



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

Bil	Berita	Media	Capaian Berita Penuh
20 MEI 2019 (ISNIN)			
1.	<u>Lynas plant in Pahang faced class action threat over delays, says report</u>	Free Malaysia Today	Klik pada tajuk berita
2.	<u>Self-service laundry license application must pass 3 approvals</u>	See Hua	Klik pada tajuk berita
19 MEI 2019 (AHAD)			
3.	<u>'Get Strict with Plastics at Home'</u>	New Sunday Times	Rujuk lampiran 1
4.	<u>Getting tough on polluters</u>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 2
5.	<u>Trust fund can be used to pay off informers</u>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 3
6.	<u>Perilous pile of plastic</u>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 4
7.	<u>Getting tough on polluters</u>	The Star	Klik pada tajuk berita
8.	<u>Perilous pile of plastic</u>	The Star	Klik pada tajuk berita
9.	<u>Groups: Manage and use fund wisely</u>	The Star	Klik pada tajuk berita
18 MEI 2019 (SABTU)			
10.	<u>Pindaan sekat kemasukan sisa plastik negara asing</u>	Berita Harian	Rujuk lampiran 5



Bil	Berita	Media	Capaian Berita Penuh
11.	<u>Yeo: Amendment will help track plastic waste trade</u>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 6
12.	<u>Take Back Your Garbage</u>	New Straits Times	Rujuk lampiran 7
13.	<u>Preserving Mangroves and Sustainable Development</u>	New Straits Times	Rujuk lampiran 8
14.	<u>Yeo: Amendment will help track plastic waste trade</u>	The Star	Klik pada tajuk berita
15.	<u>Illegal entry of waste banned</u>	New Straits Times	Klik pada tajuk berita
16.	<u>Amendments to Basel Convention will help curb movement of plastic wastes</u>	Daily Express	Klik pada tajuk berita
17.	<u>How America Is Sabotaging The Global War On Plastic Waste</u>	Huffpost.com	Klik pada tajuk berita
18.	<u>Pindaan pada Konvensyen Basel bantu Malaysia sekat kemasukan sisa plastik</u>	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
19.	<u>Minister: Amendments to Basel Convention will help curb movement of plastic waste</u>	Malay mail	Klik pada tajuk berita

TEMPATAN

Bil	Berita	Media	Capaian Berita Penuh
20 MEI 2019 (ISNIN)			
20.	<u>Harap tapak sampah haram ditutup segera</u>	Harian Metro	Rujuk lampiran



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21.	<u>Khutbah Jumaat medium pendidikan alam sekitar</u>	Utusan Malaysia	Rujuk lampiran 10
22.	<u>Start small, aim big</u>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 11
23.	<u>Of Biodiversity Loss and P.Ramlee Movie</u>	New Straits Times	Rujuk lampiran 12
24.	<u>Complainants want stream and floodplain restored</u>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 13
25.	<u>Projek tambak laut selatan Pulau Pinang didakwa jejaskan nelayan Perak</u>	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
19 MEI 2019 (AHAD)			
26.	<u>DBKL jimat RM15,000 hasil pengolahan sisa organik</u>	Harian Metro	Rujuk lampiran 14
27.	<u>Jaga Alam Sekitar</u>	Harian Metro	Rujuk lampiran 15
28.	<u>Teaching pupils high-tech skills</u>	Sunday Star	Rujuk lampiran 16
29.	<u>His stand on the controversy surrounding Lynas</u>	Sunday Star	Rujuk lampiran 17
30.	<u>All things technical</u>	Sunday Star	Rujuk lampiran 18
18 MEI 2019 (SABTU)			
31.	<u>Illegal plastic factories booming</u>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 19
32.	<u>Practical yet problematic</u>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 20



33.	<u>Ban on plastic straws in Selangor eateries from July 1</u>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 21
34.	<u>Skyli kalis sejuk melampau</u>	Harian Metro	Rujuk lampiran 22

ANTARABANGSA

Bil	Berita	Media	Capaian Berita Penuh
20 MEI 2019 (ISNIN)			
35.	<u>China ban on scrap imports a boon to US recycling plants</u>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 23
36.	<u>Vietnam salt farmers battered by imports and climate</u>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 24
37.	<u>Robots take the wheel</u>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 25
38.	<u>China to lead the way in property technology</u>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 26
19 MEI 2019 (AHAD)			
39.	<u>Dunia bersatu bendung pencemaran sisa plastik</u>	Berita Harian	Rujuk lampiran 27
40.	<u>Thailand's wet season officially starts tomorrow</u>	The Thaiger	Klik pada tajuk berita
18 MEI 2019 (SABTU)			
41.	<u>'New laws of robotics needed to tackle AI'</u>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 28
42.	<u>Timor Leste to become world's first plastic-neutral nation</u>	New Straits Times	Rujuk lampiran 29



43.	<u>President stresses AI's role in national growth</u>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 30
44.	<u>Tiny Timor-Leste to become world's first plastic-neutral nation</u>	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 31
45.	<u>Kepulauan Cocos ditimbuni ratusan juta bahan plastik</u>	Utusan Malaysia	Rujuk lampiran 32
46.	<u>UN: Plastic waste pact approved with US among few holdouts</u>	Techknowbits.com	Klik pada tajuk berita
47.	<u>Basel Convention Recasts the Circular Economy for Plastics</u>	Natlawreview.com	Klik pada tajuk berita



LAMPIRAN 1
NEW SUNDAY TIMES (NATION / NEWS): MUKA SURAT 15
TARIKH: 19 MEI 2019 (AHAD)

WAR ON PLASTIC WASTE

'GET STRICT WITH PLASTICS AT HOME'

Tighten the laws to curb plastic waste, says NGO

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ENVIRONMENTAL groups believe that while Malaysia's war on plastic waste is progressing well on the international front, more needs to be done on the home front.

The Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Ministry was recently involved in the amendments to the Basel Convention, which led to more stringent laws covering the import of plastic waste.

While lauding the move, non-governmental organisations were of the view that greater effort was needed within the

country, especially when it came to reducing the use of plastic bags.

Ecotourism and Conservation Society of Malaysia chief executive officer and co-founder Andrew Sebastian said the awareness campaigns should be expanded.

"Plastic bags, which currently attract a charge of 20 sen each, should be priced at RM2. Use the money collected to fund local technology and environmental programmes. It is important that we regulate ourselves better (in curbing plastic waste).

"Environmental education should be made mandatory within our school system."

He said based on the amendments to the Basel Convention, the government would have greater control over trans-boundary plastic waste movement beginning 2021, when signatories completed aligning local laws with the annexes.

"So what do we do within these two



Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin (right), along with ministry officials, checking a container of plastic waste that was shipped in to Port Klang last month. PIC BY NUR ADIBAH AHMAD IZAM

years before they are enforced? Malaysian laws need to be tightened with increased penalties and loopholes in enforcement plugged.

"The government must ensure that there are enough resources to monitor the implementation of the regulations."

It was reported that the amendments, among others, stated that unrestricted plastic waste previously categorised under Annex IX would be classified under Annex II, which requires special consideration.

Items classified under Annex IX are non-contaminated plastic, immediately recyclable, such as polyethylene terephthalate (PET) flakes or pellets, while those under Annex II are plastic waste that cannot be re-

cycled without undergoing the cleaning process due to contamination of foreign materials, such as paper, stickers, stones and PET bottles.

Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin had said the ministry, through the Department of Environment, would continuously inspect containers of plastic waste suspected to be contaminated or brought in under false declarations.

It was reported that the department had halted at least five containers of contaminated plastic waste shipped in to Port Klang through false declarations.

The containers were returned to their country of origin, Spain.

LAMPIRAN 2
THE STAR (NATION): MUKA SURAT 4
TARIKH: 19 MEI 2019 (AHAD)

Getting tough on polluters

Penalties include RM5mil fine for contaminating rivers with oil

**Star
Exclusive**

By SIM LEOI LEOI
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PETALING JAYA: Stiffer penalties of up to a RM5mil fine will be imposed for environmental offences under a new Act that is currently being drafted.

A trust fund is also being set up to reward whistleblowers and for effective enforcement. For now, public feedback on what would constitute the new law is being sought.

These come in the wake of the recent toxic waste dumping of Sungai Kim Kim, which at its peak sent over 4,000 people to hospitals in Pasir Gudang. Besides this, the recent controversy over illegal imported plastic waste has also prompted work on the new Act.

Among others, it will see hefty fines for offences across the board, much heavier than those imposed under the current Environmental Quality Act 1974.

For instance, failure to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment Report will result in a whopping fine of up to RM1mil or a maximum five years in prison - or both.

In addition, culprits will be slapped with a daily fine of RM5,000 for as long as the offence he or she has committed continues after the issuance of a notice.

Previously, offenders were only liable to a fine of not more than RM500,000 or a prison term of up to five years under Section 34A of the Environmental Quality Act.

Provisions, which deal with restrictions against air, noise, land, inland waters and marine pollution, as well as open burning, will also see heavier fines.

These range from a maximum RM5mil fine for discharging oil into Malaysian waters to a RM100,000 fine for open burning offences. Most of the pollution offences also come with up to five years in jail and additional fines on a daily basis.

There is also a suggestion to restrict placement, disposal, delivery or transit of scheduled waste without government approval. Should this happen, jail time of a maximum five years and a fine of up to RM1mil will be slapped on the culprit.

On May 2, Yeo Bee Yin said the Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Ministry was in the process of drafting the new legislation to replace the Environmental Quality Act 1974.

Yeo said, among others, the drafting of the new legislation would look into the existing provisions for penalties and who could be brought to court for pollution offences.

Under Section 64 of the proposed Act, the



Lives at risk: Government officials checking Sungai Kim Kim during the recent contamination of the river. — Bernama

Department of Environment director-general could require an environmental audit to be carried out by the premises owners or occupiers of prescribed activities, failing which they could be fined up to RM100,000 or jailed for two years - or both.

As under the current Act, the proposed law would require those involved in factories such as palm oil or in the storage and recycling of scheduled waste to apply for licences under Section 17. This would involve their vehicles and ships too.

The same requirement applies to those seeking to release effluents, sewage and air pollution above the permitted limits. The licence is not transferable.

Failure to apply for a licence or adhere to its conditions can see the culprits being fined up to RM250,000, five years' jail term or both - in addition to a RM1,000 fine for each day that the offence continues.

The proposed law will also allow for a "stop work" order to be issued to any premises owner for, among others, conducting in activity that threatens the environment or public health and security, frequently flouting the law and the illegal dumping of scheduled waste.

Failure to abide by the order will result in a fine of up to RM500,000, five years in jail or both.

Other proposed provisions in the Act include authorising the director-general or the department's officer to use firearms and arrest without a warrant.

Like the current Environmental Quality Act,

Highlights for the proposed new law to replace the Environmental Quality Act 1974

Stiffer fines for all pollution offences - up to RM5mil for discharging oil in Malaysian waters and RM1mil fine for failing to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

A trust fund - Kumpulan Wang Alam Sekitar - to be set up as well as an Environment Conservation Council.

Authorising the Department of Environment director-general or its officer to carry firearms.

Public feedback from May 14 to June 4.

the director-general will be empowered to claim for the clean-up costs from those responsible for the pollution.

The public feedback is ongoing. It will end on June 4 and can be accessed on the DoE's website at www.doe.gov.my



LAMPIRAN 3
THE STAR (NATION): MUKA SURAT 4
TARIKH: 19 MEI 2019 (AHAD)

Trust fund can be used to pay off informers

PETALING JAYA: A trust fund – the Kumpulan Wang Alam Sekitar – will be set up under Section 70 of the proposed new environment law that can be used, among others, to pay off informers of environment crime.

It is suggested that the monies under the fund – to be placed under the federal Consolidated Fund – will be made up of government allocations, both overseas and local donations and contributions, and all fees and payments received by the Department of Environment (DoE) director-general from the cess levied.

The minister, through an order under Section 73, can also require those involved in various activities relating to oil or gas, hazardous goods, and electrical and electronic items to contribute at a set rate to the fund.

Besides paying informers, monies from the fund can also be used to carry out and promote research, recycle, reduce and counter pollution and to encourage the restoration from any damage.

Under Section 90 of the proposed Act, the director-general can order for a reward to be paid out to an informer for any service, information and assistance in tracing any offence.

There is currently no such fund.

The proposed Act will also seek to implement various measures for a mechanism on environmental protection such as policies and budget to be made mainstream during planning, construction or operations of the companies.

This will call for owners of industrial premises as well as other activities to, among others, set up a monitoring committee on the environment and recruit a manager for this purpose as well as having the best management practice, failing which, a fine up to RM50,000, a year's jail, or both, can be imposed.

Under Section 78, these premises owners or occupiers must also appoint someone – to be validated by the DoE director-general – to handle and monitor pollution controls, erosion, management of scheduled waste in the company and carry out audit and prepare an environment report, which must then be submitted to the department.

The proposed Act under Section 67 will also seek for these companies and premises owners to use and install the “best technology available” against pollution or else they can be punished with a fine of up to RM100,000, two years jail or both.

As under the previous Environmental Quality Act 1974, the new proposed Act will also see the setting up of an Environment Conservation Council, comprising representatives from various industries and fields, NGOs, states, government agencies and academicians.

LAMPIRAN 4 THE STAR (FOCUS): MUKA SURAT 15 TARIKH: 19 MEI 2019 (AHAD)



On the beat Wong Chun Wai
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Perilous pile of plastic

It's an environmental timebomb waiting to go off, yet, we continue to embrace it for the sake of the economy.

AS my plane began its descent onto the runway of Rwanda International Airport in Kigali, the East African country's capital, a crew member advised passengers to leave their plastic bags on board.

Plastic bags have been banned in Rwanda due to environmental reasons. It's illegal to import, produce, use or sell plastic bags and plastic packaging, except within specific industries, such as medical (hospitals) and pharmaceutical.

As I lined up to have my passport checked, a large sign, which read "Use of non-biodegradable polythene bags is prohibited," greeted me. It was the second warning.

After collecting my luggage, it was the Custom officers' turn to search my bags, to see if I had broken the law. And if I had, the plastic items would have been confiscated and coupled with a fine of US\$65 (RM271) per item.

And get this - Rwanda has implemented this law since 2008, a good 11 years ago!

Last month, Tanzania announced that polythene bags would be stripped from commercial use and household packaging from June 1, warning producers and suppliers to dispose their stock in the process.

The ban on plastic means that Tanzania will join the ranks of Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi in mitigating the effects of plastic waste.

Meanwhile, here in Malaysia, we are grabbing international headlines for all the wrong reasons.

We rank among the top 10 worst countries for plastic waste pollution, with "most of our plastic waste dumped, a small portion burned, and an even smaller fraction recycled," according to a report.

Malaysia is also the preferred destination for dumping plastic waste, with imports from countries like the

United States, Britain, Australia, Germany, France, Switzerland and New Zealand, littering our land.

Ironically, these are nations which righteously and proudly lecture the world on environmental cleanliness.

It was reported in 60 Minutes that Australia had more than 71,000 tonnes of such waste shipped to Malaysia in just 12 months.

This scourge began when China, which had been importing and recycling much of the world's plastic waste for the last 20 years, started to ban such imports at the end of 2017, citing environmental concerns.

To put it bluntly, Malaysia has earned notoriety as "the dumping ground for plastic waste" on a global scale.

