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ESG IN REAL ESTATE

Issue 11

Increasing demand for sustainable living spaces and green-certified buildings

Green buildings are designed with the environment in mind, aiming to preserve natural resources while enhancing the quality of human living.

In Malaysia, “green buildings” are primarily recognised under the Green Building Index (GBI), a comprehensive green rating tool which encapsulates guidelines for a sustainable and greener construction. It also acts as a guide for construction actors such as developers, architects, designers and the project development team when implementing features and amenities in anticipated green projects.

The elements required in GBI include designing energy or water-saving buildings, healthier indoor environment, better connectivity to public transport, recycling practices, as well as adopting technology that reduces impact on the environment. Aside from GBI, another relevant certification that qualifies projects as green is Green Real Estate (GreenRE), or the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) from the US Green Building Council (USGBC) which take into account a green building’s features and green design elements, before awarding a rating score.

Over the years, numerous developers have taken pride in showcasing their commitment to the sustainability agenda by incorporating environmental design principles into their building and project developments. Currently, there are at least 389 registered GBI projects in Malaysia ranging from residentials, corporate offices, towers, retail complexes and government buildings. [READ MORE](#)



Malaysia to roll out Energy Transition Roadmap in phases, says Rafizi

Malaysia is set to roll out its Energy Transition Roadmap in phases starting next month, putting the country's net zero ambition into action by identifying key impact initiatives and implementation plans for the next two decades.

Economy Minister Mohd Rafizi Ramli said the road map outlines the government's move to achieve its renewable energy (RE) capacity target of 70% by 2050.

"We will launch the first phase by end-June, which includes strategic projects and initiatives, such as hydrogen and solar farms, as well as an RE special zone.

"Phase 2 will be in August this year [involving] the enablers — by that I mean the legislative reforms, incentive funding that are available that we will put through to accelerate the transition," he told reporters at the Affin Conference Series 2023 here on May 30.

He said the government had to drive change by working closely with the industry, as the country's energy transition plan is a major undertaking. "We estimate that this ambition would require an investment of RM637 billion (or US\$150 billion), an amount that would substantially reshape the landscape and conversation about renewables in the region," he said. [READ MORE](#)



TNB established sustainability division to bolster ESG strategy

Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) has formed a new sustainability division to drive the implementation of its environmental, social, and governance (ESG) strategy, thus reinforcing its sustainability commitment and responsible energy transition (ET) journey.

President and chief executive officer Datuk Baharin Din said the new division, which commences today, would push the electric utility company's sustainability drive further by anchoring on three strategic pillars, namely energy sources, energy vector, and energy usage.

"Regionally, TNB has stepped up our responsible ET agenda through collaboration with major power players in Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos to capitalise on serving regional demand with greener power. "Beyond new revenue streams from renewables, these collaborations allow for a wider integration and reallocation of renewable energy (RE) resources that will help decarbonise the Asean power system as well as ensure greater energy security for the region," he said in the statement today.

Baharin said these strategic partnerships would boost its ongoing drive to strengthen the Asean Power Grid interconnectivity and advance Malaysia's aspiration of becoming the RE hub for Asean.

On the energy sources pillar, TNB Power Generation Sdn Bhd (TNB Genco) had committed to several expansion plans from 2023 onwards, he said. [READ MORE](#)



Terengganu's biogas plants fully operational, linked to grid: TDM

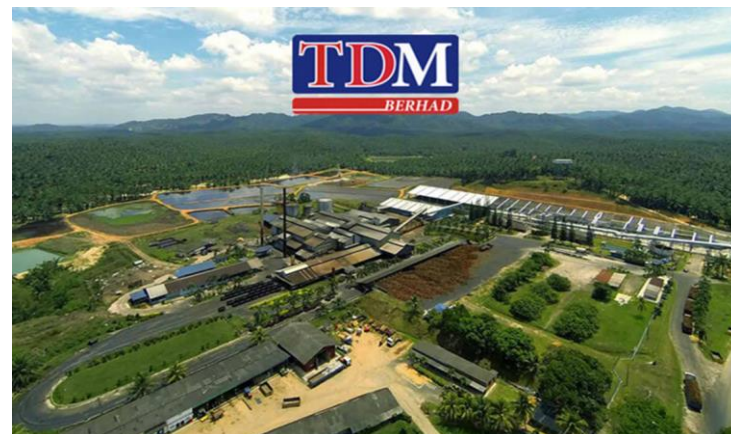
Terengganu's first two biogas power plants, built through a joint venture between state subsidiaries TDM Bhd (TDM) and Concord Group, have been fully operational and are successfully supplying two megawatts of power directly to Tenaga Nasional Bhd's (TNB) grid.

Built at the cost of RM50 million, the two plants began operating in March and June last year, said TDM chairman Datuk Tengku Farok Hussin Tengku Abdul Jalil.

He added that the plants have the potential to generate 29.78 million kilowatt hours of renewable energy per annum using the covered lagoon system at Kemaman and Sg Tong.

“Under the build, operate, own, transfer agreement signed in 2019, TDM and Concord have jointly developed, operated and maintained renewable energy-based power generation.

“We (TDM) are always looking for room to improve the quality of business without neglecting environmental sustainability,” he said after inauguration of TDM's biogas power plant in Padang Kubu, Kemaman by Sultan of Terengganu Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin. [READ MORE](#)



UPSI's first phase of solar project expected to save RM13.5mil

Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), Sultan Azlan Shah Campus in Proton City, near here, is expected to save up to RM13.5 million through its first phase of solar project.

The benefits are expected to be obtained over a 20-year concession period through the construction of 3.24MWp photovoltaic (PV) solar panels at the campus.

Its deputy vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Md Amin Md Taff said the project was the result of a collaboration between UPSI Holdings Sdn Bhd, Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) and Synergy Generated Sdn Bhd (SGSB) to build solar panels around the campus.

He said the project was in line with the university's commitment to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the collaboration between UPSI Holdings and SGSB aligned with UPSI's strategic objectives toward the development of a smart, digital, sustainable and environmentally-friendly campus.

"The first project is expected to provide benefits and savings of RM13.5 million and a reduction of 56,000 tonnes of carbon emissions over the 20-year concession period. [READ MORE](#)



S P Setia launches ESG roadmap at inaugural Sustainability Day

S P Setia has launched its Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Roadmap with its first Sustainability Day at Setia City Convention Centre on May 31.

The ESG Roadmap will encompass the group's new Purpose and Vision.

"In our continuous commitment towards not just eco-conservation but ESG standards, I am pleased to announce the launching of S P Setia's inaugural Sustainability Day and Green Roadmap. With the new ESG Roadmap, I am also happy to announce our new Purpose of 'Creating Sustainable Communities' and new Vision, 'To Be A Leader in Creating Sustainable Communities and Enriching Lifestyles'," said Datuk Choong Kai Wai, president and chief executive officer of S P Setia at the event.

Guided by its new Sustainability Framework established in 2022, S P Setia aspires to achieve Net Zero by 2050 with its Green Roadmap with specific methods to reduce carbon emissions by 40% in 2030 and 70% in 2040. [READ MORE](#)

