>Purata tarif asas elektrik kekal – TNB</u></p> <p>Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) mengumumkan purata tarif asas elektrik kekal tidak berubah bagi tempoh 1 Januari hingga 30 Jun 2019 walaupun terpaksa menanggung kos bahan api dan penjanaan yang tinggi bagi tempoh 2 Julai hingga 31 Disember 2018.</p>	Utusan Malaysia	Rujuk lampiran 13
32.	<p><u>Aplikasi cALLme bantu promosi perkhidmatan teksi</u></p> <p>“Aplikasi ini juga berupaya pmengharmonikan industri e-hailing dan meningkatkan daya saing dalam kalangan pemandu teksi seiring Revolusi Perindustrian Keempat (Industri 4.0) yang bakal menjana pertumbuhan ekonomi ke arah pendigitalan</p>	Utusan Malaysia	Klik pada tajuk berita

	yang holistik sekali gus meningkatkan produktiviti,”katanya.		
33.	<p><u>2 daerah di Terengganu kembali dilanda banjir</u></p> <p>Hujan lebat berterusan sejak awal pagi tadi di beberapa kawasan Hulu Terengganu dan Dungun menyebabkan dua daerah itu kembali dilanda banjir.</p>	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
34.	<p><u>Surcuj tambahan beri kesan kepada sektor perniagaan</u></p> <p>Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) berkata, surcuj tambahan sebanyak 2.55 sen satu kilowatt-jam (kWh) bermula 1 Mac hingga 30 Jun tahun hadapan akan menjejaskan perniagaan disebabkan peningkatan kos bahan api dan penjanaan.</p>	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
35.	<p><u>Kadar tarif elektrik kekal 39.45 sen/kWh enam bulan pertama tahun depan</u></p> <p>Kerajaan bersetuju untuk meneruskan pelaksanaan mekanisme ketidakseimbangan Pelepasan Kos Bahan Api (ICPT) bagi tempoh 1 Januari hingga 30 Jun 2019.</p>	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
36.	<p><u>TNB continues to brighten lives</u></p> <p>Recently, a housing area in Wangsa Maju, Kuala Lumpur, had a sudden power outage on a hot Sunday afternoon. To make matters worse, a thunderstorm soon followed. The result – more than a hundred families were inconvenienced.</p>	New Straits Times	Rujuk lampiran 14
37.	<p><u>The driving force behind Malaysia’s 4IR initiative</u></p> <p>As the country transitions to a digital and</p>	New Straits Times	Rujuk lampiran 15



	data-driven economy, expect to see a greater level of AI adoption next year.		
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ANTARABANGSA

Bil	Berita	Media	Capaian Berita Penuh
17 DISEMBER 2018 (ISNIN)			
38.	<p><u>Nations agree on climate pact rules</u></p> <p>Warsaw: Nearly 200 countries overcame political divisions late on Saturday to agree on rules for implementing a landmark global climate deal, but critics say it is not ambitious enough to prevent the dangerous effects of global warming.</p>	The Sun	Rujuk lampiran 16
39.	<p><u>Nations agree on Paris treaty</u></p> <p>Katowice (Poland): Nations struck deal to implement the landmark 2015 Paris climate treaty after marathon UN talks that failed to match the ambition the world most vulnerable countries need to avert dangerous global warming.</p>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 17
40.	<p><u>Automation won't reduce jobs in digital era</u></p> <p>"Automation reduces jobs in all sectors but innovation has always created jobs in new sectors that did not exist before automation, resulting in higher productivity and less physical efforts. History tells us," he said.</p>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 18
41.	<p><u>Delegates Agree on Climate Rule Book</u></p> <p>Diplomats from nearly 200 countries reached</p>	New Straits Times	Rujuk lampiran 19



	a deal on Saturday to keep the Paris Climate agreement alive by adopting a set of rules to implement the pact.		
42.	<p><u>Climate-Smart Farming</u></p> <p>Until the United Nations climate talks in Bonn, Germany last year, there was no clear plan to include agriculture in climate negotiations.</p>	New Straits Times	Rujuk lampiran 20
16 DISEMBER 2018 (AHAD)			
43.	<p><u>Climate change – it's time we changed too</u></p> <p>Katowice is over 9,000km from Malaysia but what happens in this city in southern Poland will ultimately affect us and everyone around the world.</p>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 21
16 DISEMBER 2018 (SABTU)			
44.	<p><u>Climate talks set for tense finale</u></p> <p>Nations at United Nations climate talks were haggling yesterday over the world's plan to avert disaster as a host Poland dumped a draft decision text on delegates just hours before the summit was due to end.</p>	New Straits Times	Rujuk lampiran 22
45.	<p><u>Climate deficit is insane, says expert</u></p> <p>Katowice (Poland): Hardly any countries are doing enough to combat climate change, a top German climate change expert said, questioning the usefulness of the United Nations' annual climate conference.</p>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 23
46.	<p><u>Oceans of garbage prompt war on plastics</u></p> <p>PARIS: Faced with images of turtles</p>	New Straits Times	Klik pada tajuk berita



	smothered by plastic bags, beaches carpeted with garbage and islands of trash floating in the oceans, environmentalists say the world is waking up to the need to tackle plastic pollution at the source.		
47.	<u>Virgin Galactic test flight reaches space</u> Mojave (California): Virgin Galactic's tourism spaceship climbed more than 50 miles (80km) high above California's Mojave Desert, reaching for the first time what the company considers the boundary of space.	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 24
48.	<u>Fears of a "Rapid Unravelling' in the Arctic</u> Rising temperatures are having effects on sea ice, and on life on land and in the ocean; the impacts are being felt far beyond the region.	New Straits Times	Rujuk lampiran 25

LAMPIRAN 1
THE STAR (VIEWS): MUKA SURAT 27
TARIKH: 17 DISEMBER 2018 (ISNIN)

Problem that needs to be attended to urgently

THE *Sunday Star* editorial yesterday, "Climate change – it's time we changed, too", is a good and necessary wake-up call. As Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin put it: Two years after Malaysia signed the Paris Agreement, nothing much has been done by us.

A Merdeka Centre 2016 survey found that only 32% of Malaysians were concerned about climate change. This is worrying because the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has made clear that climate change is already happening, with the world experienc-

ing more devastating hurricanes and typhoons and record droughts due to rising sea levels and temperatures. The dire outcome of not dealing with climate change in Malaysia includes floods, less food, and water shortages. Selangor's six million residents, for instance, can expect to experience more frequent water shortages and drier dams.

It's time Malaysia strived to adapt to a phenomenon that will only worsen. If no concrete mitigation and adaptation plans are implemented (there is not even a proper carbon accounting plan for industry and business) soon, even

our basic food security will be affected, as unpredictable weather will see a 10% to 15% drop in our annual agricultural yields.

True, Malaysia can't tackle this problem on its own; so we must be proactive with other governments worldwide to confront this pressing man-made environmental issue. Economic growth must not

come at the expense of uncontrolled climate change.

As Bill Gates warned, climate change is a terrible, huge priority problem that absolutely needs to be solved, especially for our next generation.

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**your
opinions**

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Letters must carry the sender's full name, address and telephone number. A pseudonym may be included.

LAMPIRAN 2
THE STAR (VIEWS): MUKA SURAT 27
TARIKH: 17 DISEMBER 2018 (ISNIN)

Sustainable Development Goals: What next?

SEPTEMBER 2015 marked a sea-change in the global movement in sustainability when 193 countries collectively agreed to pursue 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals.

These goals were more ambitious compared to the millennium development goals, covering a total of 169 specific targets, and are time-bound (up to the Year 2030) – a definite step up!

The 2019 budget announced by the new government had an allocation of RM1bil pledged towards supporting the SDGs.

This speaks volumes of the government's level of commitment for sure. Yet, the question remains about how aligned are our ministries towards achieving the ambitious targets within the SDGs, and

what's our next move?

The SDGs, as we know it, encompasses a broad range of issues: climate change, biodiversity, gender equality, poverty, peace and prosperity, to name a few. It's very important to understand that these issues should not be tackled in isolation, as they are interconnected in the form of a nexus. Climate change, for example, affects agricultural yields, water security, and the way that we design and build infrastructure to adapt to extreme weather patterns. What this means is that the achievement of the SDGs cannot be the sole responsibility of the Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Ministry but would also require very active involvement from the other ministries to say the least.

How often is this happening and

how much engagement has taken place between ministries to have discourses on the SDGs?

Under the previous government (now opposition), the Economic Planning Unit was tasked with overseeing and reporting on Malaysia's progress on the SDGs, as they were back then aligned with the 11th Malaysia Plan. The SDGs were to be adopted in a number of phases and different consultation groups were set up with representation from civil society organisations, the private sector and various agencies. A number of meetings took place. After GE14, however, it feels like the momentum on the SDGs has slowed, leaving a large number of consultative groups "hanging in the air", unsure of the next steps or what will happen now?

In fact, it felt like a taboo subject for some, who choose to avoid such conversations altogether.

The fact is, hard work has been laid out with specific SDG indicators that will need to be delivered. At a policy level, of course, things are far more complicated, and a lot of work needs to be done still to "harmonise" policies, and this makes achieving the SDGs an uphill battle.