Thanks to greedy Malaysians and lax enforcement, this filth has been dumped in rural areas including Jenjarom, a town in Kuala Langat, Selangor, which is now home to 17 million kg of dumped waste.

So, what are we doing about the plastic waste in Malaysia? Last October, Energy, Technology, Science, Climate Change and Environment Minister Yeo Bee Yin said Malaysia was pushing towards becoming a zero single-use plastic country by 2030.

No one expects Malaysia to impose an overnight and arbitrary decision, but the deadline is more than 10 years from now, giving the impression that there's no great urgency in solving the problem.

It will be even harder for Yeo to

push for a complete ban on plastic waste, since too many ministries and authorities are involved.

This is big money business and powerful lobbyists are at work here because the plastic waste industry is worth a staggering RM3.5bil.

Even Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin has been quoted saying that "it is rather challenging for the government to ban it entirely."

She said ministries including Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change; International Trade and Industry; and Water, Land and Natural Resources, had collectively agreed on the direction of the plastic waste import conundrum and its business potential.

"We cannot take this matter lightly as it provides a huge contribution to this country's revenue," Zuraida told the Dewan Rakyat, in response to a question by Klang MP Charles Santiago, who asked if the ministry would alter the National Solid Waste Management (NSWM) Policy to ban all imported plastic waste.

However, she said there were no plans to change the NSWM policy for now. In response to Santiago's claim that there were 100 illegal plastic processing factories still operating in Klang even after the local council revoked their licences, Zuraida said a circular had already been issued to local authorities - notably those in Selangor and Penang - to shut down illegal factories.

"Since the incident was exposed, we have frozen licences to import plastic."

"Each licence application to process these plastic materials needs to get a consent letter from the ministry, and we have not approved any application since then," she added.

Let's not count on any swift action to reduce, if not completely ban, plastic waste from our shores.

In China, the stroke of a pen implemented the ban, so shipments were re-routed, and they are now in Malaysia.

And here, we are still hibernating and pondering how "we can phase out the import."

Of course, no one can instill a time frame. So, for all the rhetoric and bravado, the bottom line is this - we can't be sure if the government has the willpower to impose such a ban.

The official figures are alarming. Between January and July last year, Malaysia's plastic waste import from its 10 biggest source-countries jumped to 456,000 tonnes from 316,600 tonnes in the whole of 2017, and 168,500 tonnes in 2016, it was reported.

In the same period, the country imported 195,444 tonnes of plastic waste from the US alone, the synthetic substance's biggest exporter. This is double the 97,544 tonnes it took in for almost the whole of last year. Singapore exported about 19,000 tonnes of plastic waste to Malaysia last year, too.

So, what did our government do

after the public outcry and international condemnation from environmental groups?

In late July, the government imposed a three-month freeze on existing approved permits (AP) for plastic waste imports, following feedback regarding their improper usage and air pollution caused by illegal plastic recycling factories.

A total of 114 recyclers with APs had their revenue stream jeopardised.

And then what happened?

Three months later, the ministry lifted the ban, citing a fear of losing out on economic benefits - and of course, now, we know more than RM3bil is at stake. Never mind its disastrous effects on the health of the people and environment.

Presumably, in a bid to display that action was taken, the government introduced tighter regulations: recyclers had to fulfil 18 new conditions before securing APs, and they've been forced to pay a levy of RM15 per tonne of imported plastic waste. It's hilarious because this is chicken feed to these importers.

Legitimate recyclers - whose services are truly helping the environment - exist, but it's unfortunate they have been lumped together with the ugly importers, and this is where the authorities must be more consistent in their enforcement efforts.

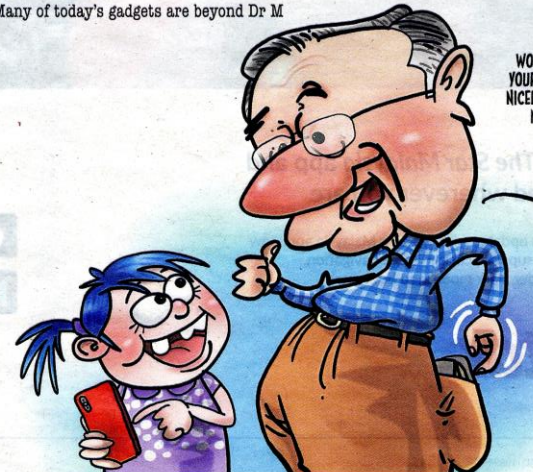
So, the harsh reality is that we are sitting on top of the world's largest pile of plastic waste, and we don't have the gumption to ban it, or ship it to its countries of origin because we stand to lose RM3.5bil.

The most likely outcome from all of this is, we will merely impose a higher levy, and struggle to decide on a timeline for it. And to encapsulate such inaction in an age-old phrase - this stinks!

The Earth does not belong to us: we belong to the Earth.
— Marlee Matlin



Many of today's gadgets are beyond Dr M



WOW BRILLIANT. YOU'VE ALL YOUR FAMILY PHOTOS FILED UP NICELY ON YOUR SMART PHONE. MINE IS IN MY WALLET.

reggie lee

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LAMPIRAN 5
BERITA HARIAN (DASAR PENTADBIRAN): MUKA SURAT 6
TARIKH: 18 MEI 2019 (SABTU)

KONVENSYEN BASEL

Pindaan sekat kemasukan sisa plastik negara asing

Putrajaya: Pindaan terhadap klasifikasi plastik di bawah Konvensyen Basel, baru-baru, ini akan membantu Malaysia menyekat kemasukan sisa plastik dari negara asing secara lebih berkesan.

Menteri Tenaga, Sains, Teknologi, Alam Sekitar dan Perubahan Iklim, Yeo Bee Yin, berkata ia kerana pindaan kepada klasifikasi sisa plastik yang dicadangkan menerusi konvensyen yang diratifikasi sebanyak 187 negara itu, memerlukan keizinan terlebih dahulu atau 'prior informed consent' (PIC) dari negara pengimport sisa plastik sebelum sebarang pergerakan sisa merentasi sempadan dilakukan.

Beliau berkata, sebelum ini, sisa plastik diklasifikasikan di bawah Annex IX Konvensyen Basel tidak menjelaskan sama ada sisa itu boleh dikitar semula atau sebaliknya dan tidak memerlukan kelulusan PIC dari negara pengimport sisa berkenaan.

"Dengan pindaan (konvensyen) ini, sisa plastik diklasifikasikan dengan lebih jelas dan negara pengeksport sisa plastik perlu mendapatkan pertimbangan khas ataupun PIC dari negara pengimport sebelum sebarang pergerakan sisa plastik merentasi sempadan dilakukan," katanya di sini, semalam.

Persidangan Konvensyen Basel Ke-14 yang berlangsung dari 29 April hingga 10 Mei lalu di Geneva, Switzerland, dihadiri tiga pegawai Kementerian Tenaga, Sains, Teknologi, Alam Sekitar dan Perubahan Iklim (MESTECC) dan seorang pegawai Kementerian Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan.

Malaysia sokong

Beliau berkata, Malaysia juga menyokong penuh cadangan Norway supaya sisa plastik disenaraikan di bawah Annex II dalam Konvensyen Basel, iaitu kategori sisa yang memerlukan pertimbangan khas.

Mengulas kemasukan sisa plastik haram ke negara ini, Bee Yin berkata, lima kontena mengandungi sisa plastik tercemar yang sebelum ini melalui pengisytiharan palsu, sudah disekat kemasukannya ke negara ini oleh Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) dan dihantar pulang ke negara asal, Sepanyol.

Katanya, Malaysia menjadi destinasi utama pengimportan plastik tercemar dari negara asing sejak negara China melarang pengimportan sisa plastik pada 2018.



Malaysia juga menyokong penuh cadangan Norway supaya sisa plastik disenaraikan di bawah Annex II dalam Konvensyen Basel, iaitu kategori sisa yang memerlukan pertimbangan khas"

Yeo Bee Yin,
Menteri Tenaga, Sains, Teknologi,
Alam Sekitar dan Perubahan Iklim



LAMPIRAN 6
THE STAR (NATION): MUKA SURAT 3
TARIKH: 18 MEI 2019 (SABTU)

Yeo: Amendment will help track plastic waste trade

PUTRAJAYA: The recent amendment to the classification of plastic waste under the Basel Convention, an international treaty, will help Malaysia restrict the import of such wastes from other countries more effectively, says Yeo Bee Yin.

The Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister said this was because the amendment to the proposed plastic waste classification by the Convention, which was ratified by 187 countries, requires a prior informed consent (PIC) from the country importing the waste before any

cross-border waste movement was conducted.

Previously, she said plastic waste classified under Annex IX of the Basel Convention did not clearly state whether the waste could be recycled or not.

"It also did not require PIC approval from the country importing the waste.

"With the amendment, plastic waste is more clearly classified and plastic waste-exporting countries need to have special consideration or PIC from importing countries before any cross-border movement

of the plastic waste is carried out," she said at a media conference yesterday.

The 14th Basel Convention Conference, held from April 29 to May 10 in Geneva, was attended by officials from the ministry and the Housing and Local Government Ministry.

Yeo said Malaysia also fully supported Norway's proposal for plastic waste to be listed under Annex II of the treaty – the category of waste requiring special consideration.

On the illegal import of plastic waste into the country, she said

Malaysia has become the main destination for contaminated plastic waste since China banned the import last year.

She said that recently five containers with the waste had been falsely declared so that they could be brought in and their contents dumped in Malaysia.

The containers were stopped by the Department of Environment (DoE) and sent back to the country of origin, Spain.

Yeo said to date, the DoE has taken action against 148 illegal plastic recycling plants. — Bernama



LAMPIRAN 7
NEW STRAITS TIMES (FRONT PAGE): MUKA SURAT 1
TARIKH: 18 MEI 2019 (SABTU)



LAMPIRAN 7 (SAMB.)
NEW STRAITS TIMES (FRONT PAGE): MUKA SURAT 3
TARIKH: 18 MEI 2019 (SABTU)

AMENDED ANNEXES

ILLEGAL ENTRY OF WASTE BANNED

Change under Basel Convention expected to reduce plastic waste entry into Malaysia

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GARBAGE illegally exported to Malaysia will be shipped back to their countries of origin following amended annexes under the Basel Convention, which generally require for the entry of plastic scraps to obtain permission from importing countries.

The change under the Basel Convention is expected to significantly reduce plastic waste entry into Malaysia, which became one of the world's dumping grounds after China's ban on solid waste import on Jan 1 last year.

The ban covered 24 types of waste, including low-grade polyethylene terephthalate and unsorted paper.

Prior to the ban, China reigned as the major processor of at least half of global waste exports.

The amended annexes would see greater control over transboundary plastic waste movement beginning 2021, when signatory countries completed aligning local laws with the annexes.

Malaysia has been a party to the Basel Convention since 1993 alongside 186 other countries.

At the 14th Conference of Parties to the Basel Convention (COP14) held from April 29 to May 10 in Geneva, Malaysia successfully negotiated for the convention to amend the annexes and through it supported the original proposal by Norway for unrestricted plastic waste under Annex IX to be classified under Annex II, which categorises the



Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin speaking at a press conference in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

waste as requiring special consideration.

Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin said yesterday that the special consideration would involve "prior informed consent" (PIC), which would be granted by the importing country before a transboundary plastic waste movement was initiated.

"Previously, it was not clarified whether plastic waste classified under Annex IX of the convention can be recycled, apart from not requiring PIC from the importing country.

"The ministry, through the Department of Environment (DoE), which acts as the competent authority to the Basel Convention, will continuously inspect containers of plastic waste suspected to be contaminated or brought in under false declarations, so that action can be taken.

"If the entry of plastic waste is

found to have violated the criteria and regulations, the order to return the containers to the origin countries will be issued in line with the convention's requirements."

Yeo said the cost of returning the exported waste would be fully borne by the responsible signatory countries.

"If it is found to be impractical for them (to ship the waste back to their countries), we will dispose of it and will charge them (the full cost)."

Previously, Annex IX classified only non-harmful plastic, but did not clarify whether the material could be recycled.

The amended annexes highlight three classifications of plastic waste.

Annex IX: non-contaminated plastic, immediately recyclable, such as polyethylene terephthalate (PET) flakes or pellets, and does not mix with other waste.

Annex II: plastic waste that

cannot be recycled without undergoing the cleaning process due to contamination of foreign materials, such as papers, stickers, stones and PET bottles.

Annex VIII: Plastic waste mixed with hazardous materials, such as PET bottles containing pesticides.

Annex II and VII will require PIC, but not Annex IX.

Last month, prior to the amendments, it was reported that at least five containers of contaminated plastic waste were shipped to Port Klang through false declarations.

The entry was halted by the DoE and the containers were returned to their country of origin, Spain.

Yeo said her ministry was working closely with its housing, transportation, international trade and industry counterparts to review the legal requirement and procedures on importing plastic waste.

'Culprits in smuggling of waste include local firms'

KUALA LUMPUR: Stern action must not only be taken against foreign countries for smuggling illegal plastic waste into the country, but also against local parties for importing it.

Environmental Protection Society Malaysia vice-president Randolph Jeremiah said while the decision to punish foreign countries was commendable, it was not enough as the culprits involved local companies too.

"I believe it is a good start to better regulate unwanted plastic waste from entering Malaysia at the international level, making many developed countries exporting unwanted plastics accountable, similar to the initial intentions of the Basel Convention on Hazardous Waste.

"However, action must be taken against local parties responsible for importing such waste because as long as there are willing buyers, there will be willing sellers."

Jeremiah said strict monitoring by the Department of Environment at all points of entry into the country would help address the problem.

This effort, he said, must be supported by the port authorities and the Customs Department.

The Basel Convention deals with the control of transboundary movements of hazardous waste and disposal, with the aim to prevent such waste from being transferred to less developed countries.

Malaysia has been a signatory to the Basel Convention since 1993.

The government has requested that countries involved pay to clean up their waste here or take it back after the recent discovery of 24 containers of plastic waste from Spain at Port Klang, Selangor recently.

LAMPIRAN 8
NEW STRAITS TIMES (OPINION): MUKA SURAT 50
TARIKH: 18 MEI 2019 (SABTU)

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

PRESERVING MANGROVES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The health of mangroves has dwindled and this must be arrested, writes **DR A. ALDRIE AMIR**

LIKE humans, mangrove forests require a consistent supply of clean and healthy fresh water for their survival. This is an important basic need often misunderstood by resource managers, thinking mangroves would survive only in saline hydrological condition.

Just like other plants and living organisms, mangroves use fresh water and oxygen for their physiological development. But as opposed to other types of plants, mangroves dominate sheltered intertidal zones and tolerate the salty environment.

Mangroves mainly flourish in brackish estuarine areas where the tidal water meets the fresh water. Here, various physical, chemical and biological exchanges and transactions take place.

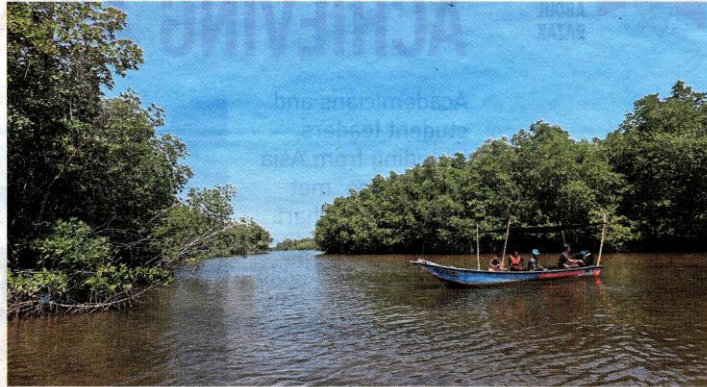
For instance, the nutrients and silts transported by water from both the marine and the terrestrial environments merge in the estuary to promote land building and sediment enrichment, and in due time, the ecosystem balances and stabilises itself.

