

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

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| 1. | <u>Kelulusan EIA di tapak Ramsar tidak dipertimbangkan</u> | Utusan Malaysia | Klik pada tajuk berita |
| 2. | <u>Kelulusan EIA di tapak Ramsar tidak lagi dipertimbangkan - Yeo</u> | Malaysiakini | Klik pada tajuk berita |
| 3. | <u>Kelulusan EIA di tapak Ramsar tidak dipertimbangkan - Bee Yin</u> | Sinar Harian | Klik pada tajuk berita |
| 4. | <u>No more approval for EIA in wetlands</u> | Borneo Post | Klik pada tajuk berita |
| 5. | <u>No more approvals for EIA at Ramsar sites, says Yeo</u> | The Malaysian Insight | Klik pada tajuk berita |
| 6. | <u>Ramsar wetlands to be protected from future development</u> | Edge Prop | Klik pada tajuk berita |
| 7. | <u>No more approval for Environment Impact Assessment on wetlands / No more EIAs for Ramsar sites</u> | The Sun | Klik pada tajuk berita dan Rujuk lampiran 1 |
| 8. | <u>No more approval for EIAs on Ramsar sites</u> | Free Malaysia Today | Klik pada tajuk berita |
| 9. | <u>Pulau Pinang cadang naikkan caj beg plastik</u> | Berita Harian | Klik pada tajuk berita |
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LAMPIRAN 1
THE SUN (NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS): MUKA SURAT 3
TARIKH: 29 MAC 2019 (JUMAAT)

No more EIAs for Ramsar sites

KUALA LUMPUR: The government will no longer approve environmental impact assessment (EIA) studies for proposed development at all Ramsar sites to ensure their sustainability, the Dewan Rakyat was told yesterday.

Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin said the government made the decision, in principle, in the process of considering improvements to the order for an EIA.

She was replying to a supplementary question during the Ministers' Question Time from Wong Shu Qi (DAP-Kluang) who wanted to know whether the government would approve development on the Ramsar site of Sungai Pulai in Johor as was done by the previous Barisan Nasional (BN) government.

A Ramsar site is a wetland deemed to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

The Convention on Wetlands, known as the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in 1971 by Unesco that came into force in 1975.

Yeo said Malaysia has seven Ramsar sites, namely Tasik Bera (Pahang), Tanjung Piai, Pulau Kukup and Sungai Pulai (Johor), Kuching Wetlands National Park (Sarawak), and Segama Wetlands and Kota Kinabalu Wetlands (Sabah).

Yeo also said that 38 development activities require EIA and the approval of the Department of Environment before the start of a project, and these include construction of transmission lines, tunnels and bridges and man-made lakes, and coastal reclamation in environmentally-sensitive areas.

"In this regard, development activities in environmentally-sensitive areas are controlled through not only enforcement and monitoring but also the approach of preventive planning and via the EIA process," she said.



LAMPIRAN 2
BERITA HARIAN (SEPINTAS): MUKA SURAT 12
TARIKH: 29 MAC 2019 (JUMAAT)

Tapak RAMSAR terus kekal

Kelulusan Penilaian Kesan Kepada Alam Sekeliling (EIA) tidak akan dipertimbangkan lagi pada masa depan untuk kesemua Tapak Lembap Berkepentingan Antarabangsa (RAMSAR) di Malaysia.

Menteri Tenaga, Sains, Teknologi, Alam Sekitar dan Perubahan Iklim, Yeo Bee Yin, berkata ia bagi menjaga kelestarian kawasan berkenaan.

"Secara prinsipnya, kita telah membuat keputusan itu dalam proses kita mempertimbangkan untuk mengkaji semula penambahbaikan perintah untuk EIA," katanya pada sesi Waktu Pertanyaan-Pertanyaan Menteri di Dewan Rakyat.

LAMPIRAN 3
 NEW STRAITS TIMES (NEWS / NATION): MUKA SURAT 10
 TARIKH: 29 MAC 2019 (JUMAAT)

PREVENTING POLLUTION



Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin (left) at an illegal plastic recycling factory in Kuala Langat recently. PIC BY FALIQ LAJIM

DoE to boost enforcement by 100pc, says minister

KUALA LUMPUR: The Department of Environment (DoE) will boost its enforcement by 100 per cent, said Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin.

Yeo said DoE issued only RM5 million in compounds and (court) fines last year.

“This year, there will be a 100 per cent increase in enforcement. We have shut down 150 illegal plastic recycling factories,” she told the Dewan Rakyat.