Yes, a new government has been elected and it's important to give them space to revamp things – but it's also important not to lose sight of and traction on the SDGs, which is a real opportunity for truly inclusive development. So, what's next?

DR RENARD SIEW
Climate Reality Leader
Kuala Lumpur

LAMPIRAN 3
THE STAR (VIEWS): MUKA SURAT 27
TARIKH: 17 DISEMBER 2018 (ISNIN)

Need for more climate action

ENERGY, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister, Yang Berhormat Yeo Bee Yin, addressed the high-level segment of the UN climate change conference in Poland on Wednesday. The Malaysian Youth Delegation (MYD) present at the conference welcomes the minister's statement as she called for more trust from developed nations and more international cooperation in the fight against the climate crisis.

MYD is an NGO comprising young Malaysians who represent the local youth climate movement at international conferences, such as the 24th Conference of Parties (COP24) in Poland. The annual Conference of Parties is part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

MYD supports the minister's stand against diluting the principles of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) and equity in the ongoing negotiations. CBDR, a key tenet of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, came under attack from several parties during COP24. It defines that while climate change is a global problem that needs to be tackled collectively, developed nations should take the lead in climate action based on their historical emissions. It is imperative that Malaysia and other developing nations insist on upholding this principle.

We fully support the minister's call for developed nations to fulfil their moral obligations to provide financial assistance, technology transfer and capacity building to the developing world. This was reiterated in YB Yeo's exclusive interview in the article "Finding green finance" published in *Star2*



Heating up: Extreme weather events, such as California's ongoing and months-long wildfires, are worsening around the globe and scientists report that they are the result of climate change.

on Thursday. Climate finance is crucial for Malaysia to continue to thrive and prosper while actively executing climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

It is disheartening, though, that the minister did not highlight the importance of finalising the Paris Agreement Work Programme which is meant to set us on a pathway to limit warming to 1.5°C by 2100. There was also no reference to the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report, which has indicated that the world is on its way to 1.5°C of warming as early as 2030 should the climate pledges from parties remain as they are.

While we commend the minister for calling for more international cooperation and the need for increased assistance, trust and

leadership by developed nations, we also note that she made no mention of increasing Malaysia's ambitions in our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Malaysia is on its way to fulfilling its current climate pledge – a reduction of 35% of emissions intensity of GDP by 2030 from 2005 levels, with an additional 10% contingent on the receipt of support from developed nations. As we approach 2020, a year when nations are meant to increase ambitions and NDCs, how will ours be strengthened?

As the minister said in her address, the word "urgency" was heavily mentioned at COP24. It can no longer be just a buzzword. It needs to stand for less talking and more immediate action. That starts with stronger and more ambitious

NDCs from parties across the board, including Malaysia.

The minister's track record in the past six months has been commendable, from the change to 1:1 ratio for solar energy sale prices to her campaign against the dangerous radioactive waste management of the Lynas Rare Earth Plant, YB Yeo has taken big strides forward. As Malaysia continues to move towards a greener economy, it is crucial to acknowledge the need for a Just Transition to ensure social equity.

Perhaps these bigger strides forward will come in the shape of her plans for a Climate Change Act, which she detailed in her interview with *The Star* on Wednesday, or in the shape of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act, which she mentioned in her speech in Poland. Both are commendable initiatives and, if passed into law, could be the kind of action Malaysia needs to address climate change.

At the same time, her plans for a climate change centre is encouraging and exciting news. We hope to see increased youth and civil society representation in the planning of these initiatives. In the spirit of intergenerational equity, we need to be included in the processes, discourse and planning of decisions that will affect us for decades to come. COP24 ended on Friday but climate change and our daily lives carry on.

We hope that YB Yeo continues to address the pertinent issues of climate change in Malaysia with strong urgency and greater climate action.

MIKE CAMPTON
Assistant Manager
Malaysian Youth Delegation

LAMPIRAN 4
HARIAN METRO (BUSINESS): MUKA SURAT 30
TARIKH: 17 DISEMBER 2018 (ISNIN)

**Cidekick rancang hasilkan
aplikasi kerja sambilan**

Cidekick Sdn Bhd, pembekal penyelesaian tenaga kerja sambilan merancang untuk menghasilkan aplikasi mudah alih menerusi pembiayaan dari program DEQ800 oleh Cradle Fund Sdn Bhd (Cradle) berjumlah RM775,000.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif dan Pengasas Cidekick, Philip Phua berkata, pelan bagi aplikasi mudah alih itu adalah sebahagian daripada usaha untuk mengembangkan perniagaan selain membantu majikan dan pekerja sambilan.

Beliau berkata, syarikat berkenaan berhasrat untuk menjadi lebih daripada sekadar portal mengumpul resume untuk tenaga kerja sambilan dan membantu syarikat menangani cabaran kos operasi dengan akses kepada bakat sambilan.

“Sebahagian besar tenaga kerja moden adalah pekerja sambilan yang turut dikenali sebagai ‘pekerja gig’ yang biasanya diambil untuk tempoh pendek.

“Memandangkan kebanyakan syarikat memilih untuk mengguna aliran tunai mereka untuk tujuan perniagaan lain, imbuhan kepada kumpulan pekerja ini mungkin bukan keutamaan dan tidak memberi gambaran baik kepada syarikat,” katanya dalam kenyataan.

Menurutnya, agensi pekerjaan tradisional mengambil komisen lebih tinggi yang menyebabkan perniagaan membayar lebih untuk pekerja kurang berkualiti atau pekerja dibayar kurang daripada apa yang sepatutnya.

LAMPIRAN 5
THE STAR (NEWS): MUKA SURAT 4
TARIKH: 17 DISEMBER 2018 (ISNIN)



Owners can charge their electric vehicles for free. — Photos: R.S.N. MURALI/The Star



Azman (right) and Syed Ahmad launching the maiden public solar-powered EV charging station at the Ayer Keroh Overhead Bridge Restaurant.

Highway to have charging stations

Facility on North-South Expressway to be increased if there is demand

By **ROSHIDI ABU SAMAH**
malacca@thestar.com.my

FIVE solar-powered electric vehicle (EV) charging stations will be installed along the North-South Expressway (NSE) by early 2020.

PLUS Malaysia Bhd managing director Datuk Azman Ismail said discussions were underway to set up the solar-powered EV charging stations, which cost RM450,000 each, at the Pagoh (southbound), Tapah (southbound), Dengkil

(southbound), Gunung Semangol (northbound) and Seremban (northbound) rest and service areas.

Azman said there are currently 249 charging stations with some 150 of them located in the Klang Valley.

"Most of these charging stations are mainly grid and electric-based and can be found at major petrol stations, shopping malls and hotels," he said at the launch of the first public solar EV charging sta-

tion in Malaysia at the Ayer Keroh Overhead Bridge Restaurant (southbound) near here.

Present was **Malaysian Green Technology Corporation (MGTC)** acting chief executive officer Syed Ahmad Syed Mustafa.

The project was a collaboration between PLUS, MGTC and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

MGTC is the leading EV charging station operator and manages 240 stations nationwide.

Azman said PLUS plans to build more EV charging stations at rest and service areas if there is demand.

The EV charging station at the Ayer Keroh Overhead Bridge Restaurant has been operational since May and offers free charging to EV and plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) owners.

He said PLUS was heeding the Government's call to preserve the environment by introducing the solar-powered EV charging stations. Syed Ahmad said with the

availability of EV chargers along the NSE, it would make it easier for EV and PHEV owners to travel interstate.

EV users, he pointed out, will require between 60 and 90 minutes to fully charge their vehicles which could travel for about 490km.

On another matter, Azman said traders at PLUS rest and service areas will be required to provide biodegradable packaging such as cups, food containers, utensils and other packaging from next year.



LAMPIRAN 6
THE STAR (NATION): MUKA SURAT 2
TARIKH: 16 DISEMBER 2018 (AHAD)

PETALING JAYA: Rainy days are coming to many states this month.

According to the Malaysian Meteorological Department, the country is still in the north-east monsoon phase, which started in November and is expected to last until March.

This means heavy rainfall will occur comprehensively, especially in the east coast states and in the

Brace for rainy days ahead, says dept

west of Sarawak.

Throughout December, the east coast states are expected to have damp weather conditions with a monthly rainfall exceeding 450mm, the department said on its website.

Several places in Pahang such as

Pekan and Rompin as well as in the east of Johor are expected to receive more than the average rainfall.

Conversely, places in the north of the peninsula, such as Perlis and Pulau Langkawi in Kedah, are expected to receive less rain than

the average amount.

Other places in the peninsula are expected to receive rainfall between 100mm to 350mm.

In Sabah, most places such as Tawau and Pedalaman are expected to receive less than the

average rainfall.

Over in Sarawak, most places are expected to receive the average rainfall, except for Limbang, which is estimated to receive between 200mm and 300mm only.

The report also noted that next month, most places in the peninsula are still expected to receive an average amount of rainfall, save for the east of Johor.

LAMPIRAN 7
THE STAR (STARBIZ): MUKA SURAT 7
TARIKH: 15 DISEMBER 2018 (SABTU)

TNB gets government approval to continue ICPT mechanism

KUALA LUMPUR: The government has, via a letter from the Energy Commission, given its approval for Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) to continue implementing the imbalance cost pass-through (ICPT) mechanism in the first half of next year.