Incidentally, the process includes the loading of anthropogenic pollutants, and therein lies the additional challenge for mangroves to remediate.

Naturally, mangroves as an ecosystem are very efficient at playing the remediating role. However now, the imbalance widens between the ever increasing load of pollutants with the continuous decline of mangrove forests, decreasing their ability to function effectively in providing these substantial ecosystem services.

Damming and impoundment of rivers elevate this imbalance. On one hand, dams lower the volume and minimise the speed of fresh water flow, increasing the salinity of water and the concentration of pollutants in the estuaries.

On the other hand, some rivers



Mangroves favour the flow of water and the exchange of tides, but they will not survive in waterlogged areas locked by barrages for flood control and tourist boats.

are locked by barrages for flood control and to maintain the depth of water to allow for tour boats and cruises to operate, among others. One must understand that mangroves favour the flow of water and the exchange of tides, but they will not survive in waterlogged areas.

This negligence on the environmental aspects of river management results in a destructive chain reaction.

River impoundment disrupts the hydrology of a river, causing mangroves and riparian plants to die and suffocates marine fauna as the water becomes stagnant, anoxic and toxic. This situation will backfire and cause river tourism to collapse.

On a more critical note, river pollution is a major issue in Malaysia as we can hardly find crystal clear rivers anymore, especially in the peninsula.

The effluents and pollutants released into the rivers eventually reach the mangroves and enter the ocean, affecting other downstream ecosystems such as the seagrasses and corals.

Therefore, water quality and pollution control should be a primary concern for all Malaysians.

Based on the recent catastrophe in Sungai Kim Kim and other previous cases, we obviously cannot just rely on the Department of Environment and the Environmental Quality Act alone.

Controlling water and river pollution must begin right before

the start of any kind of activities on land, particularly when they involve land acquisition, land clearing and land-use change.

Hence, the state exco, the district and land offices together with the municipalities must be the first authorities to set and enforce the ground rules before accepting the idea, approving the proposal and giving out licence for any activity to be carried out on land, and on water for that matter.

Too often we hear sad pleas and shocking complaints from villagers about polluting projects and development, either established legally or illegally, happening near them without any prior notice. Of course other relevant agencies, stakeholders and the public have their roles to play too, and it is now the time to coordinate and identify the gaps in the existing legal and enforcement tools and standard operating procedures to overcome this cross-sectoral issue. It is important to note that many major towns and cities throughout Malaysia are located on coastal areas.

Many of which have evolved with a direct link and dependency on the resources from and surrounding their rivers, estuaries and coasts. As the towns and cities develop, the priority on sustaining the health of mangroves and rivers has dwindled.

Our attachment to these natural resources as our lifeline has

somehow diminished. It seems like our design for economic development has undermined the importance of the environment, one of the triple bottom lines of sustainable development, and this is actually a very bad sign.

Unsustainable development is a destructive key that kills civilisations. This had happened before to some old and ancient societies and this may happen again if we don't care and if we continue to ignore.

With advanced knowledge and modern technologies, we might have discovered new ways, solutions and alternatives to sustain our economy, but we should not neglect the original surrounding — the natural resources and the environment — that have provided the basic foundation for our survival in the first place.

Water and rivers are the agents and medium that connect lives and provide living for many millions of their dependents, and it is our responsibility to protect and to manage them well.

In order to do that, we must not go down the unsustainable development road as it will take us to a dead end, from which no exit is possible, not even a U-turn.

The writer is senior lecturer and research fellow at Institute for Environment and Development [Lestari], Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and coordinator for the Malaysian Mangrove Research Alliance and Network [MyMangrove]

With advanced knowledge and modern technologies, we might have discovered new ways to sustain our economy, but we should not neglect the natural resources that has provided the basic foundation for our survival in the first place.

LAMPIRAN 9
 HARIAN METRO: MUKA SURAT 3
 TARIKH: 20 MEI 2019 (ISNIN)

Harap tapak sampah haram ditutup segera

Gombak: “Saya harap pihak berwajib boleh mengambil tindakan tegas terhadap lori yang keluar masuk ke tempat pelupusan sampah haram ini kerana jumlahnya ‘ratusan’ dalam sehari.”

Begitu kata Jawatankuasa Perwakilan Penduduk (JPP) Kampung Sungai Tua, Batu Caves, Jamil Hasan berhubung isu tapak pelupusan sampah haram terbabit yang berlarutan sejak sekian lama.

Jamil berkata, isu tapak pelupusan sampah haram di kampung itu sehingga kini belum berjaya diselesaikan selain tiada tindakan lanjut daripada pihak berkuasa berkaitan.

“Keselamatan penduduk di sini terancam apatah lagi membabitkan kanak-kanak yang melalui jalan sama. Kami sudah sampai tahap reda dengan keadaan itu,” katanya.

Penduduk lain, Jasmani Hasan, 46, berkata, sebelum Pilihan Raya Umum Ke-14 (PRU-14), tapak pelupusan sampah haram itu ditutup untuk sementara waktu.

“Sebelum pilihan raya, Menteri Besar waktu itu, Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali ada mengarahkan

pembinaan tembok pada bahagian hadapan kawasan ini.

“Tetapi selepas enam bulan, operasi kembali seperti biasa,” katanya.

Sementara itu, tinjauan Harian Metro di tapak pelupusan sampah haram terbabit mendapati ia dipercayai ditutup.

Metro Ahad semalam melaporkan Pengarah Jabatan Penguatkuasa dan Keselamatan Majlis Perbandaran Selayang (MPS), Norhayati Ahmad menerima dua ancaman ‘keras’ dalam kejadian berasingan.

Dalam kejadian pertama, tembok depan rumah dan dua kenderaan disimbah cat merah pada 28 April lalu sebelum bahagian atas sengkuaip di hadapan rumah terbakar akibat bom petrol (*molotov cocktail*) pada 13 Mei lalu.

Malah, ibu kepada dua anak yang baru memegang jawatan itu sejak dua bulan lalu tidak mengetahui punca ‘serangan’ itu.

Bagaimanapun, siasatan polis percaya dua insiden terbabit mempunyai kaitan dengan operasi MPS menangani masalah tapak pelupusan sampah haram di Batu Caves, Selangor.



LAMPIRAN 10
 UTUSAN MALAYSIA (FORUM): MUKA SURAT 21
 TARIKH: 20 MEI 2019 (ISNIN)



PENYAMPAIAN mesej-mesej alam sekitar menerusi khutbah Jumaat agak berbeza berbanding disampaikan secara konvensional di luar masjid. - GAMBAR HIASAN/BERNAMA

Khutbah Jumaat medium pendidikan alam sekitar

SAUDARA PENGARANG,

SEPERTI diketahui umum, pendidikan alam sekitar sebenarnya boleh berlangsung secara formal seperti di sekolah mahupun tidak formal iaitu di luar kelas. Salah satu medium pendidikan alam sekitar secara tidak formal adalah menerusi khutbah Jumaat.

Inilah keunikan yang berlaku di negara majoriti Islam seperti Malaysia yang mana khutbah Jumaat juga menjadi medium penting dalam menyampaikan mesej-mesej alam sekitar kepada masyarakat khususnya kepada jemaah yang hadir.

Sebagai contoh, dalam khutbah Jumaat bertarikh 8 Mac 2019 di masjid Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Pulau Pinang, khatib menyentuh tentang mesej penjagaan alam sekitar dan isu semasa seperti strok haba dan kepentingan untuk jemaah sentiasa menjaga kesihatan di musim cuaca panas melampau. Begitu juga pada 26 April 2019 pula, khatib turut menyelitkan mesej tentang kepentingan untuk umat Islam tidak membazir makanan sepanjang bulan puasa kerana

saban tahun perkara ini telah berlaku peningkatan bilangan pembuangan sisa makanan.

Sebenarnya, Jika kita amati, ia bukan sesuatu yang baharu untuk mendengar mesej alam sekitar. Namun, penyampaian mesej-mesej alam sekitar menerusi khutbah Jumaat ini agak berbeza berbanding disampaikan secara konvensional di luar masjid.

Hal ini kerana, semasa khutbah, khatib akan mengaitkan mesej-mesej alam sekitar dengan elemen-elemen dakwah dalam Islam seperti kepentingan dan amanah Muslim sebagai khalifah dalam menjaga alam sekitar seperti mana yang dituntut oleh Allah SWT.

Malah, petikan ayat Al-Quran dan hadis yang berkaitan dengan penjagaan alam sekitar juga disampaikan kepada jemaah seperti petikan dari ayat surah Ar-Ruum ayat 41 yang bermaksud "telah timbul pelbagai kerosakan dan bala bencana di darat dan di laut dengan sebab apa yang telah dilakukan oleh tangan manusia; (timbulnya yang demikian) kerana Allah hendak merasakan mereka sebahagian dari balasan

perbuatan-perbuatan buruk yang mereka telah lakukan, supaya mereka kembali (insaf dan bertaubat)".

Ini bermakna, mesej alam sekitar tidak lagi disampaikan semata-mata tentang penjagaan dan pemuliharaan alam sekitar. Ia sekali gus memberi gambaran jelas kepada jemaah bahawa Islam menuntut umatnya agar sentiasa menjaga kesejahteraan alam sekitar demi kesejahteraan manusia seagat.

Penyampaian mesej alam sekitar melalui khutbah sebenarnya telah dilaksanakan di Kanada melalui satu kempen yang dinamakan sebagai "Green Khutbah" atau "Khutbah Hijau". Ia telah dijalankan oleh *Khaleefa.com* untuk kepentingan komuniti Islam. Justeru, diharapkan penyampaian mesej berkenaan alam sekitar dalam khutbah-khutbah Jumaat di Malaysia dapat terus dipertingkatkan demi kesedaran dan literasi masyarakat terhadap isu tersebut.

**DR. MOHAMAD SAIFUDIN
 MOHAMAD SALEH**
 Pensyarah Komunikasi Alam
 Sekitar USM

LAMPIRAN 11 THE STAR (SMEBIZ): MUKA SURAT 7 TARIKH: 20 MEI 2019 (ISNIN)

By JOY LEE
joylm@thestar.com.my

FOR most companies, the task of automating their operations may seem like a big undertaking, more so for SMEs.

While the benefits of automation is widely talked about, the uncertainty and risks of taking on such an effort tend to outweigh management's decisions on the matter, particularly when the discussion around automation include big terms like artificial intelligence, robotics, Internet of Things (IoT), and, of course, cost.

No doubt, the prospect of going about these is daunting.

But industry observers and regulators are reminding businesses that automation, and the progress into Industry 4.0 is a journey.

"Transformation and automation are about making your operations smart. When we talk about Industry 4.0, people think that the whole company needs to be transformed. That's not necessary. Take small steps. Change a small part of your operations first and see whether that is beneficial for you.

"What we want are small steps, with bigger outcomes," says International Trade and Industry Ministry's director of Sectoral Policy Division, Sectoral Policy 1, Vimala Murugan, at the recent 25th International Machine Tools, Metalworking and Automation Technology Exhibition.

Notably, SME Association of Malaysia president Datuk Michael Kang opines that most SMEs are too small to be able to afford sophisticated systems for automation.

"If we can upskill the small ones, maybe they can eventually adopt Industry 4.0. But let's not talk about Industry 4.0 yet.

"I think the most important thing for a lot of SMEs is to digitise their operations. A lot of them are still very manual. For them, if they can go for digitisation, it is good enough. They can use some software to improve. From there, they can slowly scale up," he says.

Kang notes that moving into high gear on automation may not fully benefit businesses – SMEs may not have enough markets to push their products to.

"So digitise first. Then maybe, you can look at reducing reliance on labour with some machinery and improve productivity. Then go for automation," he says.

Start small, aim big

Small businesses should attempt to automate gradually



Small entry: Kuikka notes that cobots could be a cost-effective way for companies looking to give robotics a try.

Nonetheless, the urgency for SMEs to take action is there.

Several of the global and leading manufacturing countries such as Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom, China, South Korea and Singapore have already embarked on their Industry 4.0 transformation and are in advanced stages of implementation.

Spot the gaps

Local companies would do well to take a look at their own operations to spot the gaps they need to close in order to be more efficient and competitive.

In recent times, there have been a slew of providers in the market offering companies with products and solutions to help them automate and improve on efficiency. These solutions cover a wide range of areas including energy efficiency, security, administration, payment systems and production.

And with advancements in technology, a lot of these solutions come in a plug-and-play model

which will enable companies to integrate them into their operations and adopt a gradual automation process rather than have a major overhaul.

An example is collaborative-robots (cobots). The cobot is a robot arm that can be integrated into a manufacturing process and are designed to work safely alongside people.

Denmark-based cobot maker Universal Robots (UR) is looking at helping local SMEs accelerate the adoption of automation and robotics to transform the manufacturing sector.

"Malaysia deployed just 45 units of industrial robots per 10,000 employees in 2017, almost 50% below the global average of 85 units. In a 2017 FMM-MIER survey, only 7.4% of Malaysian respondents used autonomous robots – 23.3% of which were SMEs.

"We see huge potential to boost the adoption of robotic automation as the country focuses on strengthening its manufacturing sector and gearing towards becoming a developed nation," says Sakari Kuikka, UR's general manager of South-East

Asia and Oceania.

Kuikka says the use of the cobots can potentially improve productivity for SMEs by up to 30% in the manufacturing sector.

The manufacturing sector, comprising 98.5% of Malaysian SMEs, serves as a major contributor to the country's economy. In 2018, the sector contributed 22.4% of the gross domestic product (GDP) at about RM325bil.

According to an A.T. Kearney and Cisco study, Malaysia could reap growth in productivity gains of up to US\$30bil (RM125bil) for its manufacturing sector over the next decade through Industry 4.0 adoption.

"Malaysia ranks high in the region in terms of Industry 4.0 readiness according to global surveys. However, this is not a sentiment shared by SMEs who are slow to adopt these technologies.

"Among the challenges they face include a lack of understanding of automation benefits and low awareness on government funding to assist with tech adoption. Last year, about RM5bil was set aside by the government to help

businesses embrace smart technology including automation and robotics," he adds.

He notes that cobots are a more cost effective addition to an assembly line compared to traditional industrial robots given the former's ability to automate a wide range of applications, making automation accessible for businesses of all sizes.

According to Kuikka, cobots are the fastest growing segment of industrial automation, and is expected to rise ten-fold to 34% of all industrial robot sales by 2025.

A research by Bis Research notes that the global collaborative industrial robots market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 63% from US\$105.4mil in 2015 to close to US\$2bil in 2021.

UR currently holds the lion's share of the cobot market globally at about 50% to 60%. The company has sold 34,000 cobots globally since 2008.

"Our vision is to democratise the industrial robotics market and cobots market so that anybody can automate and we are starting with cobots to make automation accessible to all. This can increase productivity and profitability for a company and improve the wellbeing of the operators.

"We are targeting the SME market because it is more difficult for them to start robotic automation," he adds.

However, Kuikka notes that in the Asean region, take-up rate for robots in Malaysia lags behind Singapore and Thailand.