Yeo, however, urged the public to give it some time to empower itself.

She was responding to a supplementary question by Siti Zailah Mohd Yusoff (Pas-Rantau Panjang) on the number of arrests and action taken against those who violated environmental laws.

Zailah wanted information on the department’s mechanism to be one step ahead of polluters so that incidents similar to the Sungai Kim Kim pollution case did not recur.

LAMPIRAN 4
 THE STAR (NATION): MUKA SURAT 20
 TARIKH: 29 MAC 2019 (JUMAAT)

Penang goes greener with new move

State plans to fully enforce 'No Single-Use Plastic' initiative next year

By INTAN AMALINA MOHD ALI
 intanali@thestar.com.my

GEORGE TOWN: Penang will fully enforce its "No Single-Use Plastic" initiative starting next year upon completing a total of eight dialogue sessions with stakeholders.

State Welfare, Caring Society and Environment Committee chairman Phee Boon Poh said the state had organised four dialogue sessions to discuss the initiative to date.

"This is the fourth dialogue session to date, and it is a way to get the stakeholders involved in the process. It will be a chance to obtain feedback.

"Today, we have representatives from 49 hotels as well as 17 hypermarkets and supermarkets in Penang.

"The state aims to fully enforce

“We hope that by 2030, there will be no more of these single-use plastics.”

Phee Boon Poh

the initiative next year although it has been implemented in the state," he said during the No Single-Use Plastic dialogue in Komtar here yesterday.

Phee said among the single-use plastic items was the drinking straw.

"The state government has reminded all agencies, be it at the state or federal level, not to use it during (official state) meetings," he

said, adding that other items such as plastic water bottles were also not encouraged.

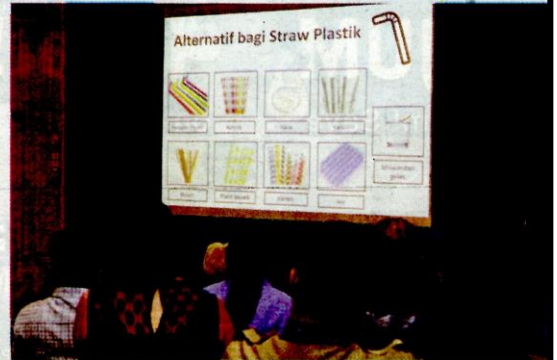
Phee said this was a way for the state government to show that they were serious about the initiative.

"We urge the public to show their full support.

"We hope that by 2030, there will be no more of these single-use plastics," he said.

The move is in line with the federal government's efforts to encourage eco-friendly products to substitute single-use plastics under the country's "Roadmap Towards Zero Single-Use Plastics 2018-2030".

The roadmap will be carried out in three phases addressing plastic pollution in Malaysia, namely Phase 1 (2018-2021), Phase 2 (2022-2025) and Phase 3 (2026-2030).



Green alternative: Participants attending the No Single-Use Plastic dialogue session at Komtar in George Town.

LAMPIRAN 5
BERITA HARIAN (SURAT PEMBACA): MUKA SURAT 76
TARIKH: 29 MAC 2019 (JUMAAT)

Perangi habis-habisan 'pembunuh' alam sekitar

Ada pihak yang mendakwa rakyat Malaysia sedang dilanda masalah bertimpa-timpa sejak kebelakangan ini, terutama pencemaran sungai dan alam sekitar, selain cuaca panas melampau yang menyebabkan kemarau serta kebakaran hutan.

Pembuangan sisa beracun ke dalam sungai di Pasir Gudang mengakibatkan 4,000 penduduk mendapat rawatan, manakala 111 sekolah ditutup.

Pelaku seolah-olah tidak gentar kepada pihak berkuasa dan undang-undang sedia ada. Sudah tiba masanya semua pihak meningkatkan keazaman dengan mengisytiharkan perang habis-habisan terhadap perusak alam sekitar ini.

Pihak berkuasa, terutama Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS), Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia (JBPM) dan pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) perlu bekerjasama bagi memastikan pemantauan dapat dijalankan secara berterusan dan lebih kerap.

Selain pemeriksaan berjadual, pemeriksaan mengejut di premis perlu, termasuk pe-

ngambilan sampel untuk memastikan bahan buangan pepejal, cecair dan gas tidak mengandungi toksik serta memenuhi piawai mengikut undang-undang seperti Akta Kualiti Alam Sekeliling 1974.

