

Malaysia's untold story on sustainability at Expo 2020 Dubai

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The tree concept design of Malaysia Pavilion at Dubai 2020 Expo. - NSTP/PAUL MU.

DUBAI: The untold story of Malaysia going towards sustainability development is highlighted in the Malaysia Pavilion at the Expo 2020 Dubai.

"The story we are telling in the exhibition is our commitment towards sustainability development where we are putting a lot of focus on climate change issues," said Malaysia Pavilion director Michelle Lau Sook Yee when met at the expo here.

She explained the design concept of the Malaysia Pavilion located at the expo's sustainability district, which is a rainforest tree with a treehouse perched on top.

"The first section of the exhibition is to let the visitors experience the rainforest and the water feature because Malaysia is blessed with many rivers.

"Our main story starts here, we want the world to know that Malaysia has pledged 50 per cent at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. Today, we have 55 per cent of our land mass under forest cover," she said.

"From forest, we go to plantation as we wanted to say that we have fulfilled our pledge in meeting the 50 per cent forest covered commitment in the country.



Malaysia Pavilion director Michelle Lau Sook Yee (right) giving the Sabah delegation led by Sabah Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Joachim Gunsalam (3rd right) a tour in Malaysia Pavilion during the Sabah Week on December 20 to 24. - NSTP/PAUL MU.

"We emphasised that the Malaysian government has solid policies in place to keep the lands with palm oil plantation at 6.5 million ha, today we have 5.85 million ha which means we did not plant more than that.

"Then, we also tell a story that plantation is very important to the Malaysia's economy as it provided job opportunities to about 500,000 oil palm smallholders."

The smallholder farmers were able to generate income to send their children to schools, she added.

Moving on is the country's aspiration to develop the fields of science and technology because we cannot depends on plantation as our only commodity.

The Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry has outlined policies and initiatives to turn Malaysia into a high-technology country by 2030, she said.

MOSTI is developing a start-up development roadmap with the target of creating 5,000 companies including five unicorns start-up.

The final story is about Petroliam Nasional Berhad (Petronas) aiming to achieve net zero carbon emission by 2050, she said.