In Malaysia, cobots are deployed in an array of industries such as electronics, automotive, semiconductor, furniture and consumer products. They are used across many applications such as machine tending, assembly lines, quality inspection, packaging and dispensing.

"The application of cobots can help to expand the manufacturing sector's contribution to the economy, increase the number of high skilled workers, and strengthen innovation and capacity for SMEs," he says.



Before you automate: According to Kang, most SMEs need to first look into digitising their operations.



Bit by bit: Regulators have urged SMEs to take small steps to automate their businesses, rather than undertake a major overhaul.

LAMPIRAN 12
NEW STRAITS TIMES: MUKA SURAT 48
TARIKH: 20 MEI 2019 (ISNIN)



ZAKRI ABDUL HAMID

SPECIES EXTINCTION

OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND P. RAMLEE MOVIE

Stark warning of imminent global catastrophe is no laughing matter

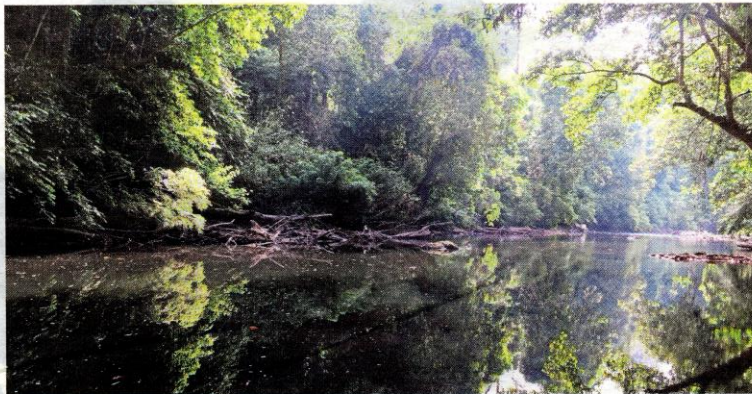
MALAYSIANS who grew up nourished by classic P. Ramlee movies will recall the hilarious scene in *Pendekar Bungang Lapok* when, despite repeated pleas from Rose's parents that she had been kidnapped, the three protagonists continued insisting that it was just a hoax.

Fortunately, the movie ended on a positive note as they realised that the kidnapping was real and they managed to save the heroine in the nick of time. But as we all know, it was not so fortunate for the boy who cried wolf in a fable by Aesop.

The stories above bear some resemblance to the ongoing debate on the state of our global environment. However, the stark warning of imminent global catastrophe due to biodiversity loss issued by the scientific community is no laughing matter. It arises from conclusions from methodical data gathering, and analyses of a mountain of information gleaned from peer-reviewed publications (around 15,000 references), grey literature (official publications which may not be peer-reviewed), and for the first time in the case of biodiversity loss, information from indigenous and local knowledge.

These assessments were the fruits of years of collaborative effort undertaken by diverse experts representing the relevant disciplines in the sciences, arts and the humanities.

As recently acknowledged by Chatham House, the world leading policy institute based in the UK, biodiversity loss is as big a crisis as climate change but somehow it has not been getting traction as deep as the latter. According to Sandra Diaz, co-Chair of the Report, this may be due to the fact that the biodiversity platform is much younger than its counterpart in climate change. The Inter-governmental Panel on



Up to one million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades, which is more than ever before in human history. FILE PIC

Climate Change (IPCC) has decades of history and is sometimes graced by luminaries like former American vice-president Al Gore.

The UN Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment report released on May 6 in Paris is rooted in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) conducted from 2001 to 2005. Not quite inter-governmental at that time, the MA was an undertaking of 1,350 experts from 95 countries, including Malaysia, hailing from academia, research organisations, government, international organisations, the private sector, and non-governmental organisations. It was praised by the then UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, as "an outstanding example of the sort of international scientific and political cooperation that is needed to further the cause of sustainable development".

The objective of the MA was to assess the consequences of ecosystem change on human wellbeing and the scientific basis for action needed to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of those systems and their contribution to human wellbeing.

The MA found that human actions are depleting earth's nat-

ural capital, putting such strain on the environment that the ability of the planet's ecosystems to sustain future generations can no longer be taken for granted. At the same time, the assessment shows that with appropriate actions it is possible to reverse the degradation of many ecosystem services over the next 50 years, but the changes in policy and practice required are substantial and not currently underway.

Alas, 15 years later, the IPBES Global Assessment seems to echo the same gloomy sentiment, if not worse, when it declares that "up to one million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades, more than ever before in human history. And the rate of species extinction is accelerating".

The latest findings have been endorsed by the 132-member nations of IPBES. It is now time for every country to reflect on these findings and act in a timely manner on the recommendations set forth in the report. The scientific community in Malaysia must work closely with our elected representatives on these issues which have grave ramifications on our wellbeing.

In countries like Australia, India and the UK there exist parliamentary select committees on

science and technology. When Dewan Rakyat Speaker Datuk Mohamad Ariff Md Yusof in December last year announced the setting up of six new select committees, there was none on science and technology. Maybe it's time to have another look.

Lately, in addition to the IPCC and IPBES, interest in linking science with the diplomatic and policymaking spheres has been on the increase.

One possible platform is the newly-established International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA). INGSA provides a forum for policymakers, practitioners, national academies, scientific societies and researchers to share experience, build capacities and develop theoretical and practical approaches to evidence-based policy development at all levels of government.

Strengthening the bridge between the scientific community and policymakers will ensure that the sound scientific messages do not turn into the hilarious scenes depicted in P. Ramlee's movies or the sad ending of Aesop's 'Boy who cried wolf'. The stakes are too high to gamble with our future generations.

The writer is senior fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia

...biodiversity loss is as big a crisis as climate change but somehow it has not been getting traction as deep as the latter.

LAMPIRAN 13
 THE STAR (NEWS): MUKA SURAT 2
 TARIKH: 20 MEI 2019 (ISNIN)

Complainants want stream and floodplain restored

Factory owner's unauthorised construction work to be investigated, says Selangor exco

CHANGES made to a piece of land, including closing off a stream along Sungai Langat in Kampung Air Hitam, 6th Mile, Klang, are affecting neighbouring areas.

Part of the floodplain outside a factory was raised and the soil stabilised with concrete piles to facilitate building a road.

The factory owner also closed off a stream and these changes have contributed to flash floods at nine neighbouring agricultural plots.

These changes, according to neighbouring landowners, were done without lawful authorisation.

Teacher-turned-farmer S. Sargunam said gravel was used to fill up the natural stream and raise the stretch of floodplain that took on the overflow from Sungai Langat during high tide and downpours.

"The factory, which appears to be involved in processing plastic materials from overseas, was built on agricultural land several months ago.

"Before that, a Thai eatery operated there for some time keeping the natural setting intact as its selling point.

"It was a scenic spot with mangrove trees and a stream pouring into Sungai Langat but all that is now gone," he added.

Sargunam's farmland along with eight other private lots, planted with oil palm trees, now gets inundated during heavy rain.

Sargunam, who has 50 cows, 30 goats, poultry and oil palm trees on his 2.02ha farmland, said the private dirt roads leading to the land lots were subject to flash floods as well.

He claimed that the factory owner had altered the natural terrain without following guidelines and obtaining permits from the Selangor Water Management Authority (Luas).

Sargunam also said the industrial plant was constructed without a notice board.

He said the Klang Municipal Council (MPK) had failed to provide the three-month objection period for the neighbouring landowners to file their petition at the Planning Department.



Sargunam, seen here on his farmland with his cows, claims a nearby factory altered the natural terrain without following guidelines and obtaining permits.

On February 19, 2018, Sargunam lodged a report with MPK Corporate Communications Department's Complaints Centre that flash floods had prevented him from entering his land to harvest the oil palm fruits and the water in the area smelled bad due to discharge from the factory.

In the complaint, he stated that work was being done to fill the stream and requested for immediate action.

It was also recorded that open burning of plastic was taking place at night.

On February 27 this year, Sargunam lodged another report on lorries from the factory using the private dirt road and causing damage to it in the process.

Another complainant, T. Gopalan

“No one should close up a stream as it will impair the floodplains which is essential for protecting fish and other aquatic life.”

Izham Hashim

Thottan, lodged a complaint with MPK on the same day regarding chemical released from the factory that flowed into the waterway and subsequently killing fish in Sungai Langat.

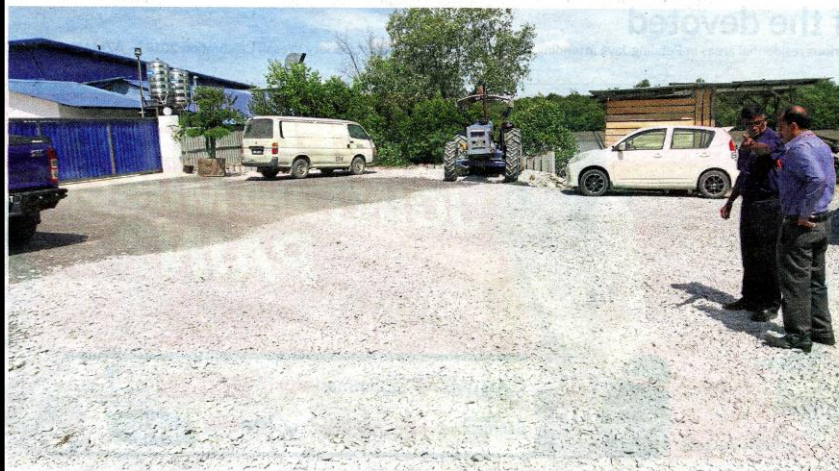
Sargunam added that no action had been taken following the complaints.

During *StarMetro's* visit, it appeared that work was being done to build wide drains next to the factory.

"It is unscrupulous to fill up a natural stream to build a road for trailers to enter the plant's premises," he said.

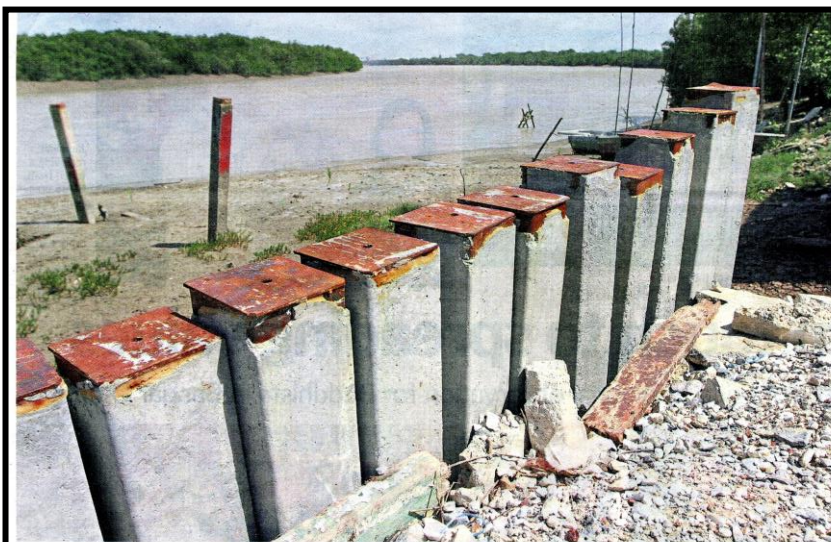
"Now, water from the earth drain across my farm overflows onto the dirt road and it takes a few days for the water to subside as the channel is blocked because of sludge released from the factory.

"Luas must act on this matter and reverse the damage done. It must order the factory owner to restore the stream and floodplain," he said.



Sargunam says the area he is standing on was once a stream.

LAMPIRAN 13 (SAMB.) THE STAR (NEWS): MUKA SURAT 3 TARIKH: 20 MEI 2019 (ISNIN)



Concrete piles along the floodplain are to raise the land level along Sungai Langat at Kampung Air Hitam. — Photos: YAP CHEE HONG/The Star



Plastic materials allegedly brought in from overseas at the factory in Kampung Air Hitam, Mile 6, Klang.

He added that the Selangor Department of Environment must conduct thorough investigation on the factory discharge in the earth drain located at the back which reeked of chemical.

Selangor Infrastructure and Public Amenities, Agriculture and Agro-Industry Committee chairman Izham Hashim said the state government would instruct Luas and Klang District Drainage and Irrigation Department (DPS) to carry out investigations.

"If Luas and DPS discover that the

owner had raised the level of the floodplain and filled a tributary of Sungai Langat, the perpetrator will be ordered to remove the fill material and restore the floodplain and natural stream," he said.

Izham added that no one should close up a stream as it would impair the floodplains which was essential for protecting fish and other aquatic life that support the fishermen along Sungai Langat.

Meanwhile, a Luas senior officer said his department would send officers to investigate the issue.



The owners of the neighbouring plots suspect chemical is being released from the factory into the waterway, killing the fish in Sungai Langat.



Sludge reeking of chemical is discharged from the factory.



A new drain is being constructed along the fence of the factory.

DBKL to provide water tanks at Taman Bukit Cheras Apartment

By JAROD LIM
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KUALA Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) will replace four old water tanks at Taman Bukit Cheras Block 1 and 3 Apartment in the city as it puts the safety of residents at risk.

This follows a report by a Malay daily that highlighted the rusty, leaking and perforated water tanks due to erosion located at the top of the two apartment blocks.

Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Nor Hisham Ahmad Dahlan, who went on a site visit with a group of DBKL officers, decided to replace the water tanks despite the repairs being solely the responsibility of the apartment's Management Corporation (MC).

"DBKL should not be responsible for the repairs as the owners have their own strata title for the apartment units.

"However, since the safety of the residents is at stake here, we will replace the tanks.

"It is expected to cost RM400,000 and the work will be completed within three months.

"Consider this as part of a corporate social responsibility programme of DBKL where we give back to the community as we have some allocation from social contributions.

"I hope the Housing and Local Government Ministry can also help the residents since the poor conditions here have been highlighted," he said.

While the work is being carried out, there will be no water supply disruption for the residents' as a bypass will be in place.

Apartment MC president Poon Yoke Teng said the maintenance funds collected was not enough to pay for the repairs as it was only sufficient for basic maintenance of the building.

"We noticed the leak and the condition of the water tank five years ago but we could not afford the repairs.

"Right now, only about 50% of the unit owners have paid the maintenance fees.

"However, the situation has improved compared to previous years when only 20% paid maintenance fees.

"The money was used to settle debts with several utility companies," she said, thanking DBKL for agreeing to pay for the new tanks and construction work.



LAMPIRAN 14
HARIAN METRO: MUKA SURAT 26
TARIKH: 19 MEI 2019 (AHAD)

DBKL jimat RM15,000 hasil pengolahan sisa organik

Projek pengolahan sisa organik dari pusat penyisihan sayur Pasar Borong Kuala Lumpur berjaya menjimatkan kira-kira RM15,000 daripada kos pengurusan Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) sejak 1 April lalu. Datuk Bandar Kuala

Lumpur Datuk Nor Hisham Ahmad Dahlan berkata, kos itu daripada 30 tan sisa sayur-sayuran diolah menjadi bahan kompos yang turut merangkumi kos pengangkutan dan 'bayaran tip'.

"Projek ini amat baik untuk Kuala Lumpur, di samping menjimatkan kos penghantaran ke

Tapak Pelupusan Sanitari Bukit Tagar, kita juga boleh menjaga alam sekitar secara keseluruhannya.

"Kami akan memperluaskan program ini ke pasar sekitar Kuala Lumpur dan saya harap ia akan menjadi ikutan PBT (pihak berkuasa tempatan) lain," katanya.