Pembakaran terbuka

Pihak berkuasa perlu memastikan pembakaran terbuka tidak dilakukan ketika musim kemarau, terutama di kawasan paya gambut yang mudah terbakar apabila permukaan tanah menjadi kering.

Saya amat kesal dengan sikap segelintir rakyat Malaysia yang masih tidak menghargai alam sekitar termasuk menjadikan longkang, sungai dan lombong sebagai tempat pembuangan dan pelupusan sampah.

Lebih menyedihkan, sampah dibuang bukan sekadar lebih makanan atau plastik bungkus, tetapi juga perabot dan barang elektrik terpakai serta sisa binaan dan industri.

Secara umum, apa yang berlaku menunjukkan betapa rendahnya tahap kesedaran sivik rakyat, walaupun pelbagai kempen kesedaran dianjurkan

sejak bertahun-tahun.

Ironinya, semua masih berlaku tatkala majoriti rakyat melauungkan keperluan untuk berubah yang tidak akan membawa makna jika setiap anggota masyarakat gagal membuang tabiat buruk seperti membuang sampah merata-rata, termasuk ke dalam sungai.

Kelemahan aspek penguatkuasaan, termasuk pertindihan kuasa membabitkan PBT, Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran serta JAS menjadi punca orang ramai membuang sampah sewenang-wenangnya ke dalam sungai dan perkara ini perlu diatasi.

Kempen kesedaran

Berdasarkan laporan JBPM, pembuangan puntung rokok antara punca berlaku kebakaran hutan. Isu pembuangan sampah dari pembakaran hutan yang tidak terkawal ini akan memberi kesan kepada usaha menjadikan negara selamat dan sesuai dikunjungi.

Sungai dicemari sampah juga boleh menyebabkan banjir kilat dan banjir besar ketika musim tengkujuh. Sampah organik termasuk mayat manusia dan

bangkai haiwan pula boleh menyebabkan penyebaran pelbagai jenis penyakit, manakala bahan kimia dan kumbahan kawasan perindustrian mendatangkan pelbagai risiko kesihatan, selain menjejaskan kehidupan sungai terbabit.

Pihak berkuasa perlu menilai semula kempen kesedaran alam sekitar agar dapat ditingkatkan dengan lebih berkesan membabitkan penyertaan pelajar untuk menjadikan generasi akan datang lebih bertanggungjawab dan mencintai alam sekitar.

Penguatkuasaan undang-undang perlu ditingkatkan menerusi penggunaan teknologi pemantauan canggih seperti kamera litar tertutup dan dron.

Pihak berkuasa seharusnya bertegas menangani isu ini dengan memastikan hukuman lebih berat, selain hukuman khidmat kemasyarakatan untuk memberi pengajaran kepada pelaku dan mereka yang tidak bertanggungjawab.

Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye,
 Pencinta alam sekitar



LAMPIRAN 6
THE SUN (NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS): MUKA SURAT 6
TARIKH: 29 MAC 2019 (JUMAAT)

Penang may up plastic bag charge to 50 sen

GEORGE TOWN: Penang is considering raising the charge for plastic bags to 50 sen as the 20 sen charge was found ineffective in reducing its usage, said Welfare, Caring Society and Environment Committee chairman Phee Boon Poh.

He said the proposal to raise the charge was still being discussed and its implementation was subject to approval by the state government.

According to him, the no-plastic bag campaign in the state was introduced in 2009 but he could not furnish details on the reduction of plastic bag consumption.

He said to date, 419 businesses have registered with the Penang Island City Council to impose the charge and about six million plastic bags were issued between April last year and March this year. - Bernama

LAMPIRAN 7
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI): MUKA SURAT 3
TARIKH: 29 MAC 2019 (JUMAAT)

Cadang naikkan caj beg plastik 50 sen

GEORGE TOWN 28 Mac - Pulau Pinang menimbang untuk menaikkan caj beg plastik kepada 50 sen seunit berbanding 20 sen sekarang selepas kadar semasa didapati kurang berkesan dalam usaha kerajaan negeri mengurangkan penggunaan beg plastik.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kebajikan, Masyarakat Penyayang dan Alam Sekitar negeri, Phee Boon Poh berkata, bagaimanapun cadangan itu masih dalam peringkat perbincangan dan memerlukan kelulusan kerajaan negeri sebelum dapat dilaksanakan.

"Mungkin ada pengguna di negeri ini yang merasakan caj 20 sen ini terlalu murah dan tidak menghalang mereka untuk terus menggunakan beg plastik jadi kita kaji untuk menaikkan caj ini," katanya dalam sesi dialog *Ke Arah Pulau Pinang Bebas Plastik Sekali Guna dan Tak Nak Penyedut Minuman* di sini hari ini.

