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Collaboration needed to boost hydrogen economy roadmap, says EPU

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KUALA LUMPUR (Aug 2): The government and industry players need to strengthen their collaboration to ensure the successful implementation of the upcoming hydrogen economy and technology roadmap.

Economic Planning Unit (EPU) Director-General Datuk Seri Saiful Anuar Lebai Hussien said effective cooperation will ensure that the country advance further the hydrogen uptake, as it transitions to a low carbon future.

"The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation through National Nanotechnology Centre, in collaboration with NanoMalaysia Bhd, Malaysian Green Technology Corporation and Academy of Sciences Malaysia, are currently in the midst of analysing the roadmap.

"The scope of the action plan includes the development of the hydrogen ecosystem with the aim to drive innovation in hydrogen-related technologies," he said during the keynote address at the inaugural Hydrogen ASEAN 2022 Summit on Tuesday (Aug 2).

According to Saiful Anuar, among key strategies in ensuring the success of the roadmap is to deploy hydrogen production at scale to simultaneously drive the supply and demand.

"Reducing the cost of hydrogen electrolyzers is critical to drive the required innovation to increase its performance, durability and reliability," he added.

Saiful Anuar noted that to grow the hydrogen economy at scale, there is a need to invest in building new infrastructure for developing and distributing the hydrogen supply.

"By doing so, a comprehensive hydrogen ecosystem and value chain can be developed that will help to manage costs, attract investment and secure production, which in return will allow growth of the hydrogen economy.

"This will allow Malaysia to build a more efficient supply chain that can facilitate the international supply and demand for our hydrogen," he said.

Apart from that, Saiful Anuar said there is also a need to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework to look at the whole value chain including hydrogen development, transportation, pricing mechanism, safety, licensing and market fairness.

"This is to ensure both industry players and consumers will benefit equitably.

"As such, the government must ensure the regulatory framework is comprehensive enough to establish a fair playing field, as well as high compliance to health, safety and environment aspects," he said.