LAMPIRAN 15
HARIAN METRO (SETEMPAT): MUKA SURAT 26
TARIKH: 19 MEI 2019 (AHAD)



KAKITANGAN Alam Flora mengumpul minyak masak terpakai daripada peniaga di Bazar Ramadan Putrajaya.

JAGA ALAM SEKITAR

■ Sasar kutip 1,000 kilogram minyak masak terpakai

Mohd Husni Mohd Noor
am@hmetro.com.my

Putrajaya

Kempen pengumpulan minyak masak terpakai dianjurkan Perbadan Putrajaya (PPj) dengan kerjasama Alam Flora Sdn Bhd (Alama Flora) menyasarkan untuk mengutip lebih 1,000 kilogram (kg) minyak masak terpakai khususnya daripada peniaga di Bazar Ramadan Putrajaya di sini.

Presiden PPj, Datuk Dr Aminuddin Hassim berkata, setakat 16 Mei lalu, sebanyak 513 kg minyak masak terpakai berjaya dikumpulkan daripada peniaga-peniaga di bazar Ramadan berkenaan sejak

awal Ramadan.

Beliau berkata, kempen berkenaan memasuki tahun ketiga penganjurannya tahun ini dan fokus kepada kutipan minyak masak terpakai yang dikumpulkan peniaga.

"Kami sedia maklum bahawa pakar kesihatan yang menjalankan kajian mendapati minyak masak hanya boleh diulang guna sebanyak tiga kali. Jika digunakan lebih, akan memudaratkan dan membahayakan kesihatan.

"Selain itu, kempen ini juga bertujuan menjaga

alam sekitar di mana ia dapat mengelakkan peniaga membuang minyak masak terpakai ke longkang dan saliran air," katanya.

Katanya, bagi memudahkan peniaga, pihaknya menyediakan tong khas untuk memudahkan mereka

mengumpul minyak masak terpakai.

Menurutnya, jika tong berkenaan penuh, PPj akan datang kepada peniaga dan menimbang berat minyak masak terpakai yang dikumpul.

"Insentif secara tunai iaitu RM1.10 sekilogram diberikan kepada peniaga mengikut berat minyak masak terpakai dikumpulkan," katanya.

FAKTA
RM1.10 sekilogram diberikan kepada peniaga mengikut berat minyak masak terpakai dikumpulkan



LAMPIRAN 16
THE STAR (NATION): MUKA SURAT 11
TARIKH: 19 MEI 2019 (AHAD)

Teaching pupils high-tech skills

They will learn computer programming, robotics and AI in new compulsory subject

By REBECCA RAJAENDRAM
educate@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Year Four pupils will be introduced to computer programming, robotics and Artificial Intelligence in a new subject starting next year.

Design and Technology (RBT) will be a compulsory subject where students will get to learn about these new high-tech skills while still in primary school, the Education Ministry's Curriculum Development Division deputy director (Policy and Science and Technology) Datin Dr Ng Soo Boon told *The Star*.

Ng said pupils will be taught algorithms and how to develop simple to more complicated computer programmes.

"They will learn how to programme hardware such as Arduino and Micro Bit, which is an introduction to Robotics and Artificial Intelligence.

"From next year, they will also learn how to use Scratch, a freeware for coding and other resources," she said.

Ng said pupils will use Scratch to "come up with simple programming that can make a remote control toy car move".

She said RBT is already available in secondary schools with the Form One students

in 2017 the first batch introduced to the subject.

Coding is also currently taught in secondary schools through the Basics in Computer Science (Asas Sains Komputer) subject offered in lower secondary schools and Computer Science (Sains Komputer) subject in upper secondary schools.

Students are exposed to the use of application software such as Microsoft Visual Basic, JAVA, HTML, Javascript, Microsoft Access, MySQL, XAMPP and Notepad.

Ng said certain skills such as learning to how to use Microsoft Word and Powerpoint programmes will no longer be taught in a

standalone subject.

These skills will instead be included in subjects where pupils are required to do presentations in class using a computer.

The ministry has been working with Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) to train Institutes of Teacher Education (IPG) lecturers over the past few months.

Ng said the ministry also aimed to train about 500 primary school teachers over the next few months in coding, to prepare them to teach RBT.

* See the full report in *StarEdu* today.



LAMPIRAN 17
THE STAR (FOKUS): MUKA SURAT 19
TARIKH: 19 MEI 2019 (AHAD)

His stand on the controversy surrounding Lynas

THE hot potato on Andrew Golezdzinowski's plate is Lynas, of course. Specifically, the controversial Lynas Advance Materials Plant located on the Gebeng Industrial Estate near Kuantan.

Some politicians raised concerns over the environmental risks of having the rare-earths processing plant near a major population centre like Kuantan, and a civil society group formed to oppose the plant's operations.

The group has evolved into the Save Malaysia Stop Lynas movement to further apply pressure against the Australian outfit.

Fast forward to 2019 and with a new government in place, Lynas, which is one of the largest and most modern rare earths separation plants in the world, is facing problems getting licence renewals due to heightened concerns over waste management.

The Pakatan Harapan government set up a review committee which held meetings with the management, scientific experts, community members and opposing groups. Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir

Mohamad has said Lynas can continue to operate in Malaysia on condition that the raw material brought into the country is decontaminated first, with the Cabinet setting a September deadline for this.

But in a blow to Lynas, the Prime Minister also announced that the government was opening up the rare earths mining business to other companies. With the threat of closure hanging over its facility, Lynas, which employs 645 people (97% of whom are Malaysian) in the Gebeng plant, has already rejected a take-over bid by Australian company Wesfarmers Ltd, a Perth-based diversified industrial conglomerate.

"We're still hoping for a resolution which will accommodate everybody's needs, says Golezdzinowski.

"As High Commissioner, I can't speak for Lynas, but I can speak for us.

"The two things we always wanted were a fair process and a reasonable act. We got the fair process. That process was the executive review committee, there were genuine experts appointed, they heard all sides, they

visited the facility and they came up with a very credible report. So we're very happy with the process."

The outcome is, of course, up to the government, he adds, what they do with those recommendations and what conditions they put on Lynas' future operations.

"And we're hoping that it is reasonable, by which I mean it's not up to me to dictate what the outcome should be to the Malaysian government, but we want something which allows the operation to continue, will allow the people to remain employed, will allow the government to continue benefiting from all the good things that come from that sort of investment."

On Bentong MP Wong Tack's criticism of him for "taking sides" and "dictating terms", he says he has tried to reach out to him privately.

"I offered to catch up with him over a cuppa to discuss our differences. I'm still waiting for an answer. I've never been called a coloniser before! I thought that was interesting."

A believer in science-based policies, Golezdzinowski has made it a point to visit Lynas to check it out for himself.

"I'm sorry that a number of critics have declined to visit the site itself and to talk to the workers."

He says the Australian government hopes Lynas will be allowed to continue to operate in Malaysia.

"I think indirectly it's about 2,000 Malaysians (employed). This is a high-tech industry. If you want to make cars, even not flying car, just ordinary cars, you need rare earths. All the devices on that table (*pointing to recording devices*) include rare earths.

"There are only two places in the world that process rare earths. One of them is Malaysia, and it would be a significant thing for that industry to fail here. So I don't think anybody is looking for that outcome."



For the full interview:
See The Star Online

LAMPIRAN 18 THE STAR (COVER STORY): MUKA SURAT 6 TARIKH: 19 MEI 2019 (AHAD)



School students say they want more exposure to digital education including robotics and coding. - File photo

All things technical

The skills and competencies identified as important for success in today's globalised environment will be fully embedded in the curricula.

Stories by REBECCA RAJAENDRAM
educate@thestar.com.my

MALAYSIA has got big dreams to create a society that can thrive in the fourth industrial revolution (IR4.0).

To do this, the government has been hard at work trying to instill a love for all things tech in its students.

One method is to teach digital skills via the revised Primary School Standard-based Curriculum (KSSR) and Secondary School Standard-based Curriculum (KSSM) since 2017.

The eleventh shift of the Malaysian Education Blueprint 2013-2025 also talks about leveraging on ICT to scale up quality learning across Malaysia.

The skills and competencies identified as important for success in today's globalised environment will be fully embedded in the curricula, for example, the continued emphasis on science practical lessons and use of ICT.

The ministry will ensure that it prepares students with the skills required to meet the challenges of a world that is being transformed by the application of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

They plan on doing this by raising student interest through new learning approaches and an enhanced curriculum: Incorporating higher-order thinking skills, increasing use of practical teaching tools and making the content relevant to everyday life to increase interest.

Last August, Communication and Multimedia Minister Gobind Singh Deo even suggested creating a technology stream in schools for students to cater to the growing demand for talent in a changing digital world.

Though these aspirations are commendable, students who have gone through the system think more needs to be done if the government really wants to create a responsible, tech-savvy and innovative society through the education system.

SCHOOLS under the Education Ministry are not being left behind in the digital revolution.

The ministry says digital skills have been incorporated into the school syllabus both directly and indirectly.

This is despite groans from the main stakeholders, the students, saying that they lack adequate exposure to all things digital during their lessons.

Education Ministry Curriculum Development Division deputy director (Policy and Science and Technology) Datin Dr Ng Soo Boon says that skills such as computational thinking has always been around in the school syllabus.

She says that it just went by a different name, and one that is familiar to many - higher order thinking skills (HOTS).

Computational Thinking is a problem solving process that includes decomposition, pattern recognition, abstraction and algorithms.

As part of efforts to increase student's exposure to digital technology, the ministry will introduce the Design and Technology (RBT) subject to primary schools next year.

This is all part of efforts to prepare the students for the fourth industrial revolution (IR4.0).

"Under the Primary School Standard-based Curriculum (KSSR) and Secondary School Standard-based Curriculum (KSSM), we are hastening our pace," she says.

For example, Dr Ng says that analysing big data, which involves a lot of statistics, is indirectly being taught through mathematics.

She also says that there are schools, using their own funding, equipped with smart boards and virtual reality devices.

"We hope that by increasing their

Skills under a different name



Nair: Teaching modules have been produced to support the implementation of computational thinking and computational science in the school curriculum.

use of all these technologies, we are able to increase a student's ability to think out of the box next time.

"It's not only about learning the technology but also using it."

When it comes to training teachers, Dr Ng says the ministry has been working with Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) to train a group of IPG lecturers and resource persons in secondary schools on Computational Thinking.

"We are also training primary school teachers for the RBT subject especially in coding," she says, adding that this involves IPG lecturers and another 500 teachers over the coming months.

MDEC vice-president of talent and digital entrepreneurship Sumitra

Nair says they have been working with the Education Ministry to incorporate computational thinking and computational science into the national school curriculum.

Through their My Digital Maker movement, they have been partnering with both the private and public sector to expose school students to cultivate their creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration and communication skills through digital maker activities.

The intention is to give students the opportunity for students to create their own digital technology-based inventions via skills in coding, app development, 3D-printing, robotics, embedded programming and data analytics.

She adds that teaching modules are jointly developed by MDEC and the ministry, and are produced to support the implementation of computational thinking and computational science.

The modules are used as a guide for teachers to plan their pedagogy thus make teaching and learning more effective.

To-date, teaching modules have been developed for Years One, Two and Three and all secondary levels.

Nair adds that their additions to the curriculum are in the elective subjects Computer Science and RBT.

There is also the #mydigitalmaker's Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Centres, located in 12 universities across Malaysia.

They were established to prepare teachers and ensure they have the right teaching approach and they have trained more than 1,800 Master teachers to take their knowledge into the classroom.

LAMPIRAN 18 (SAMB.) THE STAR (COVER STORY): MUKA SURAT 7 TARIKH: 19 MEI 2019 (AHAD)



Pua Kok Wei, 18, from SMJK Yoke Kuan, Selangor, says adequate exposure to the possibilities of digital technology is lacking in local schools. He believes the Ministry should increase ICT facilities in schools.

"We know that ICT is important but we do not have access to it or a good platform," he says. He also says that there should be more digital technology competitions held to give students more exposure.

The second runner-up of the Young Innovate Competition 2015 says that it was after taking part in the national-level STEM-based design competition that really sparked his interest in the field. He says ICT is not a focus in his school yet but he hopes it will be one day. "Right now, we have ICT classes after school," he says.

He says the school has a club called Transformasi Club where students can use Arduino and microcontrollers to design and build their own prototypes.

The club also organises hackathons to build prototypes under the guidance of seniors and teachers. Exposure can also come from more engagement and internship opportunities with the industry. Kok Wei, who is part of the Digital Ninja Programme by MDEC, has been interning at Fave as part of the programme.

The career immersion has given him the chance to also speak to people in the industry and learn from their experiences.

"More talks in schools by people in the industry and about what they do can really help us know what we can do if we learn these subjects. "The kinds of jobs we can do later on after we graduate," he adds.

Manoj Kumar G. Sivakumar, 18, says he finds most schools are lacking trained teachers to teach the topics to students.

"I think we need to add more teachers who know robotics and other topics."

The robotics enthusiast shares that his cousin wanted to learn more about robotics.

"But unfortunately, his school didn't have a robotics club," he adds.

He also says that students need more exposure to digital technology and its possibilities.

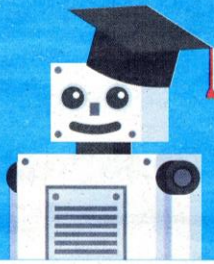
For example, under the Digital Ninja Programme, Manoj Kumar was given the chance to work with 3D printers and Arduino.

Arduino is an open-source platform used for building electronics projects. Arduino consists of both a physical programmable circuit board (often referred to as a microcontroller) and a piece of software, or IDE (Integrated Development Environment) that runs on your computer, used to write and upload computer code to the physical board.

He also had the opportunity to interact with the heads of big tech companies.

Now that he has completed the Digital Ninja Programme, Manoj Kumar will join their alumni and go to schools to help mentor the students.

He hopes that his little contribution through the alumni society will inspire other students to be part of the Digital Maker Movement.



Nur Ain Sofena Mohd Zulkifli, 18, who is an alumnus of a fully residential school, says she didn't get much exposure to all things digital during her schooling years.

Like most of her peers in the Digital Ninja Programme, she only obtained real exposure to digital technology through the programme.

Something she found severely lacking in her school.



"My school has been using mobile tablets for learning but we do not use it to learn how to 'build' things," she says, referring to programming.

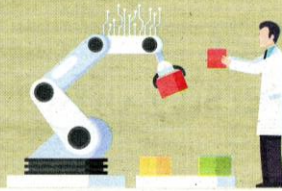
"We do have the usual robotics club and they do join competitions but the students do not continue after participating for the first time."

She believes that this is because the students do not see the value in learning robotics as they lack exposure to what the field is all about.

She however, finds robotics exciting and took it on herself to learn more about designing robots.

She adds that she had been learning programming on her own using online resources because there just wasn't enough teaching of the topic in school.

"I think if we were taught in a more formal way, we would also know how not to abuse technology and know the proper etiquette when using it," she continues.



Lim Shi Qi, 18 says there are not many opportunities for students to learn key technical skills like programming, coding, computational thinking, critical thinking and design thinking process in schools.

She was fortunate to be part of the Digital Ninja Programme which exposed her to these skills through their activities.

She says that before her mentor in school and former Teach For Malaysia alumnus, Nigel Sim Boon Wei, came to the school, they had no clue what coding was.