Beliau bagaimanapun tidak dapat menyatakan statistik berhubung kadar pengurangan dalam penggunaan beg plastik sejak caj itu diperkenalkan pada 2009 dan sehingga kini. - BERNAMA



LAMPIRAN 8

BERITA HARIAN (SURAT PEMBACA): MUKA SURAT 76

TARIKH: 29 MAC 2019 (JUMAAT)

Pencemaran beri implikasi besar kepada negara

Tanggal 22 April setiap tahun ialah sambutan Hari Bumi. Namun, tahun ini Malaysia bakal menyambutnya dalam suasana sedih. 7 Mac 2019 menjadi titik hitam buat negara.

Tragedi pembuangan sisa toksik berbahaya di Sungai Kim Kim, Pasir Gudang, Johor mengemparkan negara membabitkan lebih 500 mangsa, terutama pelajar, kakitangan sekolah dan orang awam terjejas teruk.

Ramai tidak sedarkan diri, selain puluhan pelajar ditahan di hospital, manakala sekolah dan institusi pengajian tinggi di sekitar Pasir Gudang diarahkan tutup sehingga keadaan kembali pulih dan selamat.

Pencemaran toksik ini meninggalkan implikasi besar buat negara apabila masyarakat dunia mula melabel rakyat Malaysia sebagai 'penganas' alam sekitar. Insiden disifatkan bukan kejadian baru dalam negara.

2015 menyaksikan sisa beracun berjadual dilepaskan di Bukit Nenas, Seremban, Negeri Sembilan. Diikuti pada 2016 dalam kejadian sisa pepejal berbahaya dibuang di Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark Sungai Kilin, manakala 2017 membabitkan pembuangan sisa kumbahan domestik berbahaya di Sungai Pinang, Balik Pulau, Pulau Pinang.

Cameron Highlands pula tidak terkecuali mengalami bencana berikutan tanah runtuh dan pencemaran sungai yang berlaku pada 2018.

Malu dengan tragedi

Sempena Hari Bumi, masyarakat Malaysia harus malu dengan tragedi di Pasir Gudang. Apa tidaknya, kita jaguh dalam isu penubuhan hutan haram dan penggunaan plastik.

Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu tahun lalu, memberi penekanan kepada Malaysia menerusi literasi alam sekitar dan perubahan cuaca, bertujuan mengurangkan dan menamatkan penggunaan plastik berlebihan.

Kerajaan sendiri menasarkannya supaya rakyat pelbagai peringkat umur memahami isu alam sekitar dan kesan penggunaan plastik yang tidak terkawal.

Dianggarkan lebih 300 juta tan plastik dihasilkan di Malaysia setiap tahun dengan hanya 10 peratus dikitar dan diguna semula, manakala selebihnya berakhir di tapak pelupusan sampah atau alam semula jadi.

Sambutlah usaha kerajaan untuk mengurangkan penggunaan plastik dan memelihara alam sekitar dengan beralih kepada penggunaan bahan mesra alam sekitar.

Kepada pihak berwajib, wartakan setiap hutan di negara ini sebagai khazanah negara, selain perlunya pindaan undang-undang alam sekitar yang lebih cekap, demi memastikan warisan anak cucu kita terjamin pada masa hadapan.

Muhammad Iman Khairul Azli,
Kuala Lumpur

LAMPIRAN 9
BERITA HARIAN (SURAT PEMBACA): MUKA SURAT 76
TARIKH: 29 MAC 2019 (JUMAAT)

Kimia toksik bukan cerita remeh

Tumpahan, pencemaran atau pembuangan bahan kimia bukan sesuatu yang boleh dipandang ringan, memandangkan sifatnya jernih bila dalam bentuk larutan dan tidak berbau jika berbentuk gas.

Dalam industri, inilah perlunya ahli kimia untuk memastikan mereka melaksanakan tanggungjawab melupuskan bahan kimia secara selamat, sekali gus menjadi asas maqasid syariah bertujuan memelihara nyawa, akal, harta dan keturunan.

Keracunan bahan kimia boleh menyebabkan kematian, kemandulan, kerosakan akal dan harta benda.

Jangan kerana kerakusan dunia material, nyawa insan tidak berdosa digadaikan, sedangkan tugas khalifah bukan sahaja membabitkan hubungan dengan Allah, tetapi hubungan sesama manusia dan alam sekitar.