However, the average base tariff would remain unchanged for the period from Jan 1 to June 30, despite the higher fuel and generation cost incurred for the period of July 1 until Dec 31, 2018, the utility firm said in a filing with Bursa

Malaysia yesterday.

TNB said the additional generation cost or imbalance cost was RM1.82bil mainly due to the increase in average coal price to US\$97.835 per tonne, compared with the forecast coal price of US\$75 per tonne set in the base tariff for Regulatory Period two (RP2) from 2018 to 2020.

It said the government had approved two mitigation measures to cushion the impact of high fuel and generation cost of RM1.82bil to be passed through to customers via

the ICPT mechanism. One measure is using the electricity industry fund to fund the surcharge for domestic customers amounting to RM308mil.

Meanwhile, part of the surcharge for non-domestic customers amounting to RM564mil would be funded from cost and revenue adjustment of TNB for 2018, as agreed during the base tariff determination in RP2 under the Incentive Based Regulation (IBR) framework, it added.

Therefore, TNB said, the remaining imbalance cost to be passed-

through via the ICPT mechanism was RM948 mil.

No surcharge will be applied to the domestic customers, but the imbalance cost of RM948mil will be passed through to non-domestic customers via staggered ICPT surcharge implementation.

The ICPT surcharge for the non-domestic customers will be maintained at 1.35 sen per kilowatt hour (kWh) for January and February 2019, after which the applicable surcharge will rise to 2.55 sen per kWh. — Bernama

LAMPIRAN 8
THE STAR (NATION): MUKA SURAT 11
TARIKH: 17 DISEMBER 2018 (ISNIN)

Anti-Lynas group alleges misconduct by regulators

KUANTAN: Anti-Lynas group Save Malaysia, Stop Lynas is alleging there are elements of misconduct on the part of regulators, which have allowed the rare earth materials producer to continue operations.

Its chairman Tan Bun Teet claimed they had evidence showing how several government agencies bent the rules to allow Lynas to keep storing its residue on-site.

"Many people, especially those from responsible industries and businesses, might have half-guessed why and how Lynas could get away with accumulating huge amount of contaminated wastes by its refinery plant for over six years.

"No other industry or business anywhere in Malaysia could get away with so much waste left to contaminate our environment and let its hazards spread amidst claims of zero-harm and compliance.

"We have identified many areas where our regulators have failed to act to prevent contamination of our environment by radionuclides and toxic substances," he said.

Tan said they had compiled 117 pages of evidence and would submit it to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission soon.



LAMPIRAN 9
THE STAR (VIEWS): MUKA SURAT 26
TARIKH: 17 DISEMBER 2018 (ISNIN)

Remove the politics when dealing with the Lynas issue

TO understand the Lynas issue, it is worthwhile to understand several concepts. There are naturally occurring radioactive elements in the environment. They are present in the soil, rocks and even in our gardens, albeit in small quantities. These naturally occurring radioactive elements partly contribute to background radiation.

Lynas digs up soil in Australia and extracts the rare earth elements in Malaysia. After extraction, the residue naturally contains small quantities of radioactive elements. This is not specific to Lynas;

it also occurs with other types of mining, and in the oil and gas industry. Somehow these other industries have been left off the hook of stringent reviews.

Fortunately, radiation can be detected and quantified. The radiation from Lynas is very low, so much so that there is no change to the background radiation. Apparently, the radiation their workers are exposed to is even less than what a pilot would be exposed to. Scientists have also consistently mentioned that Lynas is a low-risk operation. Till now, there has been

no evidence of dangerous radiation.

Without any evidence of harmful radiation, it is puzzling why many still believe it is a threat to the country.

This is supposed to be a straightforward mining business that chose Malaysia to invest in. Unfortunately, politics gets in the way.

Following the Fukushima incident in Japan (in 2011 when a tsunami caused a meltdown in the nuclear plant and radiation leaked out), the Lynas issue was played up to the hilt by the then opposition prior to the 13th general election.

Now they cannot backtrack without some humiliation.

Instead of fighting Lynas, I feel Malaysia should focus on building a rare earth industry. Rare earth materials are used in mobile phones, electric cars and many other advanced technology.

Currently, we are the only main rare earth producer outside China. We should be promoting our country as an alternative to China, especially with the current US-China trade war that has companies looking for alternatives.

With regard to the residue, or

"radioactive waste", as Lynas opponents like to call it, produced at Lynas, it actually contains very little radioactive material. The residue actually still looks like soil. I do not see why it cannot be recycled into useful products like a road base or cement.

To resolve the Lynas issue, one has to remove politics from it. Malaysia has a lot to gain from Lynas and building up a rare earth industry.

· LU CHENG LONG
Limbang, Sarawak

LAMPIRAN 10
THE STAR (VIEWS): MUKA SURAT 26
TARIKH: 17 DISEMBER 2018 (ISNIN)

Automation is the way to go

ACCORDING to the "Key Statistics of Labour Force in Malaysia" report released in October by the Department of Statistics, Malaysia has a total workforce of 15 million, with another 7.1 million non-working people comprising housewives, students, retirees and those who are not interested in working. The remaining 3.3% unemployed working-class Malaysians comprise an estimated 740,000 people.

The Malaysian Employer Federation in 2017 reported that there are around 1.7 million foreign workers (excluding the unregistered ones) in Malaysia.

Analysing these clearly uneven numbers, it is unlikely that unemployed Malaysians would be able to substitute for foreign workers or replace their jobs any time soon. Based on these facts, I respectfully disagree with Human Resources Minister M. Kulasegaran's effort to encourage industries to boost the salary scale of the "dangerous, difficult and dirty" jobs so that they would be lucrative enough for unemployed locals.

The lack of better-paying skilled jobs has left our unemployed graduates with no choice but to either seek opportunities in countries with higher currency values or to settle for unskilled jobs with salaries equivalent to foreign workers.

A recent study by Khazanah Research Institute made a startling revelation that many graduates, particularly those in part-time jobs, are willing to work below their reservation wage just to land a job. Another study by the Institute of Labour Market Information and Analysis in 2017 stated that 40% of the estimated 200,000 Malaysians working in Singapore are in mid-to low-skilled jobs, motivated mainly by higher wages.



Rise of robots: Factories in China are replacing workers with automation, a pivot that's encouraged by rising wages and the move away from low-cost manufacturing – something that Malaysia should look into. — AP

The situation is dire. What is the cause and how do we solve it?

Looking back at the history, foreign workers were brought into the country in the 1970s to work on rural plantations and construction sites. However, the rapid industrialisation and economic growth of the country in the 1980s and 1990s drove a demand for labour with lower wages. This attracted both documented and undocumented foreign workers in large numbers.

Interestingly, despite the fact that these workers eased production pressures and demand for low-

wage labour, the same scenario is now deterring companies to move up the value chain, which poses a disadvantage to the economy in the upcoming industrial revolution.

The ease and availability of low-wage foreign labour has created deep distortions that disincentivises industries to transform. Aligned with Vision 2025, the transition to a high-income economy requires a major shift from labour-intensive business models to those that are driven by knowledge-rich, highly skilled services, productivity gains, a technological edge and sophisti-

cated technical know-how.

According to Economic Developments 2017, an annual report on the Malaysian economy by Bank Negara Malaysia, the foreign labour share of the workforce has trended downwards lately, from 18.8% in 2007 to 12% in 2017.

Although the change can be noted as an encouraging sign towards a better economic transformation, Malaysia's migrant population ratio is higher than that of our regional peers, and comprises an 8.8% share of total migrants to population.

Our economy's dependency on low-skilled foreign labour is evident as only 5.2% of the total foreign workforce were tertiary educated.

Henceforth, the government should look into technological transformation in industry, such as automation, for a comprehensive solution to both the issues of dependency on foreign labour and unemployment of local graduates.

Firstly, the mindset has to change. Most industries are still engaged in a "race to the bottom" in relation to labour costs and are unwilling to pay more for technology despite the commensurate productivity gains it offers.

Council member of the Malaysian Employer Federation Datuk Seri Tan Thian Poh lately made a good suggestion: The government should set up an independent automation technology fund to assist industries to adopt such technology quickly. The foreign labour levy may be used to initiate it.

The substitute of labour for technology may, in turn, also create new skilled jobs for local graduates, with better wages, killing two birds with one stone.

Ultimately, the Malaysian economy has to progress from input-based, cost suppression as a source of competitive strength, to a dynamic economy based on a skilled workforce, technology-assisted and creating high value products.

This can be achieved by enacting well-aligned, coordinated and conducive government policies. These policies should focus on talent development, research and development, and industrial upgrading initiatives.

DR HARINTHARAVIMAL
BALAKRISHNAN
Skudai, Johor

LAMPIRAN 11
MINGGUAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI): MUKA SURAT 69
TARIKH: 16 DISEMBER 2018 (AHAD)

Rantau Panjang mula ditenggelami air

Oleh NUR ATHIRAH
NABILAH MUSA

pengarang@utusan.com.my

■ KUALA LUMPUR 15 DIS.

BEBERAPA kampung di sekitar pinggir Sungai Golok sudah ditenggelami air sedalam 0.5 meter sejak semalam antaranya Jeram Perdah, Lancang, Bongo, Kelawar, Jejawi, Teresan dan Putat 7.