"We need more outsiders to come to schools and give exposure to the students.

"Show them what competitions are out there and get students to take part," she continues.

The chance to take part in competitions also gives a chance for the students to interact with their counterparts from other schools, she adds.



LAMPIRAN 19
THE STAR (NATION): MUKA SURAT 3
TARIKH: 18 MEI 2019 (SABTU)

Illegal plastic factories booming

They outnumber legal ones in Penang, say authorities

By LO TERN CHERN
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BUKIT MERTAJAM: While authorities believe that there are about 400 plastic recycling factories in Seberang Prai alone, the number of illegal operators may easily outnumber the legal ones.

Penang Welfare, Caring Society and Environment Committee chairman Phee Boon Poh said most of the illegal operators were mainly in Bukit Tengah.

"I believe that there are more unlicensed plastic recycling factories than the legal ones, and the waste is mainly brought in from other states or imported.

"Most of these factories are near Port Klang and Penang as we both have ports for the plastic to be brought in.

"Penang is an ideal place due to

its close proximity to Kedah and its abundance of remote areas.

"These companies may be registered to operate but they may not be conducting this in designated zones or have submitted applications to the relevant local authorities to process the waste," he said.

Phee said besides freezing the approved permits (AP) of unlicensed operators to import plastic waste, Penang should also have legal provisions to ensure that Tenaga Nasional and the Penang Water Supply Corporation cut their supplies to these illegal factories.

The state, said Phee, was also planning to set up an area of about 40ha near the Pulau Burung landfill in Nibong Tebal to locate the plastic recyclers together with the centralised supplies.

"We are still uncovering the illegal operators and operations are

ongoing to halt their operations," he said.

Earlier, Seberang Prai Municipal Council president Datuk Rozali Mohamad said it was in the process of charging 14 illegal plastic recycling factories in Seberang Prai.

"As of March this year, there are 404 plastic recycling factories, recovery facilities and scrapyards on the mainland.

"We've found 14 recycling factories that operate without a licence.

"We are collecting data on the operators before charging them.

"Some are still operating and they have been served with notices and compounds," he said after the full council meeting in Bandar Perda yesterday.

Batu Kawan has the highest number of plastic recycling or recovery factories with 239, followed by Bukit Mertajam (59), Nibong Tebal

(34), Tasek Gelugor (25), Bagan (23), Kepala Batas (13) and Permatang Pauh (11).

The authorities aim to shut down all illegal plastic waste recycling factories nationwide by July.

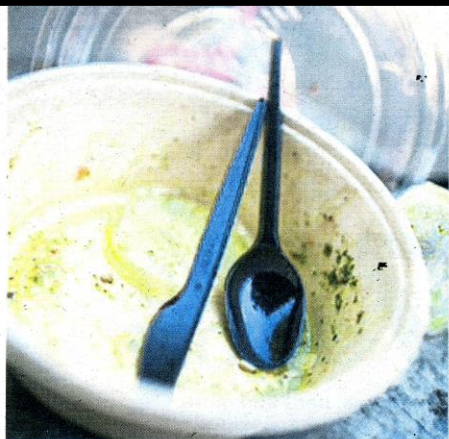
This came after the government surpassed the initial target of closing at least 100 such premises before the first quarter of the year.

A 2018 joint investigation into plastic recycling factories in Kuala Langat by Greenpeace Malaysia and the Kuala Langat Environmental Protection Association found that Malaysia took in plastic waste from at least 19 countries.

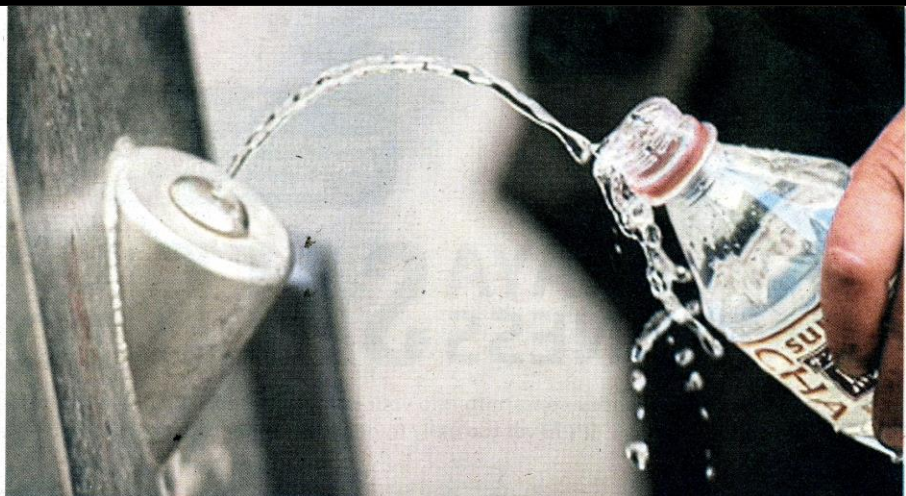
The report said that between January and July, Malaysia imported 754,000 tonnes of plastic valued at RM483mil.

According to Greenpeace, only 9% of the plastic waste was clean plastic that could be recycled.

LAMPIRAN 20
 THE STAR (TRAVEL): MUKA SURAT 6
 TARIKH: 18 MEI 2019 (SABTU)



No one can deny that plastic is incredibly practical. It's light, hygienic, resilient, heat-resistant and very cheap. But the sight of it can ruin a trip to the beach. — Photos: dpa



Travellers are advised not to drink tap water in some countries, so they resort to buying bottled water.

By STEVEN HILLE

IT TOOK Anselm Nathanael Pahnke 414 days to cycle right across Africa. And along the way he filmed his impressions of his journey. The result, *Elsewhere. Alone Through Africa*, recently hit the cinemas and one thing that really stands out is just how little garbage Pahnke produced during his adventure.

Equipped with his own cooking utensils and drinking bottles, the globetrotter only bought unpackaged food at markets and only took water from public springs and wells. This rather extreme example shows how it's possible to produce less plastic waste if one really tries.

So, how can ordinary travellers follow this example?

Of course, no one can deny that plastic is incredibly practical. It's light, hygienic, odourless, resilient, heat-resistant and very cheap.

So much so that it is now omnipresent, used in every country around the world.

On holiday, however, many tourists can be bothered by plastic, for example when it litters a beach or hiking trail. It's not that easy to use very little plastic when on your travels, either. In many countries, for example, travellers are advised not to drink tap water, meaning many people buy bottled water.

Practical yet problematic

Here are some ways to avoid using too much plastic while on holiday.

The challenge already starts before you leave, when packing for the holiday.

"There are hardly any plastic-free cosmetic products that fit in a small travel bag," says Natalie Szydlak, responsible for waste-free trips at a sustainable supplier in Germany.

"Many people buy small toothpaste tubs or shampoo bottles especially for their trips because they want to save space." However, this produces more plastic waste than conventional packaging. For many travellers, saving space is more important than not producing more plastic waste.

"Everyone has different expectations of themselves," says Szydlak.

"In a place where you've never been before and don't know the supermarkets, you're more willing to make exceptions," she says.

Nobody wants to spend their holidays looking for plastic-free alternatives. That's

difficult even back at home.

And if not careful, tourists can end up adding to the problem while on holiday. For example, by using the small packages of jam and butter that are on offer in most hotels or buying drinks served with a plastic straws.

However, if the topic is raised in a friendly manner, most people are willing to listen. "We went diving once in Egypt and while we were there we did a clean-up and took out masses of garbage," says Julia Schnetzer, marine microbiologist for the German Marine Research Consortium.

Back on the beach, a restaurant employee asked her about what she had done and she was able to explain why it is so important to clear the oceans of garbage.

There are less dramatic ways to make a difference. Szydlak suggests packing a little more to use less plastic locally. You can bring a reusable cup for coffee and boxes to carry meals or souvenirs such as spices.

"Those who like drinking with a straw should take bamboo straws with them," advises Szydlak. Reusable plastic products should also generally be avoided. It's better to switch to other materials - glass water bottles and metal lunch boxes are a more sustainable alternatives.

"It is better to take a normal razor with you than to buy a disposable razor," advises Schnetzer.

If you do end up producing plastic waste, disposing it can be a problem.

"I've often seen garbage dumped into the river behind a restaurant," says Schnetzer. There's no easy answer to where is the best place to put plastic rubbish.

"I always had the best feeling at public garbage cans," says Pahnke.

The adventurer also advises turning the avoidance of plastic into a game. "Sometimes it can be annoying, but once you've managed to buy plastic-free, it can be fun." - dpa

LAMPIRAN 21
 THE STAR (NEWS): MUKA SURAT 2
 TARIKH: 18 MEI 2019 (SABTU)

By EDWARD RAJENDRA
 edward@thestar.com.my

A BAN on plastic straws will take effect beginning July 1 in all eateries in Selangor.

The state government is imposing the ban with the aim of eliminating single-use plastics, which pollute the seas and endanger marine life.

State Environment, Green Technology and Consumer Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment Committee chairman Hee Loy Sian said Selangor would prohibit eateries from habitually providing customers with single-use plastic drinking straws.

"We will instruct all eateries, be they restaurants or neighbourhood coffeeshops to stop providing plastic straws with every drink.

"They must also not put straws on tables for customers to take freely.

"But the eatery is allowed to give a plastic straw to a customer upon request," he said after visiting the Taman Greenwood Ramadan bazaar in Batu Caves.

Hee said the state was taking a tough stance to protect the environment.

"Our aim is to change people's habit of using plastic drinking straws.

"We hope that before they get up from their seat to ask for a straw, they will think about the litter and destruction caused by these straws to marine life.

"Outlets found ignoring the ban and continuing to automatically give straws with drinks after July 1 will be issued a gentle reminder by the respective local councils."

He said changing people's mindset and behaviour was a gradual process but the state was determined to start now by using this approach to reduce and eventually eliminate single-use plastic products.

"Single-use plastics offer convenience but have terrible consequences.

"We are glad that people have become used to bringing their recyclable or cloth bags when they go shopping and some even use biodegradable bags for their groceries," he added.

Hee also urged people to bring tiffin carriers with them if they plan to take away their meals.

Selayang Municipal Council (MPS) councillor Anfaal Saari said many restaurants had begun to phase out single-use plastic straws

Ban on plastic straws in Selangor eateries from July 1

Customers can still be given straws, but only on request



Hee (second from right) with MPS acting president Datuk Juhari Ahmad visiting a Ramadan bazaar stall in Batu Caves.

on their own initiative.

"People have begun to understand the negative impact of non-biodegradable plastic straws, so they willingly forgo straws altogether," she said.

Anfall called on the public to adopt a sustainable and green practice for a better planet.

A Petaling Jaya Coffeeshop Association spokesman said most of their members had switched to paper straws.

Malaysian Indian Restaurant Owners Association president T. Muthusamy said the association's

members were supportive of the move.

He noted that there was a trend of customers bringing their own metal straws.

Malaysia Singapore Coffeeshop Proprietors General Association president Datuk Ho Su Mong said most coffeeshop operators had stopped providing plastic straws.

"We find a lot of people are aware of the need to stop using plastic straws," he said.

Malaysia will fully enforce a nationwide ban on plastic straws by next year.



Customers will have to adjust to not using plastic straws.

LAMPIRAN 22
HARIAN METRO (DEKOTAMAN): MUKA SURAT 69
TARIKH: 18 MEI 2019 (SABTU)

ILHAM GLOBAL

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Skyli bererti tempat perlindungan di Iceland, adalah pilihan penginapan selesa buat penggemar sukan ekstrem di kawasan pergunungan yang terkenal dengan suhu sejuk melampau.

Inovasi rekaan Utopia Arkitekter ini diilhamkan daripada konsep khemah yang dapat menyediakan tempat beristirahat buat pendaki gunung di Iceland.

Kabin konseptual ini dikatakan mampu menahan cuaca sejuk melampau di kawasan pergunungan negara berkenaan dibina daripada keluli dan kayu berlamina.

Menitikberatkan keunikan landskap menerusi ciri jendela bersaiz besar, projek pembangunan penginapan lestari ini boleh memuatkan 15 penghuni pada satu-satu masa.

Malah Skyli juga mempunyai ruang tambahan selesa yang berfungsi sebagai dapur, tempat penyimpanan pakaian kering dan barang kecil.

Pengasas dan pengarah kreatifnya, Mattias Listrom berkata, material digunakan perlu memiliki sifat mesra alam namun pada masa sama mampu menahan cuaca melampau.

Meskipun projek ini tidak memenangi pertandingan kabin bagi pengembara beg galas, ia tercalon dalam World Architecture Festival di Berlin, Jerman pada 2017.

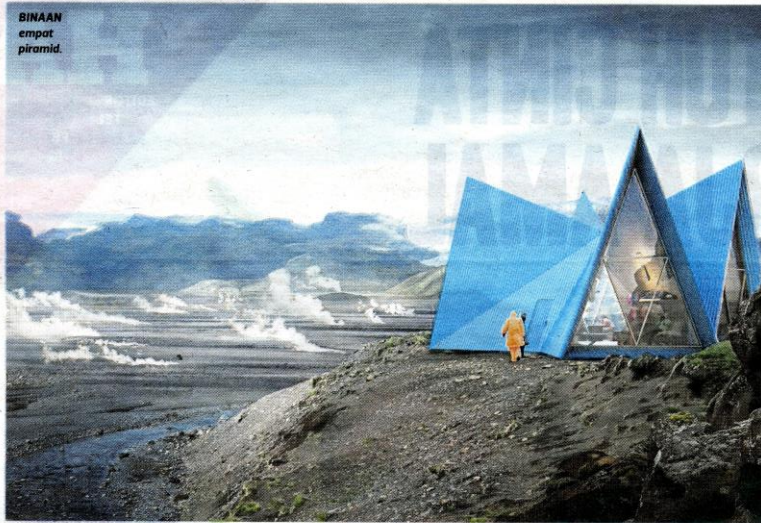
Reka bentuk seperti empat piramid yang bergabung, ia bertujuan memberi kestabilan pada struktur fasad dan membuatnya lebih menyerlah dari kejauhan.

Bumbungnya berbentuk seperti khemah diinspirasi daripada pondok tradisional Iceland manakala warna biru cerah diilhamkan daripada seni bina Reykjavik yang juga ibu kota negara berkenaan.

Binaan luar menggunakan keluli bersalut dipanggil GreenCoat, ia boleh menahan suhu takat beku dan pendedahan sinaran UV tinggi, sukar terhakis menjadikannya sesuai dengan ketinggian serta cuaca sejuk di kawasan pergunungan.

Mempunyai dua pintu masuk di arah utara dan selatan terlindung daripada tiupan angin, pintu ini dicipta dengan cara masuk ke dalam sekali gus membolehkan ia ditutup secara automatik.

BINAAN empat piramid.



SKYLI KALIS SEJUK MELAMPAU

Binaan luar guna keluli bersalut mampu hadapi suhu takat beku



DICIPTA untuk pengembara ruang maksimum.

Khemah unik ini dibahagi kepada empat ruang termasuk dua untuk berehat dan tidur, dilengkapi katil dua tingkat dan bangku sebagai ruang tidur tambahan.

Ruang ketiga pula berfungsi sebagai kawasan menjamu selesa apabila turut disediakan meja dan kerusi. Ruang keempat pula dikhaskan untuk memasak.

Menjimatkan ruang yang ada, cangkuk dipasang pada dinding untuk menyangkut barangan dan peralatan dengan lebih kemas.

