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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

PRESS RELEASE

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

ASEAN COUNTRIES' COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY THREATS

JOHOR BAHRU, 11 JULY 2025 – YBrs. Puan Ruziah binti Shafei, Deputy Secretary General (Planning and Science Enculturation) of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), officiated the closing of the Multilateral Nuclear Security Detection Exercise, Malaysia-Indonesia-Thailand-Singapore 2025 (MITSATOM 2025), at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Johor Bahru, Johor.

MITSATOM 2025 was held in conjunction with the Chairmanship of the Department of Atomic Energy (Atom Malaysia) in the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM), as part of Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2025. MITSATOM 2025 successfully tested the effectiveness of detection and response procedures among ASEAN member states in addressing nuclear security events involving the smuggling of radioactive materials across borders, namely the Malaysia-Thailand and Malaysia-Singapore land borders, and the Malaysia-Indonesia maritime borders. This aligns with the principles of Malaysia MADANI, which emphasise the values of innovation, efficiency, inclusivity, and universal well-being.

Throughout the exercise, both a Tabletop Exercise (TTX) and a Field Training Exercise (FTX) were successfully conducted with the cooperation of various national law enforcement and regulatory agencies, including the Department of Atomic Energy (Atom Malaysia), the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM), the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM), and the Malaysian Border Control and Protection Agency (AKPS).

MALAYSIA MADANI

This event demonstrated the high capabilities and effective coordination among agencies in addressing nuclear security incidents involving the smuggling of radioactive materials across land and maritime borders, reflecting the values of confidence and integrity that form the foundation of MADANI governance.

MITSATOM 2025 was attended by representatives from Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, the United States of America, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Their presence provided a platform for the exchange of views and assessment of the effectiveness of procedures and operational capabilities among ASEAN member states in addressing nuclear security threats.

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DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (Atom Malaysia) Control over the use of radioactive substances has been in place since 1968 when Parliament passed the Radioactive Substances Act 1968.

Given the rapid development of atomic energy activities in Malaysia, more effective control was needed In April 1984, Parliament passed the Atomic Energy Licensing Act 1984 (Act 304). Subsequently, the Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB) was established on 1 February 1985 and placed under the Prime Minister's Department.

On 27 October 1990, this department was placed under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI).

Later, on 9 June 2022, this agency was named the Department of Atomic Energy (Atom Malaysia). Atom Malaysia is a regulatory body responsible for regulating and enforcing the Atomic Energy Licensing Act 1984 (Act 304) and its subsidiary legislation. Its purpose is to ensure that all activities involving the use of atomic energy are conducted safely without endangering workers, the public, property, or the environment.

For more information, please visit www.atom.gov.my

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