Setakat pukul 4 petang, laman sesawang infobanjir.water.gov.my melaporkan paras air di Sungai Golok sudah melepasi paras amaran iaitu pada 8.77 meter dan menghampiri paras bahaya 9 meter. Penduduk sekitar sungai berkenaan juga sedang bersiap sedia dan mula mengemas harta benda bagi

menghadapi banjir.

Sementara itu di **TERENGGANU**, pusat pemindahan banjir di negeri itu membabitkan daerah Hulu Terengganu dan Dungun dibuka semula petang ini.

Ketua Sekretariat Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Negeri, Lt. Kol (PA) Che Adam Abdul Rahman berkata, bagi daerah Hulu Terengganu pusat pemindahan yang dibuka ialah di Kampung Sekayu, Pengkalan Ajal dan Masjid Kampung Cheting dengan didiami keseluruhan 117 orang daripada 31 keluarga sehingga pukul 6 petang ini.

Dungun pula, seramai 32 mangsa daripada tujuh keluarga kini ditempatkan di surau Kampung Besol Lama, Bukit Besi sejak ia dibuka pada pukul 1 pe-

tang tadi.

Terdahulu, empat pusat pemindahan banjir di Kemaman ditutup secara berperingkat mulai pagi ini iaitu di Balai Raya Padang Kemunting, Dewan Orang Ramai Teladas, Masjid Batu 16 Tebak dan Dewan Orang Ramai Batu 14.

Di **PAHANG** pula, banjir yang melanda beberapa kawasan di daerah itu sejak kelmarin pulih sepenuhnya setakat petang tadi.

Pengarah Angkatan Pertahanan Awam Malaysia (APM) negeri, Zainal Yusoff berkata, Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Kempadang yang menempatkan 77 mangsa daripada 19 keluarga menjadi pusat pemindahan sementara terakhir ditutup pada pukul 3 petang ini.



PEGAUAI Operasi Bomba dan Penyelamat Rantau Panjang, Zaimi Samat (kiri) memberi penerangan tentang keadaan banjir kepada sebuah keluarga di Kampung Jeram Perdah 2, Rantau Panjang, Kelantan, semalam. - UTUSAN/GHAZALI BASRI

LAMPIRAN 12
BERITA HARIAN (PERKHIDMATAN): MUKA SURAT 9
TARIKH: 16 DISEMBER 2018 (AHAD)

TNB terus beri kehidupan lebih baik dan cerah

➔ Mula pelan strategik letak langkah kukuh jadi perbadanan Utiliti Global 10 Teratas menjelang 2025

► Kuala Lumpur

Pada suatu petang Ahad yang panas di kawasan perumahan Wangsa Maju, Kuala Lumpur, berlaku gangguan bekalan tenaga menyebabkan lebih seratus keluarga di situ berasa tidak selesa.

Masalah menjadi lebih teruk apabila ia disusuli ribut petir. Dalam situasi sebegini, apa yang biasa dilakukan adalah menghubungi *hot-line* Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB).

Walaupun membuat panggilan dilihat sebagai sesuatu yang biasa dan mudah dalam kalangan kita, bagi syarikat utiliti tenaga, memberikan perkhidmatan terbaik, pada masa sama menangani masalah atau rasa tidak selesa pelanggan, sentiasa menjadi cabaran.

Timbul rasa lega apabila suara yang menjawab panggilan mengatakan masalah itu sedang diatasi, apa punca masalah dan berapa ramai sebenarnya yang menelefon.

Sebenarnya, masalah yang berlaku

di Wangsa Maju itu lebih rumit daripada dijangkakan apabila jurutera dan juruteknik TNB mengambil masa lebih tiga jam untuk memulihkan bekalan, ketika hujan lebat.

Kredit harus diberikan kepada perbadanan utiliti elektrik itu dalam memastikan kehidupan harian kita kekal cerah yang bagi kebanyakan orang adalah perkara mudah sedangkan TNB melakukannya selama lebih 70 tahun.

Dalam memastikan kehidupan pengguna sentiasa lebih baik dan cerah, TNB memulakan pelan strategik yang dikenali sebagai Reimaging TNB, atas premis meletakkan langkah yang kukuh untuk menjadi perbadanan Utiliti Global 10 Teratas menjelang 2025.

Berkembang secara profesional
Perangkaan yang dikeluarkan syarikat terbabit beberapa minggu lalu menunjukkan TNB sudah berkembang secara profesional ke arah memberikan pengalaman pelanggan kelas dunia kepada lebih 8.8 juta



(FOTO HIASAN)

TNB komited memenuhi keperluan pelanggan dengan menyediakan perkhidmatan terbaik tanpa mengira waktu.

pengguna di Semenanjung.

Indeks Tempoh Masa Purata Gangguan Sistem (SAIDI) TNB, yang mengukur purata masa gangguan yang dialami pelanggan dalam masa setahun, kekal pada tahap baik dan stabil 35.3 minit. Minut Sistem Transmisi yang mengukur jumlah sistem gangguan yang sama, dicatatkan pada 0.3 minit.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif TNB, Datuk Seri Ir Azman Mohd, berkata Minut Sistem Transmisi TNB di bawah tahap dua minit sejak tahun kewangan 2009 dan SAIDI antara 50 hingga 60 minit daripada tahun kewangan 2014, adalah bukti kecekapan teknikalnya secara konsisten setanding dengan negara membangun seperti Perancis dan United Kingdom.

"Bagi memberi gambaran sejauh mana pencapaian TNB, seseorang boleh mengatakan bahawa kira-kira 99.9 peratus Semenanjung mendapat manfaat daripada program elektrik TNB."

Ir Azman Mohd,
Ketua Pegawai
Eksekutif TNB

"Ia kini meliputi rangkaian grid sepanjang 22,000 kilometer dan ka-

pasiti janakuasa lebih 12,000 megawatt," katanya.

Indeks kepuasan pelanggan 8.1
Pekerja perbadanan utiliti kebangsaan itu yang berjumlah 35,000 juga memungkinkan TNB merekodkan skor indeks kepuasan pelanggan 8.1, yang mana adalah kuartil perentil paling tinggi untuk industri ini.

Markah yang baik itu menguatkan falsafah operasinya bekerja untuk kepentingan rakyat, selain membekalkan elektrik yang boleh dipercayai untuk menjaga pertumbuhan ekonomi di samping menyediakan suasana kehidupan yang lebih baik.

Sasaran tepat itu ditunjukkan melalui komitmen TNB untuk memenuhi keperluan pelanggan dengan menyampaikan bekalan elektrik ke grid nasional yang stabil, dimampui dan bersih, juga menghasilkan gabungan tenaga seimbang termasuk sumber tenaga tradisional seperti arang batu dan gas, selain meningkatkan tenaga boleh diperbaharui.

BERNAMA



Bagi memberi gambaran sejauh mana pencapaian TNB, seseorang boleh mengatakan bahawa kira-kira 99.9 peratus Semenanjung mendapat manfaat daripada program elektrik TNB"

LAMPIRAN 13
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI): MUKA SURAT 9
TARIKH: 15 DISEMBER 2018 (SABTU)

**Purata tarif
asas elektrik
kekal - TNB**

KUALA LUMPUR 14 Dis. - Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) mengumumkan purata tarif asas elektrik kekal tidak berubah bagi tempoh 1 Januari hingga 30 Jun 2019 walaupun terpaksa menanggung kos bahan api dan penjanaan yang tinggi bagi tempoh 1 Julai hingga 31 Disember 2018.

Syarikat utiliti nasional itu berkata, bagaimanapun kerajaan menerusi Suruhanjaya Tenaga membenarkan untuk terus melaksanakan mekanisme Ketidakseimbangan Pelepasan Kos Bahan Api (ICPT) bagi separuh pertama tahun hadapan.

Jelasnya, kerajaan telah meluluskan dua langkah untuk mengurangkan kesan bahan bakar yang tinggi dan kos penjanaan sebanyak RM1.82 bilion yang disalurkan kepada pengguna menerusi mekanisme ICPT.

“Satu daripadanya adalah menerusi Dana Industri Elektrik (KWIE) untuk membiayai bayaran tambahan kepada pengguna domestik berjumlah RM308 juta,” kata syarikat itu dalam maklumannya kepada Bursa Malaysia di sini hari ini.

LAMPIRAN 14
NEW STRAITS TIMES (NATION): MUKA SURAT 9
TARIKH: 15 DISEMBER 2018 (SABTU)

'REIMAGINING TNB'

TNB continues to brighten lives

RECENTLY, a housing area in Wangsa Maju, Kuala Lumpur, had a sudden power outage on a hot Sunday afternoon. To make matters worse, a thunderstorm soon followed. The result — more than a hundred families were inconvenienced.

The natural thing to do in such a situation is to call Tenaga Nasional Bhd's (TNB) hotline.

It may seem simple to pick up the phone and make such calls, but for power utility companies, giving top-notch service while addressing customers' plights or discomforts is a challenge. It is comforting when a calming voice of TNB's call-centre staff tells you that the problem is being attended to, as well as explains the problem and how many people had called.