Ruang antara struktur keluli di bahagian luar dan dinding dalaman daripada kayu diwujudkan untuk pengembara menyimpan pakaian basah atau berlumpur dan menyediakan ruang untuk tandas kompos.

Dibina dengan idea mobiliti, reka bentuk bumbung yang tajam juga membolehkan air hujan mengalir ke bawah sebelum terkumpul dalam tangki khas kabin berkenaan. Sumber air itu boleh digunakan sepenuhnya oleh pengembara bagi tujuan mencuci, memasak atau minum.



DIBINA menggunakan keluli dan kayu berlamina.



PILIHAN untuk pengembara di kawasan pergunungan Iceland.

LAMPIRAN 23
 THE STAR (ASEAN): MUKA SURAT 21
 TARIKH: 20 MEI 2019 (AHAD)

China ban on scrap imports a boon to US recycling plants

ALBANY: The halt on China's imports of wastepaper and plastic that has disrupted US recycling programmes has also spurred investment in American plants that process recyclables.

US paper mills are expanding capacity to take advantage of a glut of cheap scrap. Some facilities that previously exported plastic or metal to China have retooled so that they can process it themselves.

And in a twist, the investors include Chinese companies that are still interested in having access to wastepaper or flattened bottles as raw material for manufacturing.

"It's a very good moment for recycling in the United States," said Neil Seldman, co-founder of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, a Washington-based group that helps cities improve recycling programmes.

China, which had long been the world's largest destination for paper, plastic and other recyclables, phased in import restrictions in January 2018.

Global scrap prices plummeted, prompting waste-hauling compa-

nies to pass the cost of sorting and baling recyclables on to municipalities. With no market for the wastepaper and plastic in their blue bins, some communities scaled back curbside recycling programmes.

New domestic markets offer hope. About US\$1bil (RM4.1bil) in investment in US paper processing plants has been announced in the past six months, said Dylan de Thomas of The Recycling Partnership, a non-profit organisation.

Hong Kong-based Nine Dragons, one of the world's largest producers of cardboard boxes, has invested US\$500mil (RM2bil) over the past year to buy and expand or restart production at paper mills in Maine, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

"The paper industry has been in contraction since the early 2000s," said Brian Boland of ND Paper, Nine Dragons' US affiliate.

"To see this kind of change is amazing. Even though it's a Chinese-owned company, it's creating US jobs and revitalising communities."

The Northeast Recycling Council said last fall that 17 North American

paper mills had increased capacity to handle recyclable paper since the Chinese cutoff.

Plastics also has a lot of capacity coming online, de Thomas said, noting new or expanded plants in Texas, Pennsylvania, California and North Carolina that turn recycled plastic bottles into new bottles.

Chinese companies are investing in US plastic and scrap metal recycling plants to make feedstocks for manufacturers in China, he said.

It has yet to be seen whether the new plants can quickly fix the problems for municipal recycling programmes that relied heavily on sales to China to get rid of piles of scrap.

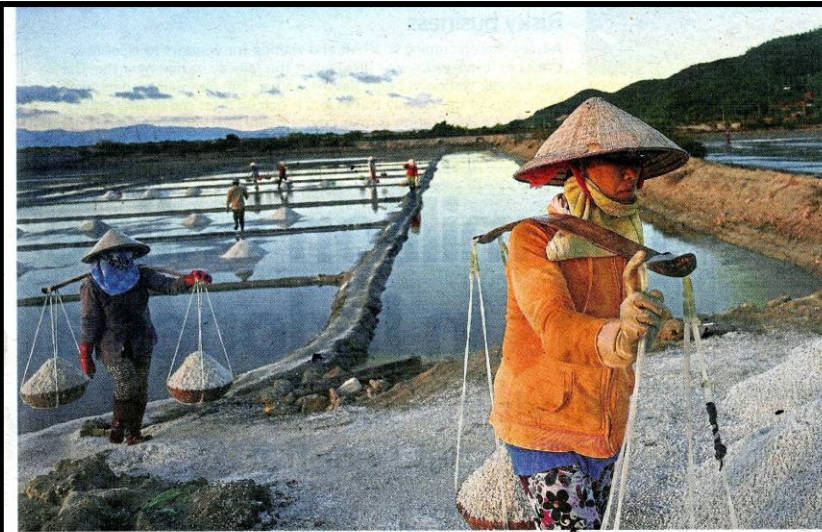
In Sarepta, Louisiana, IntegriCo Composites is turning bales of hard-to-recycle mixed plastics into railroad ties. It expanded operations in 2017 with funding from New York-based Closed Loop Partners.

"As investors in domestic recycling and circular economy infrastructure in the United States, we see what China has decided to do as very positive," said Closed Loop founder Ron Gonen. — AP



There's money in garbage: A man walking past towers of recyclables at a warehouse in Monmouth Junction, New Jersey. — AP

LAMPIRAN 24 THE STAR (ASEAN): MUKA SURAT 19 TARIKH: 20 MEI 2019 (ISNIN)



Source of livelihood: Workers carrying harvested salt in bamboo baskets in the Hon Khoi salt fields.— AFP



Punishing work: The farmers say it is tough toiling on the fields. — AFP

Vietnam salt farmers battered by imports and climate

HON KHOI: The salt farmers of Hon Khoi rise before dawn as they have for generations, fanning out across shallow seawater pools in southern Vietnam to harvest the precious mineral, hoping for a better season than the last.

The work is punishing and the incomes unstable, subject to sea-sawing demand swayed by foreign imports and increasingly unpredictable weather patterns.

Many people in the sleepy seaside town in Khanh Hoa province have worked much of their lives in the salt fields, an Instagram hotspot where workers wearing conical hats ferry mountains of the saline crystals in bamboo baskets along reflective ponds against a setting sun.

They shuffle carefully along narrow ledges separating the rectangular plots that are pumped full of salty seawater.

But the farmers say life is tough on the fields, where they toil during

the annual harvesting season from January to June.

"This job is no fun at all. We have to work so hard in the sun and then during the cool season, we are off," said Nguyen Thanh Lai, his tan skin weathered from nearly four decades of working in the fields.

He sells his harvest to local traders who pass it up the value chain until it reaches dining tables or factories around Vietnam, where it is used to preserve fish, concoct Southeast Asia's popular, pungent fish sauce or make soda water.

Lai has long struggled to raise his five children, but he says both demand and market price used to be more reliable.

"In the past we didn't make losses in salt production. Now there are losses," the 60-year-old said, wearing two hats to shield his face from the searing morning sun.

As technical supervisor, he typically earns US\$360 (RM1,500) a

month during the harvesting season – more than double what most salt workers take home.

But his income zigzags depending on demand, which itself fluctuates based on imports from abroad.

Vietnam produced about one million tonnes of salt in 2015 according to the latest official data, and often clocks surpluses, but it still ships salt in, mostly from China and India.

The country imported 500,000 tonnes of the mineral in 2017 despite a 147,000-tonne surplus of domestic production.

The imported product is of a quality required for industrial use, something the local salt is not always suitable for.

But unpredictable demand is not all Vietnam's salt farmers are up against.

In Hon Khoi – a popular tourist destination for throngs of visitors who pack its white sandy beaches – farmers are also contending with

climate change.

Shifting weather patterns have upended work in an industry that depends on sunny, dry days for maximum production.

"If the weather is good, we can work for six months.

"If it rains, we all go hungry," said 57-year-old Nguyen Quang Anh, who has laboured in the fields for two decades.

"Climate change really has had an impact because salt production needs stable weather."

The United Nations says climate change has "undermined" the lives of farmers in Vietnam, where the wet season has come earlier or brought in heavier rains in recent years.

"In Vietnam and elsewhere, climate change has put weather in flux. When you can no longer plan for the future, you can only hope," said Dechen Tsering, UN Environment's Regional Director for Asia

and the Pacific.

Vietnamese authorities vowed to reform the sector in 2014, rolling out a 15-year plan to modernise the industry in a bid to help struggling farmers like Anh.

The blueprint called for production to triple by 2030, promised new technology and called on local officials to support farmers hit by fluctuating weather patterns.

Few have felt the impact of the plan – or ever heard about it – in Hon Khoi, where the salt industry remains the main employer.

That means many are taking a gamble on the sector.

"Sometimes I'm nervous, but I'm in the business so I have to accept the risks," said Nguyen Van Vinh, who just started working in the fields this season to supplement his income running a small stationery shop.

"If I don't harvest salt, I won't earn enough." — AFP

LAMPIRAN 25 THE STAR (SMEBIZ): MUKA SURAT 11 TARIKH: 20 MEI 2019 (ISNIN)

Robots take the wheel

Autonomous machines are hitting the fields at farms

ROBOTS are taking over farms faster than anyone saw coming. The first fully autonomous farm equipment is becoming commercially available, which means machines will be able to completely take over a multitude of tasks. Tractors will drive with no farmer in the cab, and specialised equipment will be able to spray, plant, plow and weed cropland. And it's all happening well before many analysts had predicted thanks to small startups in Canada and Australia.

While industry leaders Deere & Co and CNH Industrial NV haven't said when they'll release similar offerings, Saskatchewan's Dot Technology Corp has already sold some so-called power platforms for fully mechanised spring planting. In Australia, SwarmFarm Robotics is leasing weed-killing robots that can also do tasks like mow and spread. The companies say their machines are smaller and smarter than the gigantic machinery they aim to replace.

Sam Bradford, a farm manager at Arcurus Downs in Australia's Queensland state, was an early adopter as part of a pilot programme for SwarmFarm last year. He used four robots, each about the size of a truck, to kill weeds.

In years past, Bradford had used a 120-foot wide, 16-tonne spraying machine that "looks like a massive praying mantis."

It would blanket the field in chemicals, he said.

But the robots were more precise. They distinguished the dull brown colour of the farm's paddock from green foliage, and targeted chemicals directly at the weeds.

It's a task the farm does two to three times a year over 20,000 acres. With the robots, Bradford said he can save 80% of his chemical costs.

"The savings on chemicals is huge, but there's also savings for the environment from using less chemicals and you're also getting a better result in the end," said Bradford, who has run the farm for about 10 years.

Surrounding rivers run out to the Great Barrier Reef off Australia's eastern coast, making the farm particularly sensitive over its use of chemicals, he said.

Costs savings have become especially crucial as a multi-year rout for prices depresses farm incomes and tightens margins. The Bloomberg Grains Spot Index is down more than 50% since its peak in 2012.

Meanwhile, advances in seed technology, fertilisers and other crop inputs has led to soaring yields and oversupply. Producers are eager to find any edge possible at a time when the US-China trade war is disrupting the usual flow of agriculture exports.

Farmers need to get to the next



Putting technology to work: Joe Allnutt, lead roboticist at British startup Small Robot Company, inspecting a farming robot. More startups are developing lightweight autonomous machines that can work on cropland with precision. — AP

level of profitability and efficiency in farming, and "we've lost sight of that with engineering that doesn't match the agronomy," said SwarmFarm's chief executive officer Andrew Bate.

"Robots flip that on its head. What's driving adoption in agriculture is better farming systems and better ways to grow crops."

First rollout

In Saskatchewan, the first commercially sold autonomous tractors made by Dot are hitting fields this spring.

The Dot units won't be completely on their own this year — farmers who bought equipment as part of a limited release are required to watch them at all times. But after this trial run, the producers will be able to let the equipment run on its own starting next year. That will open up a lot of time for the growers who will no longer need to sit behind the steering wheel.

Farmers are always managing multiple tasks, said Leah Olson-Friesen, chief executive officer of Dot. "When you look at the amount of intelligence that's sit-



Improving automation: Machinery suppliers say automating tasks for farmers is more beneficial than having autonomous equipment. — Reuters

ting in the cab, they could be on the phone doing different things or outside of the cab — there's some real opportunities there."

But farmers do more than steer when they're in the cabs of their tractors, said Alex Purdy, head of John Deere Labs and director of

precision agriculture technology. Deere hasn't yet released fully autonomous equipment because the technology that's out there still isn't good enough to replace people, he said.

Machinery that uses automation for tasks right now is more

beneficial to farmers than autonomous equipment, Purdy said. Artificial intelligence, deep learning and advances in computer vision are going to transform agricultural machinery even further, he said.

"Automation is a never-ending journey — there's always something that will get better over time, and there's so much opportunity that we're prioritising automation over autonomy," Purdy said.

Looking at every factor

A modern tractor does thousands of tasks, and to provide a fully autonomous solution, a deep understanding of each of those tasks is needed to automate them, said Brett McClelland, product manager of autonomous vehicles at CNH Industrial.

While CNH Industrial in 2016 revealed a sleek, aggressive-looking prototype to much fanfare, the product is still in test pilots and not yet commercially available. For some tasks, current equipment is oversized, and smaller machines might be able to successfully scout a field, for instance. But they won't be able to prepare the ground for planting carrots, where machines rip up soil 40 inches deep, McClelland said.

"Farmers have a demand for productivity, and they'll take it in whatever way we can give it, and technology is the new way," he said.

Still, bigger won't necessarily be better going forward, according to Ohio State University professor Scott Shearer. Modern tractors can weigh more than 50,000 pounds, which compresses the soil, making it less productive. Alleviating that compaction could increase crop yields by as much as 7%.

Increases in precision technology will also allow for smaller robots, as was the case for farmer Bradford's fields where weed-killing spray was applied only where it was needed.

"To survive, farmers are always having to try to become more efficient and to keep costs down, while improving yields," Bradford said. "The way that's going to be achieved is in accuracy, by being timely with the operations and applying inputs directly where they are needed, rather than with a broad blanket approach to large areas. That's where these robots will work." — Bloomberg



LAMPIRAN 26
THE STAR (SMEBIZ): MUKA SURAT 11
TARIKH: 20 MEI 2019 (ISNIN)

China to lead the way in property technology

THE fast-emerging technology and Internet industry has been shaping real estate business and industry experts said China will lead the way in property technology (proptech).

Albert Ovidi, chief operating officer of JLL Asia Pacific, a leading professional real estate services firm, said at the China Proptech Forum and Exhibition held in Beijing that just as in many other industries, real estate is also advancing fast, thanks to the development of technologies.

He believed artificial intelligence, blockchain, virtual and

augmented reality and the Internet of Things (IoT) are the future of property technology and also a field where China excels.

"China will be the world leader in AI by 2030," he said.

As the trend of applying AI in real estate was strong, he said China is leading the way in real estate.

Speaking about IoT, he said China already owned approximately 20% of the global market share of Internet-connected devices, which made China a leader in the field.

"In the past four years, we have

seen co-working space with technology, new retail experience centres and many proptech startups focusing on the real estate industry rise rapidly in Beijing," said Julien Zhang, managing director of North China at JLL. "This confirms our belief there is great potential for proptech in Beijing, which is the centre of national technology innovation."

Experts believed that proptech, especially the application of big data, can largely reshape the way a city is designed and planned in China.

"The future urban planning will

focus on people," said Wang Fei, head of strategic consulting of JLL in Beijing. "In the past two decades, China has been building cities on a massive scale, but wasn't able to predict who would be living in them and the size of the population. In the future, it will be all about the users of cities."

He Wanyu, founder of Xkool Technology, a tech startup that specialises in applying artificial intelligence solutions to urban planning, said the key was to apply the data collected to the planning.

"What many smart cities did in

the past was to allow the city leaders and the property developers to see the data, but not respond to the data," she said. "After applying AI, we can make the urban design meet the demand from the people we detect from the data."

