



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

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CLOSER TIES AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO MINISTRIES IN ENVIRONMENT-RELATED MATTERS : 31st Malaysia – Singapore Annual Exchange Of Visits (AEV)

PUTRAJAYA, 27 SEPTEMBER 2018 – Since 1979, the Malaysia – Singapore Annual Exchange of Visits (AEV) has facilitated closer ties and co-operation between the two ministries in environment-related matters.

For The 31st Malaysia – Singapore AEV, Mr. Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources of Singapore, visited Malaysia from 26 to 27 September 2018, at the invitation of YB Yeo Bee Yin, Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change.

The Malaysian delegation was led by YB Yeo Bee Yin, which comprised Secretary General YBhg. Datuk Seri Dr. Mohd Azhar Bin Hj. Yahaya and senior officials from the Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change, Department of Environment and other government agencies.

Mr. Masagos Zulkifli led the Singapore delegation, comprising Permanent Secretary Mr. Albert Chua and senior officials from the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, the National Environment Agency and other government agencies.

During this visit, the two Ministers reviewed the progress achieved by the Malaysia-Singapore Joint Committee on the Environment (MSJCE).

On 26 September 2018, the 32nd MSJCE Meeting deliberated and exchanged views on the following areas of cooperation as stated at **Attachment 1**.

The Ministers also agreed to enhance collaboration by further cooperating in new areas such as climate change, waste management including plastics and packaging waste, circular economy, industrial pollution and radiation safety.

Other than that, the Ministers acknowledged the progress made by ASEAN Member States in addressing the perennial problem of transboundary pollution, and reaffirmed their commitment to work together and with other countries on such issues going forward.

The next AEV in 2019 will be held in Singapore.

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Areas of Cooperation

**Malaysia-Singapore Joint Committee on the Environment (MSJCE)
Meeting.**

a) Control of Vehicular Emissions

The two Ministers noted the close bilateral cooperation to reduce harmful vehicular emissions so as to achieve better air quality in both countries, and encouraged both sides to continue to update each other on policies, share best practices and identify areas of cooperation.

b) Joint Monitoring of Water Quality in the Straits of Johor

The two Ministers agreed on the importance of good water quality in the Straits of Johor, and encouraged both sides to continue efforts to improve water quality by implementing measures to control sources of pollution.

c) Progress Report on the Monitoring of Ecology and Morphology in and around the Straits of Johor

Both countries agreed to continue exchanging information on the monitoring of ecology and morphology in and around the Straits of Johor, for the purpose of conserving the marine biodiversity of both countries.

d) Emergency Response Plan for Chemical Spill at Malaysia-Singapore
Second Crossing

The MSJCE had endorsed the ERP and agreed that regular joint field exercises be conducted to determine its effectiveness as well as the preparedness of the various agencies from Malaysia and Singapore during an emergency. The ERP was recently reviewed and the revised

version, dated October 2015, was adopted by the EG on 30 March 2016 in Singapore. Malaysia through DOE (Johor) organized the 11th joint field exercise on 15 Nov 2017. The field exercise proceeded smoothly, with agencies from both sides responding promptly and effectively to deal with the simulated chemical spill incident. It was noted that Singapore would be hosting the next chemical spill exercise in 2019.

e) Emergency Response Plan for Chemical Spill in the East Johor Strait

The two Ministers noted the increase in ship traffic in the Straits of Johor, and highlighted the importance of regular joint exercises to maintain the teamwork between both sides to facilitate and coordinate prompt response actions in the event of an accident. It was also noted that Malaysia would be hosting the next joint field exercise of the emergency response plan for chemical spill in the East Johor Strait in 2020.

f) Collaboration between Malaysia and Singapore in the Area of Oil Spill Prevention and Control in the Straits of Johor

The two Ministers commended the good collaboration between both sides in information sharing and capacity building to prevent and control oil pollution in the Straits of Johor, and encouraged both sides to continue their work in protecting the shared marine environment from oil pollution.

g) Collaboration in Training between Environment Institute of Malaysia (EiMAS) and Singapore Environment Institute (SEI)

The two Ministers noted the continued cooperation between the two institutes in exchanging training opportunities and resources, which have helped the environment officers from Singapore and Malaysia to further develop their professional knowledge and skills.

h) Exchange of Information under the Settlement Agreement

Both countries discussed and exchanged information pursuant to the 2005 Settlement Agreement on matters affecting the environment in and around the Straits of Johor.

i) Other Matters

Both countries exchanged views on other matters pertaining to the transboundary movement of wastes and e-wastes, as well as land reclamation works in and around the Straits of Johor.

The Ministers discussed land reclamation works in the Straits of Johor and their potential adverse transboundary impact. The Ministers agreed that it is important for Singapore and Malaysia to continue to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. They also reaffirmed their commitment under the Settlement Agreement to monitor, exchange information on and discuss matters affecting their respective environments in the Straits of Johor, including reclamation works with potential adverse transboundary impact. In this regard, the Ministers urged the Danga Bay Joint Task Force to work closely and resolve the issues pertaining to the findings of the bathymetry surveys at Danga Bay expeditiously.