As for the power outage in Wangsa Maju, it was more complicated than expected. Working in the heavy rain, TNB engineers and technicians took more than three hours to restore power.

Credit should be given to the national electricity utility company for ensuring that we stay have light in

our daily lives. It has been providing this service for almost 70 years.

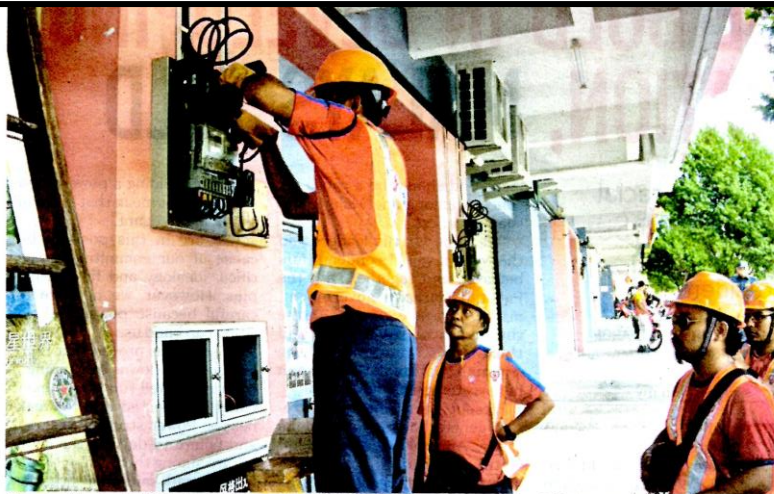
To continuously make our lives better and brighter, TNB has embarked on a strategic plan known as "Reimagining TNB", which aims to put in place measures to be a Top 10 Global Utility Company by 2025.

Statistics released in the past few weeks show how TNB has progressed towards providing a world-class customer experience to its more than 8.8 million customers in Peninsular Malaysia.

Its System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI), which measures the average duration of a power interruption experienced by a customer in a year, remains at a stable level of 35.3 minutes.

Its Transmission System Minutes (TSM), which measures a total system blackout, is registered at 0.3 minutes.

TNB chief executive officer Datuk Seri Azman Mohd said the company's TSM at below the two-minute mark since 2009 and SAIDI at between 50 and 60 minutes from 2014 was proof that its technical com-



Tenaga Nasional Bhd aims to be a Top 10 Global Utility Company by 2025. FILE PIC

petence had been at par with those in developed countries, such as France and the United Kingdom.

To give a rough picture of how far TNB has gone, one can safely say that 99.9 per cent of Peninsular Malaysia has benefited from TNB's electricity programme, which covers a grid network of 22,000km in length and a generation capacity of more than 12,000 megawatts.

TNB employees, who number some 35,000 people, have made it possible for the company to record

an outstanding achievement for the customer satisfaction index, scoring 8.1, which is in the top quartile of the industry.

This score is proof of its operational philosophy of working in the interest of customers and the people, as well as supplying reliable electricity to energise economic growth and providing a better living environment.

Its positive economic impact to the country cannot be ignored as it makes lives better and brighter for

businesses, families and communities. In other words, it has evolved into a key driver for the economy, which also includes boosting business and providing jobs.

Those clear goals have been demonstrated by its commitment to meet customers' needs by delivering electricity that is stable, affordable, clean and produced from a balanced energy mix, including traditional energy resources, like coal and gas, and renewable energy.

Bernama

LAMPIRAN 15
NEW STRAITS TIMES (OPINION): MUKA SURAT 16
TARIKH: 15 DISEMBER 2018 (SABTU)

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND MALAYSIA'S 4IR INITIATIVE

As the country transitions to a digital and data-driven economy, expect to see a greater level of AI adoption next year, writes **LANCE WANG**

ECONOMIES worldwide are viewing Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a catalyst for Industry 4.0 (4IR), and with good reason. From facial recognition to natural language processing, AI technologies have become increasingly commonplace, galvanising global economies and even businesses as they seek to improve customer experience, increase sales or gain predictive insights.

According to a recent McKinsey report, AI will bring additional economic output of around US\$13 trillion (RM54.4 trillion) by 2030 and boost global gross domestic product by about 1.2 per cent each year.

The allocation of RM3 billion for Malaysia's Industry Digitalisation Transformation Fund at the recent 2019 Budget points to the government's commitment to leverage digital technologies such as AI to transform the economy and to accelerate the shift towards 4IR.

As Malaysia transitions to a digital and data-driven economy, we expect to see a greater level of AI adoption next year, especially in the development of smart cities, as well as retail and MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) industries. In fact, according to a study by IDC (International Data Corporation), 34 per cent of organisations in Malaysia have plans to adopt AI within the next two years, the second highest rate among Asia Pacific countries.

Malaysia's AI focus stems in part from the various smart city initiatives and public safety applications rolled out across the



Humanoid robot 'Josie Pepper' at the Munich Airport in Germany. Artificial intelligence is the future for the country's Industry 4.0. REUTERS PIC

country.

In 2016 for example, the Selangor government launched a blueprint to develop Selangor into a Smart State by 2025. The advancement of AI, big data, and Internet of Things (IoT), combined with the Smart Cities Initiative laid out under the 11th Malaysia Plan, signals that smart cities are set to become a reality in the near future.

Any smart city initiative should serve to improve the lives of its citizens; AI can play a vital role in strengthening public safety and law enforcement efforts in cities and communities.

In April, the Auxiliary Force Sdn Bhd (AFSB) became the first security force in Malaysia to integrate body-worn cameras with cutting-edge facial recognition technology. The cameras enabled officers to review captured video footage to positively identify persons of interest post-event. With auxiliary officers better able to safeguard the community, infrastructure and assets, citizens feel safer as they go about their daily lives.

The MICE industry is another area set to benefit from AI. In 2016, Malaysia's MICE industry attracted 111,298 delegates to 153 events and generated RM1.035 billion in revenue. By 2020, business tourism is forecast to contribute triple that amount, boosting Malaysia's gross national income by RM3.9 billion while generating 16,700 jobs.

AI can play a key role in trans-

forming MICE operations by improving productivity and cost-effectiveness while offering delegates a unique conference experience. One such example is the inaugural Digital China Summit held in Fuzhou, China. Delegates were able to conveniently check in to their hotel with facial recognition self-check-in systems and afterwards, skip the hassle of queuing for registration with automated AI-powered gantry systems. With a simple scan of their faces, delegates could proceed straight to the conference halls and be guided by an AI concierge to the specific venue they were supposed to be at.

Retailers are also embracing AI as a powerful tool to engage shoppers and empower store assistants. Deployed within a store, AI can help personalise purchasing recommendations for customers whilst helping store assistants to understand the profile of their customers and anticipate shopping needs. For instance, retailers can leverage facial recognition technology and data analytics to better serve customers who opt in to such a loyalty programme.

The same IDC study found that more than 32 per cent of companies in Malaysia are already prioritising speech and image recognition interfaces to improve customer experience and enhance omni-channel know-your-customer solutions. This is poised to grow further as retail-

ers realise AI's immense potential in enhancing customer service.

When a customer enters a store, the store assistant can instantly identify the customer and pull up details on her purchase history and style preferences. Armed with this information, the store assistant is then able to recommend items most relevant to the customer and anticipate any requests, such as getting the customer a dress in her size. Beyond creating a more delightful shopping experience, AI can help transform customers into brand loyalists or even brand advocates by enabling retailers to go the extra mile for their customers.

While AI technologies have numerous positive societal and economic benefits, it is also important to recognise the challenges they may bring when it comes to privacy and data security. As conversations around privacy and data security move to the fore, winning the public's trust in AI technologies will become paramount if AI is to progress and continue transforming industries and societies.

To that end, all players within the AI industry need to come together to build a trusted AI ecosystem via open, transparent discussions. Instilling trust will also require collaboration between industry, government and academia to develop and deploy AI technologies in a responsible manner.

More broadly, the AI ecosystem will need to focus efforts on educating the public about the benefits and challenges of various AI technologies. Expanding public outreach and education could help inform the public on the various use cases and how AI technologies can improve the way we live, work and play.

Harnessed in the right way, AI can create vast benefits for society and the economy. For Malaysia, AI could very well hold the key to the country's Industry 4.0 future.

The writer is general manager for Southeast Asia, Hong Kong & Macau of a Singapore-based computer security service, a pioneer in artificial intelligence (AI), research and innovation.

While AI technologies have numerous positive societal and economic benefits, it is also important to recognise the challenges they may bring when it comes to privacy and data security.

LAMPIRAN 16
THE SUN (NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS): MUKA SURAT 7
TARIKH: 17 DISEMBER 2018 (ISNIN)



Kurtyka reacts during the final session of the conference in Katowice on Saturday. - **REUTERSPIX**

Nations **agree** on climate pact rules

➤ But critics say deal is not ambitious enough

WARSAW: Nearly 200 countries overcame political divisions late on Saturday to agree on rules for implementing a landmark global climate deal, but critics say it is not ambitious enough to prevent the dangerous effects of global warming.

After two weeks of talks in the Polish city of Katowice, nations finally reached consensus on a more detailed framework for the 2015 Paris Agreement, which aims to limit a rise in average world temperatures to "well below" 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

"It is not easy to find agreement on a deal so specific and technical. Through this package you have made a thousand little steps forward together. You can feel proud," Polish president of the talks Michał Kurtyka told delegates.