"For example, in the planning of Xiongan New Area, in the past we could only analyse the climate and the geographic features," she said.

"But now we can be specific to the actual demands of the citizens and companies, and make detailed plans for every inch of the land." — China Daily/ANN



LAMPIRAN 27
BERITA HARIAN (DUNIA): MUKA SURAT 36
TARIKH: 19 MEI 2019 (AHAD)

Info



Dunia bersatu bendung pencemaran sisa plastik

Susunan oleh Zulhilmi Hat
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Tahukah anda, kegagalan mengurus sampah menyebabkan ratusan orang maut saban tahun di negara yang membangun daripada mencegah puncunya dan tambah perit, sisa plastik menambah dimensi baharu kepada masalah pada hari ini.

Apa yang jelas, sisa pembuangan perbandaran sering kali tidak diikuti di negara-negara miskin dan sering kali dibakar sehingga pelbagai penyakit menular.

Menurut badan kebajikan Tearfund, antara 400,000 dan sejuta orang dilaporkan maut akibat salah urus sisa itu.

Walaupun kegagalan urus sisa menjadi masalah selama beberapa berdekad, peningkatan pencemaran sisa seakan-akan tidak merosot dalam alam sekitar - sekali gus mencetuskan masalah baru kepada keadaan yang lebih dahsyat lagi.

Contohnya, sampah plastik boleh menyekat saluran air sehingga menyebabkan banjir dan penyakit bawaan air.

Tambahan pula, apabila orang ramai membakar sampah bagi melupuskannya, asap itu akan mengeluarkan toksin berbahaya hingga menyebabkan pencemaran udara.

Setiap saat, sisa plastik sebesar bas dua tingkat dibakar atau dibuang di negara-negara membangun.

Apabila ia mengurai, sebenarnya bahan itu akan melepaskan bahan bertoksik dalam alam semula jadi dan menukarnya kepada mikroplastik di mana kesannya masih lagi kurang difahami dan sebahagian besarnya tidak didokumentasi di negara-negara miskin.

Sir David Attenborough dari

pada siri dokumentari *Blue Planet 11*, menarik perhatian global terhadap masalah pembuangan sisa plastik dan menggesa tindakan segera diambil syarikat yang bertanggungjawab mengeluarkan bahan plastik.

Hilang sumber ikan

Ia kemudian menjadi bahan buangan selain membantu negara-negara yang bergelut dengan masalah pencemaran itu.

"Sudah tiba masanya kita mengalih perhatian sepenuhnya kepada salah satu masalah paling mendesak hari ini iaitu menghalang krisis pencemaran plastik yang bukan saja untuk bumi kita malah untuk kesejahteraan penduduk di seluruh dunia.

"Laporan ini adalah yang pertama menumpukan kesan pencemaran plastik iaitu bukan saja dalam hidupan liar malah kepada penduduk termiskin di dunia.

Antara kesan lain akibat pencemaran plastik di negara miskin ialah kehilangan sumber ikan di mana hidupan laut menelan plastik dan kerosakan dalam sektor pertanian di mana hampir separuh binatang ternakan seperti kambing dan lembu di negara membangun dikatakan menelan sejumlah besar plastik yang disangkakan sebagai makanan.

Kesannya, haiwan ternakan akan jatuh sakit dan akhirnya mati dan sekali gus menjejaskan sumber makanan kepada penduduk dunia.

Sisa plastik yang mencemarkan pantai dan batu karang juga akan mengurangkan tarikan pelancong sehingga menjejaskan industri pelancongan, terutama di negara miskin.

Menurut laporan Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (PBB), setiap tahun, kira-kira 8 juta tan sisa plastik dibuang ke laut.

Fakta mengenai sisa plastik

→ **Penyelidikan dijalankan** oleh Ocean Conservancy menunjukkan bahawa hampir 80 peratus plastik yang berada di laut datangnya dari darat yang dibawa sungai.

→ **Saintis di Pusat Helmholtz** sudah mengkaji 57 sistem sungai di seluruh dunia dan mendapati 10 sungai, khasnya di Asia mengangkut lebih 90 peratus plastik ke lautan.

→ **Sejumlah besar sisa plastik** seperti bekas, bungkus dan botol dibuang dalam alam semula jadi.

→ **Negara sedang membangun** belum lagi mempunyai sistem pengurusan sampah yang cekap berbanding negara maju.

→ Kesejahteraan penduduk, generasi masa depan perlu jadi keutamaan semua

Penduduk tempatan mengutip sisa plastik untuk dijual.



LAMPIRAN 27 (SAMB.)
 BERITA HARIAN (DUNIA): MUKA SURAT 37
 TARIKH: 19 MEI 2019 (AHAD)



Pencinta alam sekitar memegang kain rentang yang menyeru pemuangan sisa plastik di laut dihentikan



Ikan paus memakan plastik pembungkus yang disangka makanan.



Kura-kura yang terperangkap dalam gelungan plastik sehingga cacat.

LAUTAN PASIFIK

192 negara yang bersempadan dengan Atlantik, Pasifik, Lautan Hindi dan Mediterranean serta Laut Hitam menghasilkan 2.5 bilion tan sisa pepejal pada 2010



Fakta nombor

Senarai negara penyumbang sisa terbesar di dunia (juta tan setahun)

- 3.53 CHINA
- 1.29 INDONESIA
- 0.75 FILIPINA
- 0.73 VIETNAM
- 0.64 SRI LANKA
- 0.41 THAILAND

Perlu tindakan antarabangsa

Minggu lalu, negara di seluruh dunia kecuali Amerika Syarikat, bertindak menandatangani petisyen menerusi PBB untuk merancang mengurangkan aliran sisa plastik ke negara-negara membangun.

"Kami memerlukan pemimpin daripada mereka yang bertanggungjawab memperkenalkan plastik ke negara-negara yang tidak dapat menguruskan dengan secukupnya.

"Kami juga memerlukan tindakan antarabangsa bagi menyokong komuniti dan kerajaan yang paling terkesan dengan krisis ini," kata Attenborough yang juga naib presiden pemuliharaan amal Flora & Fauna International.

Difahamkan kira-kira dua juta orang di seluruh dunia membuang sampah merata-rata sehinggalah boleh menjejaskan laluan air dan sekali gus menyebabkan pencemaran atau sisa mereput berhampiran kawasan penempatan.

Sebenarnya, tinggal di kawasan dipenuhi sampah berisiko terkena cirit-birit yang menjadi punca utama kepada kematian di negara membangun.

Justeru, janganlah kita membuang sisa sampah di laut yang kelak akan merugikan sumber makanan dan generasi akan datang.



LAMPIRAN 28
THE STAR (WORLD): MUKA SURAT 26
TARIKH: 18 MEI 2019 (SABTU)

'New laws of robotics needed to tackle AI'

VATICAN CITY: Decades after Isaac Asimov first wrote his laws for robots, their ever-expanding role in our lives requires a radical new set of rules, legal and AI expert Frank Pasquale warned.

The world has changed since sci-fi author Asimov in 1942 wrote his three rules for robots, including that they should never harm humans, and today's omnipresent computers and algorithms demand up-to-date measures.

According to Pasquale, author of *The Black Box Society: The Secret Algorithms Behind Money and Information*, four new legally-inspired rules should be applied to robots and AI in our daily lives.

"The first is that robots should complement rather than substitute for professionals," Pasquale said on the sidelines of a robotics conference at the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

"Rather than having a robot doctor, you should hope that you have a doctor who really understands how AI works and gets really good advice from AI, but ultimately it's a doctor's decision to decide what to do and what not to do.

"The second is that we need to stop robotic arms races.

"There's a lot of people right now who are investing in war robots, military robots, policing robots."

— AFP



LAMPIRAN 29
NEW STRAITS TIMES (WORLD): MUKA SURAT 55
TARIKH: 18 MEI 2019 (SABTU)

RECYCLING PLANT

Timor Leste to become world's first plastic-neutral nation

KUALA LUMPUR: In a region where seas are awash with trash, Timor Leste is set to become the world's first country to recycle all its plastic waste after it teamed up with Australian researchers yesterday to build a revolutionary recycling plant.

The US\$40 million (RM167.1 million) plant will ensure that no plastic, once used in the Southeast Asian nation, would become waste, but would instead be turned into new products.

Dili said it had signed a memorandum of understanding with Australia's Mura Technology to establish a non-profit called Respect that will run the plastic recycling plant, expected to launch by the end of 2020.

"This is a small country where we can make a statement — making the whole country the first to be plastic neutral, in a region where there is the largest pollution of marine life," said Thomas Maschmeyer, co-inventor of the recycling technology to be used in the new plant.

"Plastic, if you don't dispose of it well, is a terrible thing (but) if you can dispose of it well, it's a great thing."

More than eight million tonnes of plastics are dumped in the world's ocean each year, scientists say — about a truckload per minute. China, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Thailand are among the top culprits, waste experts say.

Aside from the impact this has on human health and wildlife, the 21-strong Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group said it cost the region's tourism, fishing and shipping industries about US\$1.3 billion a year.

Timor Leste, with a population of just 1.3 million, generates about 70 tonnes of plastic waste each day, most of which is collected from beaches and urban areas, then burned in the open.

Maschmeyer said the new plant would use chemical technology to quickly turn plastic waste into liquid or gas without adding mineral oil, which no other recycler can do as well.

"The issue with plastic is what you do when you've finished using that product," said Maschmeyer, who teaches at the University of Sydney.

"In our case we can chemically recycle it and put it back into the circular economy." **Reuters**



LAMPIRAN 30
THE STAR (ASEAN): MUKA SURAT 23
TARIKH: 18 MEI 2019 (SABTU)

President stresses AI's role in national growth

BEIJING: China attaches great importance to innovative development, and it considers new generation artificial intelligence (AI) as the driving force for scientific and technological development, industrial optimisation and upgrading as well as major productivity improvements while it strives to achieve high-quality development, President Xi Jinping said.

Xi made the remark in a congratulatory letter to the World Intelligence Congress, which opened in Tianjin.

The president noted that AI is having a significant and far-reaching impact on economic development, social progress and global governance.

He expressed hope that participants at this third congress strengthen exchanges, enhance consensus and step up cooperation to promote

the healthy development of new-generation AI.

Having read out Xi's letter at the opening ceremony, Li Hongzhong, secretary of the Tianjin Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China, said that Tianjin would embrace a new era of artificial intelligence, create a new intelligence-based economy, step up AI cooperation with other countries and speed up the building of an

"intelligent Tianjin".

Li said the city will intensify efforts to boost AI applications in fields of urban management, public services, transportation and logistics, as well as in the fields of healthcare and security.

Minister of Science and Technology Wang Zhigang said China is drafting regulations and standards for regulating AI and will publish them soon.

Wang said more effort is needed to make breakthroughs in basic AI theories and core technologies, expand the application fields of AI and further propel the deep integration of AI within various industries.

He added that these efforts form a part of a broader push to support the development of the economy as well as the improvement of people's livelihoods. — China Daily/Asia News Network



LAMPIRAN 31
THE STAR (WORLD): MUKA SURAT 26
TARIKH: 18 MEI 2019 (SABTU)

Tiny Timor-Leste to become world's first plastic-neutral nation

KUALA LUMPUR: In a region where seas are awash with trash, Timor-Leste is set to become the world's first country to recycle all its plastic waste after it teamed up with Australian researchers to build a revolutionary recycling plant.

The US\$40mil (RM166mil) plant will ensure that no plastic, once used in the South-East Asian nation, would become waste, but would instead be turned into new products.

Dili said it had signed a memorandum of understanding with Australia's Mura Technology to

establish a non-profit called Respect that will run the plastic recycling plant, expected to launch by the end of 2020.

"This is a small country where we can make a statement - making the whole country the first to be plastic neutral, in a region where there is the largest pollution of marine life," said Thomas Maschmeyer, co-inventor of the recycling technology to be used in the new plant.

"Plastic - if you don't dispose of it well - is a terrible thing (but) if you can dispose of it well, it's a great

thing," Maschmeyer said.

In many parts of Asia, fast-growing economies and populations, coupled with huge coastlines and densely populated cities, have filled local seas with trash and plastic waste.

Garbage collection services and infrastructure have largely failed to keep pace with rapid development.

More than eight million tonnes of plastics are dumped in the world's ocean each year, scientists say - about a truckload per minute.

China, Indonesia, Vietnam, the

Philippines and Thailand are among the top culprits, waste experts say.

Aside from the impact this has on human health and wildlife, the 21-strong Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group has said it costs the region's tourism, fishing and shipping industries about US\$1.3bil (RM5.4bil) a year.

Impoverished Timor-Leste, with a population of just 1.3 million, generates about 70 tonnes of plastic waste each day according to government data, most of which is col-

lected from beaches and urban areas, then burned in the open.

Maschmeyer said the new plant would use chemical technology to quickly turn plastic waste into liquid or gas without adding mineral oil, which no other recycler can do as well.

"The issue with plastic is what you do when you've finished using that product," said Maschmeyer, who teaches at the University of Sydney. "In our case we can chemically recycle it and put it back into the circular economy." — Reuters



LAMPIRAN 32 UTUSAN MALAYSIA (LUAR NEGARA): MUKA SURAT 40 TARIKH: 18 MEI 2019 (SABTU)

Kepulauan Cocos ditimbuni ratusan juta bahan plastik

CANBERRA 17 Mei - Kepulauan Cocos yang terletak jauh di Lautan Hindi dan menjadi inspirasi kepada Charles Darwin menghasilkan kertas kajian saintifik kini hampir keseluruhannya dicemari ratusan juta sampah khususnya bahan plastik.

Terkenal dengan keindahan pantai, Kepulauan Cocos di pesisir Australia merupakan perhentian penting ketika pelayaran HMS Beagle pada 1836.

Bagaimanapun, kepulauan itu kini seakan-akan pusat pelupusan sampah, termasuk berjuta-juta bahan plastik, botol air dan beratus-ratus berus gigi yang ditemukan.

Lapor *Daily Mail*, kira-kira 90 peratus daripada 238 tan sisa buangan di pulau-pulau itu ditemukan di dasar laut.

Pendedahan dibuat oleh sekumpulan saintis dari Universiti Tasmania yang mengumpul plastik, kaca, kayu dan logam yang dibuang dekat 25 pantai di sekitar tujuh anak pulau

berdekatan.

Menurut laporan itu, kira-kira 25 peratus daripada sampah yang dikutip merupakan plastik pakai buang termasuk straw, beg dan berus gigi.

Saintis, Dr. Jennifer Kavers yang memantau pulau tersebut sebagai sebahagian daripada kajiannya menyifatkan Cocos amat membimbangkan.

"Adalah penting untuk kita bertindak berdasarkan amaran alam semula jadi. Bahan buangan mencemari Cocos.

"Ini berdasarkan sampel yang dikumpul pada kedalaman laut dan belum melibatkan beberapa pantai lain yang dikatakan 'hot spot' sampah sarap," katanya.

Pulau Cocos juga dikenali sebagai Pulau Keeling dan hanya dua daripada 27 pulauanya didiami oleh manusia.

Pensyarah Universiti Victoria, Dr. Annett Finger menyeru agar penghasilan produk-produk berasaskan plastik seluruh dunia dapat dikurangkan.



PULAU Cocos yang keindahannya pernah menjadi inspirasi penulisan Charles Darwin kini dicemari sampah berupa bahan plastik. - AGENSI