Walaupun sesetengah bahan kimia dilabelkan bukan berbahaya, pendedahan terhadap dos berlebihan boleh menyebabkan kematian kerana kepekatan bahan kimia menjadikan ia berbahaya.

Ahli kimia bertanggungjawab melaksanakan pengurusan risiko bertujuan mengurangkan bahaya kepada orang awam terhadap pendedahan bahan kimia. Namun, sejauh mana industri mengambil ahli kima sebagai pekerja dalam memastikan keselamatan pengendalian bahan kimia berbahaya itu?

Pengurusan risiko

Bagaimanapun, hebat sekalipun, sesuatu pengurusan risiko, kebarangkalian untuk berlaku bencana pasti ada. Bagi orang awam, ia bukan sesuatu yang boleh dipandang ringan kerana membabitkan nyawa dan kesihatan, terutama bagi bayi dan kanak-kanak.

Merujuk kes berlaku di Pasir Gudang, kawasan tercemar disifatkan masih berada pada paras bahaya dengan orang awam dinasihatkan untuk tidak berada terlalu hampir dengan kawasan sungai yang tercemar.

Elakkan aktiviti luar dan jika boleh keluar daripada kawasan yang diklasifikasikan sebagai bahaya.

Jika terpaksa melakukan aktiviti di luar rumah atau berhampiran kawasan risiko, to-



[FOTO HIASAN]

Tumpahan toksik membahayakan nyawa orang awam.

peng muka biasa atau N95 tidak mampu menghalang bahan kimia memasuki tubuh manusia, sama ada melalui rongga mulut dan hidung. Topeng muka terbaik adalah dari jenis 3M 6502

dengan penapis 6006.

Dr Muhammad Zamir Othman,
Pensyarah Kanan Teknologi Kimia Industri USIM



LAMPIRAN 10
NEW STRAITS TIMES (NEWS/ NATION): MUKA SURAT 8
TARIKH: 29 MAC 2019 (JUMAAT)

TOXIC FUMES

'All Sungai Kim Kim victims discharged from hospital'

JOHOR BARU: All victims of the Sungai Kim Kim toxic waste dumping case, who were hospitalised for inhaling toxic fumes, have been discharged.

State Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee chairman Dr Sahrudin Jamal said he was informed that the last victim who sought treatment was allowed to return on March 25.

"All patients who were hospitalised have been released. "We have not received any new cases related to the incident."

He said this at a press conference after launching the state World TB Day programme here on Wednesday.

Almost 6,000 residents in Pasir Gudang were affected by the toxic fumes, caused by the illegal dumping of chemical substances into Sungai Kim Kim.

The incident also forced the closure of 111 schools in the area.

Dr Sahrudin said the air quality in the area was measured three times a day and it had showed to be normal.

LAMPIRAN 11
NEW STRAITS TIMES (VIEW POINT): MUKA SURAT 64
TARIKH: 29 MAC 2019 (JUMAAT)

VIEW POINT



MADANI SAHARI

INDUSTRIALISATION

Young minds key to technology penetration

A WISE man once told me that a child's capacity to learn is only limited by the parents or educators of the child.

Simply put, children are not born knowing what is easy or difficult to learn – social conditioning and upbringing places such barriers on them. A child not knowing that something is difficult would not have the fear of learning something, he or she will just do it.

Of course, it's not as simple as it sounds, they would need to be taught through the methodology based on child pedagogy and sensitivity to their growth.

In households where children live with access to technological advancement, we will often find that after a while, they start teaching their parents how to use technology.

This untethered learning process is not prescribed in most education syllabus, but through interactions with friends, information from the Internet and other non-curricular learning that are experiential.

The point is – our young ones, especially the current generation living in the age of technology and information, derive their passions and interests not only from the school syllabus, but through

the opportunities to access the technology and information given to them.

While a school or university student spends between five and eight hours a day in a classroom environment, an even bigger portion of their learning experience comes from interactions outside the classroom.

Today, this "out-of-class" environment is packed with more information than ever before. While my generation walked to libraries for information, this generation has the world's libraries at the tips of its fingers.

With that said, there is an important challenge that needs to be addressed – while a lot of information is available on the Internet, not all learning can be facilitated by simply downloading an app. The Fourth Industrial Revolution is one that will focus on cyber-physical systems.

This means that while the issue of technological awareness may be subdued with greater broadband coverage, access to the physical elements that complete the future-proof circle is subjected to the same problems of yesteryears...