After he struck the gavel to signal agreement had been reached, ministers joined him on the stage, hugging and laughing in signs of relief after the marathon talks.

Before the talks started, many expected the deal would not be as robust as needed.

The unity which underpinned the Paris talks has fragmented, and US President Donald Trump intends to pull his country – one of the world's biggest emitters – out of the pact.

At the 11th hour, ministers managed to break a deadlock between Brazil and other countries over the accounting rules for the monitoring of carbon credits, deferring the bulk of that discussion to next year, but missing an opportunity to send a signal to businesses to speed up their actions.

Still, exhausted ministers managed to bridge a series of divides to produce a 156-page rulebook – which is broken down into themes such as how countries will report and monitor their national pledges to curb greenhouse gas emissions and update their emissions plans.

Not everyone is happy with everything, but the process is still on track and it is something to build on, several ministers said.

"While some rulebook elements still need to be fleshed out, it is a foundation for strengthening the Paris Agreement and could help facilitate US re-entry into the Paris Agreement by a future presidential administration," said Alden Meyer of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Some countries and green groups criticised the outcome for failing to urge increased ambitions on emissions cuts sufficiently to curb rising temperatures.

Poorer nations vulnerable to climate change also wanted more clarity on how an already agreed US\$100 billion a year of climate finance by 2020 will be provided and on efforts to build on that amount further.

UN secretary-general António Guterres stressed the need for more work.

"From now on, my five priorities will be: ambition, ambition, ambition, ambition and ambition," he said in a statement.

"And ambition must guide all member states as they prepare their (emissions cut plans) to reverse the present trend in which climate change is still running faster than us." – Reuters

LAMPIRAN 17
THE STAR (WORLD): MUKA SURAT 19
TARIKH: 17 DISEMBER 2018 (ISNIN)

Nations agree on Paris treaty

Delegates finalise common rule book to limit global temperature rises

KATOWICE (Poland): Nations struck a deal to implement the landmark 2015 Paris climate treaty after marathon UN talks that failed to match the ambition the world's most vulnerable countries need to avert dangerous global warming.

Delegates from nearly 200 states finalised a common rule book designed to deliver the Paris goals of limiting global temperature rises to well below two degrees Celsius.

"Putting together the Paris agreement work programme is a big responsibility," said COP24 president Michal Kurtyka.

"It has been a long road. We did our best to leave no one behind."

But environmental groups said the package agreed in the Polish mining city of Katowice lacked the bold ambition needed to protect states already dealing with devastating floods, droughts and extreme weather made worse by climate change.

"We continue to witness an irresponsible divide between the vulnerable island states and impoverished countries pitted against those

Without a clear rulebook, we won't see how countries are tracking, whether they are actually doing what they say they are doing.

Catherine McKenna

who would block climate action or who are immorally failing to act fast enough," executive director of Greenpeace Jennifer Morgan said.

The final decision text was repeatedly delayed as negotiators sought guidelines that are effective in warding off the worst threats posed by our heating planet while protecting the economies of rich and poor nations alike.

"Without a clear rulebook, we

won't see how countries are tracking, whether they are actually doing what they say they are doing," Canada's Environment Minister Catherine McKenna said.

At their heart, negotiations were about how each nation funds action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, as well as how those actions are reported.

Developing nations wanted more clarity from richer ones over how the future climate fight will be funded and pushed for so-called "loss and damage" measures.

Another contentious issue was the integrity of carbon markets, looking ahead to the day when the patchwork of distinct exchanges – in China, the Europe Union, parts of the United States – may be joined up in a global system.

"To tap that potential, you have to get the rules right," said Alex Hanafi, lead counsel for the Environmental Defense Fund in the United States.

"One of those key rules – which is the bedrock of carbon markets – is no double counting of emissions reductions."

The Paris Agreement calls for setting up a mechanism to guard against practices that could undermine such a market, but finding a solution has proved so problematic that the debate has been kicked down the road to next year.

One of the largest disappointments for countries of all wealths and sizes was the lack of ambition to reduce emissions shown in the final COP24 text.

Most nations wanted the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to form a key part of future planning.

It highlighted the need for carbon pollution to be slashed to nearly half by 2030 in order to hit the 1.5°C target.

But the United States, Saudi Arabia, Russia and Kuwait objected, leading to watered-down wording.

The final statement from the Polish COP24 presidency welcomed "the timely conclusion" of the report and invited "parties to make use of it" – hardly the ringing endorsement many nations had called for. — AFP

LAMPIRAN 18
THE STAR (SMEBIZ): MUKA SURAT 11
TARIKH: 17 DISEMBER 2018 (ISNIN)

THE fear of losing jobs due to automation will not become a reality, as innovation will continue to create jobs, according to World Bank Group senior director Michal Rutkowski. Still, nations should consider how to better protect workers in the changing work environment driven by technology advances, he added.

The notion that automation makes traditional jobs obsolete has always been a source of frustration for blue-collar workers. With the advancement of artificial intelligence and robotics, the fear now reaches even white-collar workers. Around 800 million global workers are expected to lose their jobs by 2030 due to robotic automation, according to a report last year from the McKinsey Global Institute.

Despite the circumstances, the World Bank senior director pinned his hopes on innovation.

"Automation reduces jobs in all sectors but innovation has always created jobs in new sectors that did not exist before automation, resulting in higher productivity and less physical efforts. History tells us," he said.

Rutkowski, who joined the World Bank in 1990, now serves as a senior director at the international organisation's social protection and jobs division. He oversees the international organisation's work in developing systems that protect the poor and vulnerable from crisis and shocks, and supporting private sector-led growth.

For white-collar workers, "We see the fears but we don't (actually) see white-collar groups losing their jobs. It's rather the opposite. Educated people reinvent themselves and innovate other things successfully. Fear and reality are different," the senior director said.

Automation won't reduce jobs in digital era

But workers need to be better protected as the work environment changes

He cited journalists as an example: Artificial intelligence is shaking up present-day journalism. Automated news are distributed without human supervision. Social media has quickly become a powerful form of publishing.

"(Still) I believe in journalism. To me, robots do not have the personal touch or customisation of argument to readers. Social media cannot be a substitute to journalism as it does not have quality control," he said.

"I rather believe journalists will reinvent themselves with some passion as social media changes the nature of journalism," he said.

Although the fear of job reduction may not become reality, nations should pay attention to protecting workers in the fast-changing work environment driven by technology advances.

"Because new digital platforms provide different labour arrangements much less regular and much less linked to social protection, we need to start to think about how to provide social protection for those people," Rutkowski said, referring to employment contracts, well-targeted minimum income and social insurance mechanism.

In Korea, the number of non-regular workers – temporary, part-



New opportunities: Innovation creates jobs in new sectors that did not exist before, says Rutkowski. — The Korea Herald

time and freelance – stood at 6.6 million, accounting for 33% of the nation's total employment, according to government data released in August. Non-regular workers earned nearly half as much as regular workers on average, with much less job-related insurance.

"(So far) Korea doesn't have the best interest in trying to protect all ways of providing social protections like you see in some European countries. So, Korea is a latecomer in social protection and its system of employment benefits

are relatively new."

However, this can provide opportunities, as Korea can be more open to experimenting new systems and leapfrog other nations by avoiding mistakes they made, he added.

In the era of growing automation and technology advances, human capital investment is very important to reduce inequality in the labour market, he said.

"Investment in human capital is the best way of benefiting from automation and of getting jobs

which are well paid because winners will be those who have higher skills in the digital era," he said.

He also described Korea's labour market as somewhat tricky.

Korea ranked second in the Human Capital Index released by the World Bank in October. The index quantifies the contributions of health and education to the productivity of the next generation of workers.

Despite Korea having a high score in the index, the nation still has a high youth unemployment rate of 9.5% due mainly to a large gap between small and large companies in the areas of compensation and working conditions.

"In Korea, you have a segmented labour market. Labour conditions in small- and mid-sized companies are different from large companies such as Samsung or LG. This type of segmentation often hampers labour mobility and creates less competition in the labour market," he said.

He suggested the government should seriously think about wage subsidisation for small firms and the country's openness to the inflow and outflow of workers, so Korean workers can better land jobs in the global market. — The Korea Herald/ANN

LAMPIRAN 19
NEW STRAITS TIMES (WORLD): MUKA SURAT 60
TARIKH: 17 DISEMBER 2018 (ISNIN)

DELEGATES AGREE ON CLIMATE RULE BOOK

Countries to adopt standards to measure emissions, track policies

KATOWICE

DIPLOMATS from nearly 200 countries reached a deal on Saturday to keep the Paris climate agreement alive by adopting a set of rules to implement the pact.

The deal, struck after an all-night bargaining session, will ultimately require all countries to follow a set of standards for measuring their planet-warming emissions, and tracking their climate policies. And it calls on countries to step up their plans to cut emissions before another round of talks in 2020.

It also calls on richer countries to be clearer about the aid they intend to offer to help poorer nations install more clean energy, or build resilience against natural disasters. And it builds a process in which countries that are struggling to meet their emissions goals can get help.

The United States agreed to the deal despite President Donald Trump's vow to abandon the Paris Agreement.

Diplomats and climate change activists said they hoped that fact would make it easier for the administration to change its mind and stay in the Paris Agreement, or for a future president to embrace the accord once again. The US cannot withdraw from the agreement until late 2020.

Observers said US negotiators had worked constructively be-



COP24 President Michal Kurtyka reacting during the final session of the COP24 conference in Katowice on Saturday. REUTERS PIC

hind the scenes with China on transparency rules. The two countries had long been at odds because China had insisted on different reporting rules for developing countries, while the US favoured consistent emissions-accounting rules and wanted all countries to be subject to the same outside scrutiny.

"The US got a clear methodology to make sure that China and India are meeting their targets," said Jake Schmidt, international policy director at the Natural Resources Defence Council.

"That creates the level playing field they have been asking for."

Many of the attendees at this year's United Nations climate talks — known as COP24, short-

hand for their formal name — expressed disappointment at what they saw as half-measures to deal with a mounting climate crisis.

Greenhouse gas emissions are still rising and millions are facing increased risks from severe droughts, floods and wildfires.

But supporters of the deal said they hoped the new rules would help build a virtuous cycle of trust and cooperation at a time when global politics seems increasingly fractured.

Not every country got what it wanted at the meeting, which had been scheduled to end on Friday. Developing nations were hoping for more robust promises on climate aid, but that issue has been postponed for future talks. **NYT**

LAMPIRAN 20
NEW STRAITS TIMES (WANTOON WEEKLY): MUKA SURAT 14
TARIKH: 17 DISEMBER 2018 (ISNIN)

14
Wantoon Weekly

Egyptian locals arrested for helping tourists take nude photos on pyramid

NEW RULES, SORRY. ALL VISITORS MUST WEAR THESE TEAR-PROOF, 'DECENCY SUITS'!

NEW SCIENCE

CLIMATE-SMART FARMING

A clear way for smallholder farmers to reduce carbon footprint, increase yields, writes GODEFROY GROSJEAN

UNTIL the United Nations climate talks in Bonn, Germany last year, there was no clear plan to include agriculture in climate negotiations.

This was troubling, considering agriculture contributes between 19 per cent and 29 per cent of global greenhouse gases, and changing temperatures are making it harder to farm. This is having an increasingly prominent effect on food security – hunger levels have now risen for the third year in a row.

The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, which was agreed this time last year, paves the way for two technical bodies to work together to determine how the agriculture sector can be part of the solution to climate change.

The question is where to begin. Last week, at the COP 24 (UN Climate Change Conference) in Katowice, Poland, an international team of researchers laid out a climate-friendly blueprint for agriculture's future.

The International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the World Bank launched a global synthesis of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices, which provides the clearest view yet as to how the world's 500 million smallholder farmers can reduce their carbon footprint, increase yields and adapt to climate change.

Built from the on-the-ground observations of 1,500 scientists and experts in 33 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America, the report outlines which site-specific interventions work under which circumstances. This enables governments, development agencies, private investors – and, crucially, individual farmers and producers' organisations – to tailor CSA practices to their specific goals and challenges.

The report shows that half of the 1,700 CSA evaluated fall into just five categories: water management, crop tolerance to stress, intercropping, organic fertilisation and pest control, and conservation agriculture. This demonstrates that stakeholders are beginning to find consensus on what they consider climate-smart agriculture.

The report also reveals that many climate-smart agriculture techniques can deliver on all three pillars of CSA: adaptation, mitigation and productivity.

Five technology clusters were ranked in the top 10 for climate-smartness in all three categories: tree management, improved pastures, silvopasture, conservation agriculture and water management.

The report provides crucial insights when faced with the reality that the majority of smallholders do not yet practice CSA: while interventions are generally similar, there is no one-size-fits-all solution. A technique considered climate-smart in one context is not necessarily climate-smart in another.

The top climate-smart agriculture practices are different in the three continents. In Latin America and the Caribbean the smartest technique was silvopasture, whereas intercropping ranked top in Africa. In Asia, bio-gas harnessing was considered to be the most climate-smart intervention.

While finance is still a barrier to investment in CSA, it is not necessarily the biggest obstacle. The report shows that training and information are actually bigger barriers to CSA implementation. Efforts to scale up CSA interventions, therefore, should focus on delivering expert know-how to farmers who are likely to adopt new practices.

The CSA profiles are an effective entry point to unlock discussions and actions on CSA. They should, however, be embedded within a broader suite of prioritisation approaches for CSA interventions. To support this, CIAT has prepared sub-national climate risks profiles and economic assessments to develop climate smart investment plans (CSIPs). Plans should look beyond on-farm practices and develop strategies that increase the resilience of the whole agricultural value chain, while reducing emissions and improving livelihoods.

CIAT, Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security and its partners such as the World Bank are particularly committed to providing support to decision-making to make this agricultural transformation a success.

CSIPs and our better understanding of site-specific CSA interventions will help reshape the landscape, quite literally. If the future of the world is going to be carbon neutral, nothing less than a large-scale transformation of farming is needed.

For the vast majority of the world's farmers, this means adopting climate-smart strategies. And for those who have yet to start – or those seeking to help them begin – they now have a clearer set of guidelines than ever before. **IPS**

If the future of the world is going to be carbon neutral, nothing less than a large-scale transformation of farming is needed.

The writer is Asia Climate Policy Hub Leader, International Centre for Tropical Agriculture

LAMPIRAN 21
THE STAR (NATION): MUKA SURAT 2
TARIKH: 16 DISEMBER 2018 (AHAD)

Sunday Star
SAYS

Climate change – it's time we changed too

KATOWICE is over 9,000km from Malaysia but what happens in this city in southern Poland will ultimately affect us and everyone around the world.

These past two weeks, leaders from over 190 countries, including our very own, met at the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to solve the world's most pressing problem – global warming.

Although the problem calls for scientific and environmental solutions, trying – or even agreeing – to come up with ways to solve this is very often a diplomatic one.

Negotiators, scientists and leaders often have to jostle their way

around alliances, lobbies and political pitfalls to hammer out a deal that everyone can at least make peace with. Frequently, this deal, such as the Paris Agreement, can lead to so many concessions that it feels like a letdown to many.

And of course, there is always the danger of smaller countries like Malaysia getting outmuscled by bigger, more influential developed nations with bucks to spend.

Worse, there is still the possibility of the deal being abandoned – much like what happened when US President Donald Trump came into power and announced on June 1, 2017, that it was withdrawing from the agreement.

The latest out of Katowice is that

the conference, scheduled to end on Friday, will now last over the weekend.

The effects of global warming are very real; for Malaysia, our coasts are increasingly encroached by sea level rise while higher and more intense rainfall means more floods and landslides. And despite being a country with abundant rivers and resources, there may come a day when we can no longer count on clean water as a given.

So, it's not surprising that many – scientists, activists and ordinary folk – were frustrated with the way discussions in Katowice crawled along.

On Wednesday, over 1,000 people took part, under heavy police pres-

ence, in a climate march in Katowice, demanding for urgent action from leaders at the conference.

In the words of our own minister in charge of climate change, Yeo Bee Yin – that is, to “focus on real action, not even more paper work.”

However, while it can seem frustrating having to leave the world's fate in the hands of politicians and diplomats, we do have a choice.

We, as a community, can stop waiting for leaders to come to an agreement and start doing something now.

This could be as simple as taking steps to save electricity – and costs – at home, forgo the cars and ride the public transport on your off

days, plant that tree in the garden of your own home or volunteer for a green initiative in your neighbourhood.

Just like in spite of Trump's announcement, communities, municipalities and even states in the United States have ignored him to implement their own measures to cut down on carbon emissions. They chose not to wait.

Saving the world isn't just for the Marvel or DC superheroes. Neither does it have to be expensive and ambitious nor time-consuming.

It can come in small steps if we all do it together.

But we have to start doing something now because, well, the world can't afford to wait.

LAMPIRAN 22
NEW STRAITS TIMES (WORLD): MUKA SURAT 61
TARIKH: 15 DISEMBER 2018 (SABTU)

CLIMATE TALKS SET FOR TENSE FINALE

Delegates from
200 nations still
haggling over
several issues

KATOWICE (Poland)

NATIONS at United Nations climate talks were haggling yesterday over the world's plan to avert disaster as host Poland dumped a draft decision text on delegates just hours before the summit was due to end.

Negotiators said delegates from nearly 200 nations were still far apart on several crunch issues — from how the future fight against climate change is funded, to the levels of help given to countries experiencing its effects.

Ministers at the COP24 talks must agree on a common rule book to fulfil promises made in the landmark 2015 Paris accord.

But with the starkest warnings yet from scientists highlighting the

need to drastically slash fossil fuel emissions within coming decades, delegates were urged to act or condemn at-risk nations to disaster.

Financing remains a major sticking point. Developing nations say they cannot afford to make their economies greener without reliable, transparent funding from richer nations.

Harjeet Singh, global climate lead at ActionAid, said rich countries were “playing a cruel joke” on developing nations.

As it stands, “there is no obligation on their part on finance, both in terms of how much money they are going to provide and how to count that money”, he said.

Activists lamented the inability of the UN climate forum to decisively address what they describe as a “climate emergency”.