It is clear that the high demand for cyber-physical equipment such as robotics, mobility appli-

cations and autonomous vehicle technology will present itself in the next decade or so.

The access to the physical part of the Industry 4.0 equation lies in the access to robotics applications, such as single-board microcontrollers, to build digital devices and interactive objects such as basic robots and other such apparatus.

To initiate such a project, the Malaysia Automotive, Robotics and IoT Institute (MARii) will be organising the MARii Activity Arena at this year's Malaysia Autoshow 2019 in Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang. This 1,200 sq m arena will host a three-day robot combat competition, autonomous vehicle challenge as well as maker and builder classes in applications such as Raspberry Pi, Micro Bit and Arduino.

Visitors, in particular the youth, will compete in various robotics segments, while visitors to the show will also be able to participate and build their own robots and other smart applications, with experienced coaches and trainers providing hands-on guidance on their projects.

I am also happy to announce that this Activity Arena will be organised by our friends from Kinabalu Coders, a community-

driven technology team based in Sabah. This not only signifies a strong showing of the people of Sabah at this year's autoshow, but also highlights the capabilities of Sabah in participating in Malaysia's future mobility industry.

MARii's investment at the autoshow will also pave the way for more technical and vocational education and training-based robotics and coding programmes to be held throughout the annual calendar year, allowing access to more of Malaysia's youth to experience and learn the fundamentals of cyber-physical systems.

This investment, which is still small in my humble opinion, is not only an investment in robotics and Internet of things (IoT) education.

It is an investment in Malaysia's future. The high demand for robotics and IoT applications will surely be part of our industrialisation process. It only makes sense that we invest in the segment that will lead such a future – we must invest in our children today.

The writer is the chief executive officer of Malaysia Automotive, Robotics and IoT Institute.

Simply put, children are not born knowing what is easy or difficult to learn – social conditioning and upbringing places such barriers on them. A child not knowing that something is difficult would not have the fear of learning something, he or she will just do it.



LAMPIRAN 12
NEW STRAITS TIMES (BUSINESS / NEWS): MUKA SURAT 63
TARIKH: 29 MAC 2019 (JUMAAT)

ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE

TNB committed to sustaining shareholder value creation

KUALA LUMPUR: Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) makes no exception to its corporate governance in relation to leadership appointments, said the utility giant in a statement yesterday.

The statement followed the appointment of Amir Hamzah Az-

izan, who will take over from president and chief executive officer (CEO) Datuk Seri Azman Mohd on April 2.

"TNB reiterates that even with organisational change at the highest level, it remains committed to sustaining shareholder val-

ue creation, providing reliable and excellent service to customers and continuing employee professional development and empowerment as it has been consistently doing," it said.

Azman has been with TNB for 36 years, having served in various

capacities before his appointment as CEO in 2012.

"TNB is grateful for the contributions by Azman, which saw TNB's market value double as a result of the transformation that the company had undertaken over the past few years."

Meanwhile, it said Amir Hamzah's diverse experiences were vital to the group's "Reimagining TNB" transformation journey to bring TNB to the next level and achieve its aspiration of becoming a top 10 utility globally by 2025.

LAMPIRAN 13
 THE SUN (SPEAK UP): MUKA SURAT 10
 TARIKH: 29 MAC 2019 (JUMAAT)

Conserve nature, it's now or never

MILLIONS around the globe will turn off their lights for Earth Hour, as the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment unites people to show their commitment to what we call home, Earth.

The consequences of human activities to planet Earth are overwhelming. We saw heat waves across Japan last year as well as here in Malaysia, and record droughts in South Africa.

These phenomena are often linked to climate change and the dire effects are felt by us.

Climate change remains a huge challenge but another urgent threat now demands our attention: the loss of nature. These two combined threats mean we must act - and now.

We're using the planet's resources faster than nature can replenish itself. WWF's latest flagship Living Planet Report 2018 provides clear-cut evidence of the ever accelerating loss of nature and how it puts everyone's future at risk.

The populations of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish have, on average, plummeted by 60% since 1970 - less than a lifetime.

According to official figures from the ongoing inaugural National Tiger Survey, there are less than 200 Malaysian tigers in the wild, a significant drop from earlier national estimates of 250-340 in 2014.

Why does nature matter?

Nature is vitally important to our daily lives; it underpins economic prosperity and development, and our very survival. What exactly does nature give us? At their simplest, nature's services are things people often take for granted - the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat all originate from or rely on nature.