Dozens of schoolchildren took part in a strike called by schoolgirl Greta Thunberg.

“Today we answer her call and bring the call of young people everywhere to our leaders,” said Malgorzata Czachowska, 15.

“The time for talk is over, the time for action is now.” **AFP**

LAMPIRAN 23
THE STAR (WORLD): MUKA SURAT 18
TARIKH: 15 DISEMBER 2018 (SABTU)

Climate deficit is insane, says expert

KATOWICE (Poland): Hardly any countries are doing enough to combat climate change, a top German climate change expert said, questioning the usefulness of the United Nations' annual climate conference.

"The deficit is insane," Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, founder of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, said. "Hardly any state is doing enough. We're driving this planet into the ground."

Young people, especially those in the most fragile societies, would pay the price, he continued.

"When I meet young people, I say Your future is being stolen – aren't you furious, aren't you angry?"

The conference wrapped up yesterday after two weeks of debate aimed at drafting a rulebook for implementing and financing the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

Schellnhuber cast doubt on the value of the annual talks, given that not enough had been done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. — dpa



Projecting power: Greenpeace activists projecting images of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, (from left) German Economy minister Peter Altmaier, SPD chairwoman Andrea Nahles and German Transport minister Andreas Scheuer with a slogan onto a cooling tower of the brown coal power plant of RWE, one of Europe's biggest utilities in Neurath, northwest of Cologne. — Reuters

LAMPIRAN 24
THE STAR (WORLDS): MUKA SURAT 22
TARIKH: 15 DISEMBER 2018 (SABTU)

Virgin Galactic test flight reaches space

MOJAVE (California): Virgin Galactic's tourism spaceship climbed more than 50 miles (80km) high above California's Mojave Desert, reaching for the first time what the company considers the boundary of space.

The rocket ship hit an altitude of 51 miles (82km) on Thursday before beginning its gliding descent, said mission official Enrico Palermo. It landed on a runway minutes later.

"We made it to space!" Palermo exclaimed.

The supersonic flight takes Virgin Galactic closer to turning the long-delayed dream of commercial space tourism into reality.

The company aims to take paying customers on the six-passenger rocket, which is about the size of an executive jet.

Virgin Galactic founder Richard Branson said there will be more test flights and if all goes well he will take a ride before the public gets its chance.

"I believe that sometime in the second half of next year that we will start being able to put regular people up into space," he said, describing Thursday as one of the best days of his life.

Virgin Galactic considers 50 miles the boundary of space because that is the distance used by the US Air Force and other US agencies.



The future of tourism: Virgin Galactic's carrier airplane WhiteKnightTwo carrying the space tourism rocket plane SpaceShipTwo taking off from Mojave Air and Space Port in Mojave, California. — Reuters

That's different from a long-held view that the boundary is at 62 miles (100km).

Virgin Galactic CEO George Whitesides noted that recent research favours the lower altitude.

Whitesides said a review of the

data from the test flight will last into the new year.

"This is a huge step forward and once we look at the data we'll see what that pathway is," he said.

At the start of the test flight, a special jet carrying the Virgin Space

Ship *Unity* flew to an altitude near 43,000 feet (13,100m) before releasing the craft. The spaceship ignited its rocket engine and it quickly hurtled upward and out of sight of viewers on the ground. The spaceship reached Mach 2.9, nearly three times the speed of sound.

The two test pilots – Mark "Forger" Stucky and former Nasa astronaut Rick "CJ" Sturckow – will be awarded commercial astronaut wings, Federal Aviation Administration official Bailey Edwards said.

"It was a great flight and I can't wait to do it again," said Sturckow, who flew on the space shuttle four times.

Virgin Galactic's development of its spaceship took far longer than expected and endured a setback when the first experimental craft broke apart during a 2014 test flight, killing the co-pilot.

"People have literally put their lives on the line to get us here," Branson said.

"This day is as much for them as it is for all of us."

More than 600 people have committed up to US\$250,000 (RM1mil) for rides that include several minutes of weightlessness and a view of the Earth far below.

The spaceship will also be used for research: Nasa had science experiments on the test flight. — AP

LAMPIRAN 25
NEW STRAITS TIMES (OPINION): MUKA SURAT 17
TARIKH: 15 DISEMBER 2018 (SABTU)

FEARS OF A 'RAPID UNRAVELLING' IN THE ARCTIC

Rising temperatures are having effects on sea ice, and on life on land and in the ocean; the impacts are being felt far beyond the region, write **JOHN SCHWARTZ** and **HENRY FOUNTAIN**

PERSISTENT warming in the Arctic is pushing the region into "uncharted territory" and increasingly affecting the continental United States, scientists said on Tuesday.

"We're seeing this continued increase of warmth pervading across the entire Arctic system," said Emily Osborne, an official with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who presented the agency's annual assessment of the state of the region, the "Arctic Report Card".

The Arctic has been warmer over the past five years than at any time since records began in 1900, the report found, and the region is warming at twice the rate as the rest of the planet.

Osborne, the lead editor of the report and manager of NOAA's Arctic Research Programme, said the Arctic was undergoing its "most unprecedented transition in human history".

In 2018, "warming air and ocean temperatures continued to drive broad long-term change across the polar region, pushing the Arctic into uncharted territory," she said at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in Washington.

The rising air temperatures are having profound effects on sea ice, and on life on land and in the ocean, scientists said. The impacts can be felt far beyond the region, especially since the changing Arctic climate may be influencing extreme weather events around the world.

The new edition of the report does not present a radical break with past installments, but it shows that troublesome trends wrought by climate change are intensifying. Air temperatures in the Arctic in 2018 will be the second-warmest ever recorded, the report said, behind only 2016.

Susan M. Natali, an Arctic scientist at Woods Hole Research

Center in Massachusetts who was not involved in the research, said the report was another warning going unheeded. "Every time you see a report, things get worse, and we're still not taking any action," she said. "It adds support that these changes are happening, that they are observable."

The warmer Arctic air causes the jet stream to become "sluggish and unusually wavy", researchers said. That has possible connections to extreme weather events elsewhere on the globe, including last winter's severe storms in the US and a bitter cold spell in Europe known as the "Beast From the East".

The jet stream normally acts as a kind of atmospheric spinning lasso that encircles and contains the cold air near the pole; a weaker, wavering jet stream can allow Arctic blasts to travel south in winter and can stall weather systems in the summer, among other effects.

"On the east coast of the US where the other part of the wave comes down," Osborne said, "you have these Arctic air temperatures that are surging over into the lower latitudes and causing these crazy winter storms."

The rapid warming in the upper north, known as Arctic amplification, is tied to many factors, including the simple fact that snow and ice reflect a lot of sunlight, while open water, which is darker, absorbs more heat. As sea ice melts, less ice and more open water create a "feedback loop" of more melting that leads to progressively less ice and more open water.

And as Arctic waters become increasingly ice-free, there are commercial and geopolitical implications: New shipping routes may open, and rivalries with other countries, including Russia, are intensifying.

Some of the findings in the re-



Sea ice along Greenland's coast. The Arctic has been warmer in the past five years than at any time in the modern era, scientists say. The effects can be felt far beyond the region. NYT PIC

search, provided by 81 scientists in 12 countries, included:

THE wintertime maximum extent of sea ice in the region, in March of this year, was the second lowest in 39 years of record keeping;

ICE that persists year after year, forming thick layers, is disappearing from the Arctic. This is important because the very old ice tends to resist melting; without it, melting accelerates. Old ice made up less than 1 percent of the Arctic ice pack this year, a decline of 95 percent over the last 33 years;

DONALD K. Perovich, a sea-ice expert at Dartmouth College who contributed to the report, said the "big story" for ice this year was in the Bering Sea, off western Alaska, where the extent of sea ice reached a record low for virtually the entire winter. During two weeks in February, normally a time when sea ice grows, the Bering Sea lost an area of ice the size of Idaho, Perovich said;

THE lack of ice and surge of warmth coincides with rapid expansion of algae species in the Arctic Ocean, associated with harmful blooms that can poison marine life and people who eat the contaminated seafood. The northward shift of the algae "means that the Arctic is now vulnerable to species introductions into local communities and

ecosystems that have little to no prior exposure to this phenomenon," the report said;

REINDEER and caribou populations have declined 56 per cent in the past two decades, dropping to 2.1 million from 4.7 million. Scientists monitoring 22 herds found that two of them were at peak numbers without declines, but five populations had declined more than 90 per cent "and show no sign of recovery"; and,

TINY bits of ocean plastic, which can be ingested by marine life, are proliferating at the top of the planet. "Concentrations in the remote Arctic Ocean are higher than all other ocean basins in the world," the report said. The microplastics are also showing up in Arctic sea ice. Scientists have found samples of cellulose acetate, used in making cigarette filters, and particles of plastics used in bottle caps and packaging material.

"The report card continues to document a rapid unraveling of the Arctic," said Rafe Pomerance, chairman of Arctic 21, a network of organisations focused on educating policymakers and others on Arctic climate change.

"The signals of decline are so powerful and the consequences so great that they demand far more urgency from all governments to reduce emissions."

NYT

The warmer Arctic air causes the jet stream to become "sluggish and unusually wavy", researchers said. That has possible connections to extreme weather events elsewhere on the globe ...