For instance, the Ulu Muda Forest Complex, which spans over 160,000 hectares and comprises seven forest reserves, is where Sungai Muda originates, and this river serves about 4 million people through provisioning of water for the agricultural, industrial and commercial sector, and for domestic use. Therefore, it is important to protect and conserve Ulu Muda forest in its natural state, as it is one of the last large tracts of forest in Kedah. It is also befitting its importance to Kedah, Penang, Perlis and to the nation, as the largest granary areas are found in Kedah and are dependent on the water from Ulu Muda.

Increasingly, the fragility of ecosystems poses huge risks to societal and economic stability.

Too few people understand the vital importance of nature - and the huge threats it faces. Recent WWF research in 10 of the world's most bio-diverse countries, home to half the world's population, shows that only 40% of people associate the benefits of

biodiversity and nature with necessities of life such as food, water, and fresh air.

For most people, nature feels distant. People in the cities may only experience nature on a screen and therefore, remain disconnected and unaware of how nature is impacting and underpinning their lives.

We need everyone who understands this vital truth to help spark millions of conversations on Earth Hour and start a global movement for change.

We already know the solutions

What we need is a new response, backed by concrete commitments from countries, businesses and individuals to tackle nature loss, climate change and development in an integrated way.

We can be smarter about how we use our oceans, freshwater and land, and how we produce energy, food and other resources. We have the knowledge, technology and capability to move towards a better future for people and nature. And we are already exploring new ways to feed our growing population, meet our energy demands and manage our water supply. Now is the time to get behind these solutions to ensure that everyone gets a fair share without destroying nature.

The next few years are, in fact, critical to put the planet on the path to a better future. The year 2020 sees a historic moment when a number of international conventions converge and

key decisions will be taken on the future direction of climate action, development and nature. These decisions will set the agenda for decades to come. We need governments, businesses, financial institutions, civil society and people to commit to halting and start reversing the loss of nature. The unified voice of many millions of people will be needed to challenge decision makers to ensure the loss of nature is top of the agenda.

To achieve a new deal for nature and people we need to be more ambitious and scale up our actions. Science is clear on the problems and solutions to bend the curve on nature loss.

It starts with Earth Hour 2019

It is encouraging to see people collectively standing up for nature by taking part in our Earth Hour events to raise funds for biodiversity conservation. Earth Hour is an amazing opportunity to build a movement for nature and start changing the planet for the better.

Earth Hour takes place tomorrow at 8.30pm. #Connect2Earth by joining WWF-Malaysia's Earth Hour events in Kedah and Penang, or share your Earth Hour event. Visit wwf.org.my/earthhour



"We're using the planet's resources faster than nature can replenish itself."

Sophia Lim is executive director/CEO of WWF-Malaysia. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

LAMPIRAN 14
THE SUN (SPEAK UP): MUKA SURAT 10
TARIKH: 29 MAC 2019 (JUMAAT)

LETTERS letters@thesundaily.com

Crying need for hazardous pesticides treaty

ON the eve of the third Open Ended Working Group of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), Pesticide Action Network (PAN) redoubles its call for a global legally binding mechanism for the lifecycle management of pesticides, either as a new standalone treaty or as a legally binding protocol within a new overarching chemicals framework to phase out highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs).

PAN expresses its deep concern that SAICM has failed to achieve sound management of pesticides and that pesticide poisoning continues in all countries. PAN is releasing updated versions of two documents underlining the strong need for a legally binding treaty to ban HHPs. These are a Pan International List of Highly Hazardous Pesticides and a PAN International Consolidated List of Banned Pesticides. These two documents together show the large numbers of hazardous pesticides used and the uneven nature of regulation of hazardous pesticides.

An example illustrating such uneven regulation of pesticides is the highly toxic pesticide monocrotophos. Of the 154 countries for which information was available for the Consolidated List of Banned Pesticides, at least 112 have banned the insecticide monocrotophos, but its use in other countries continues to harm many people. It was responsible for killing 23 schoolchildren in India in 2013, implicated in the deaths of cotton growers in India in 2018, and in numerous other poisonings – despite the WHO calling on India to ban it 10 years ago. This is just one example of a HHP that should have been banned long ago, but remains in use and continues to poison people in countries where it is still used. PAN asks that companies still manufacturing monocrotophos should stop its manufacture and all remaining countries should ban it.

This situation occurs in many countries, and Maimouna Diene, director of PAN Africa says, "In many African countries we see high rates of poisonings of farmers and communities by HHPs. It is not possible to adequately protect communities, as well as their air, soil and water unless a legally binding mechanism is developed."



Monsanto was ordered on Wednesday to pay some US\$81 million to an American retiree who blames his cancer on the agribusiness giant's weedkiller Roundup.
– AFPPIX

Sarojeni Rengam, executive director of PAN Asia Pacific (Panap) echoes this frustration and says "The continued use of HHPs in Asian countries causes widespread poisoning of children, farmers, women and agricultural workers.

Panap and partners interviewed 2,025 respondents in seven countries, and found that seven out of 10 people interviewed were poisoned by pesticides. Rural people are poisoned by pesticides such as paraquat, lambda-cyhalothrin, chlorpyrifos and glyphosate.

She expressed dismay at the lack of action to prevent occupational poisoning and said "Continuing the sad saga of occupational pesticide poisonings of agricultural workers, a record number of such cases were reported last year in the Yavatmal district in Maharashtra state of India."

Javier Souza, regional coordinator of PAN Latin America says "The use of HHPs in agriculture has led to frequent exposure and accidental poisoning of children throughout Latin America, for example when pesticide applications are made near schools or homes.

Empty pesticide containers are discarded in the fields and rivers, contaminating the drinking water and increasing the plastic pollution of the sea because the users do not return them to their manufacturers, often

violating current regulations."

The lack of accountability of transnational pesticide corporations for the HHPs they produce and sell, especially in the Global South, led Susan Haffmans executive director of Pan Germany to say "It is absolutely unethical that European countries like Germany, Switzerland, France and UK continue to export pesticides banned for use in these countries due to their toxicity. The exports to countries in the Global South continue to put communities in danger from the hazards of exposure to HHPs."

Kristin Schafer, executive director of PAN North America says: "The consolidation of the pesticide industry has created giant corporations that have no interest in voluntary control measures, and put profits above all else. Years of evidence show us that these corporate actors aggressively undermine policies that protect public health and the environment. It's time for the global community to act."

Pan International calls on the global community to step up to the challenge and protect people across the world from HHPs by putting in place a legally binding treaty against HHPs.

PAN Asia Pacific
Penang



LAMPIRAN 15
THE STAR (STAR ASEAN+): MUKA SURAT 30
TARIKH: 29 MAC 2019 (JUMAAT)

Coal power push imperils climate

Scientists warn China's plan to boost capacity could worsen global warming

PARIS: Even as the number of coal-fired power plants under development worldwide declines, increased coal use in China and a proposal to boost capacity could imperil global climate change goals, researchers have warned.

The industry's powerful China Electrical Council called this month for ramping up the national coal power capacity to as much as 1,300 gigawatt (GW) by 2030, a 30% increase compared to today's levels.

With nearly 1,000GW in operation, China accounts for about half the world's coal-fired power, with the United States (259GW) and India (221GW) a distant second and third, according to the Global Coal Plant Tracker.



Scientists have said that the use of coal – the most carbon-intensive of fossil fuels – must decline sharply if humanity is to avoid the worst ravages of climate change.

A major UN science report in October said primary energy from

coal would need to be virtually phased out by mid-century to have a reasonable chance of holding global warming to 1.5°C.

The 195-nation Paris Agreement urges nations to cap the rise in temperature to “well below” 2°C.

But recent studies have shown that even a 2°C increase will profoundly alter Earth's climate, boosting the intensity and frequency of deadly heatwaves, droughts, floods and storms.

“We need to radically phase down coal plant use over the next decade to keep on track for Paris climate goals,” said Christine Shearer, an analyst for Global Energy Monitor.

Indicators of recent coal use

show a mixed and even paradoxical picture.

Coal-fired plants in the pipeline have declined sharply in recent years, analysts from Sierra Club, Greenpeace and Global Energy Monitor said in a new report, entitled “Boom and Bust”.

Last year, the number of newly completed facilities worldwide dropped by 20% compared to the year before, and by half compared to 2015.

New construction projects over the same period fell even more quickly, by 39% and 84%, respectively.

A near-record number of coal plants were also mothballed, especially in the United States where

President Donald Trump's attempt to promote coal power has been stymied by a market shift towards cheaper solar and wind energy.

Yet global demand for coal increased last year by 0.7%, on the heels of a similar spike in 2017, the International Energy Agency reported earlier this week.

Virtually all of that growth was in Asia and especially China, where coal power generation of electricity shot up by more than 5%.

This, despite measures imposed by Beijing in 2012 and 2013 to slow the sector's growth, including a tightening of credit, caps on production, and the indefinite idling of dozens of coal plants under construction. — AFP