

# ZERIN HABITAT

## Issue 72

WEEKLY UPDATES

## ESG IN REAL ESTATE



# Citi Expands Sustainable Operations with LEED-Gold Office in Penang

Citi Malaysia has launched its new LEED-Gold certified office, Citi Transaction Services Malaysia Sdn Bhd (CTSM Penang), located at Sunshine Tower in Air Itam, Penang. The new space now houses over 1,000 employees and reflects Citi's focus on sustainability and innovation.

The office is a strategic hub, handling over 100 million transactions annually and supporting banking operations across more than 50 countries. This expansion reinforces Citi's long-standing presence and commitment to growing Malaysia's financial services sector.

Citi Malaysia CEO Vikram Singh emphasized Penang's value as a strategic base, highlighting the new office's role in enhancing both local and global service delivery. The facility provides a modern, dynamic work environment that supports employee productivity and operational excellence.

Citi has been a key player in transaction processing in Malaysia since opening its first Citi Solutions Centre in Penang in 1993. The new site strengthens its role in Citi's global network and commitment to Malaysia's economic growth.

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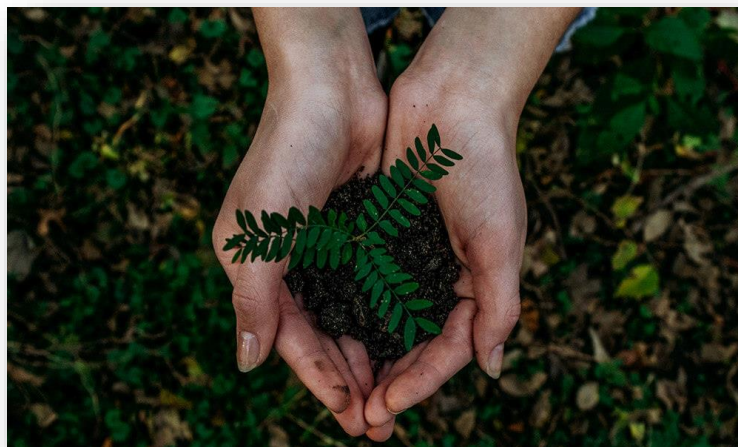
# Sustainable Tourism Is Rising as Malaysia's Hotels Go Green

More travellers are choosing eco-friendly holidays and hotels that support green practices. Booking.com's 2023 report shows 76% of global travellers want to travel sustainably, and over half are willing to pay more for eco options. In Malaysia, sustainability is now a key focus, especially for Visit Malaysia 2026.

The Malaysian Association of Hotels launched an ESG certification in 2024 to guide hotels in adopting sustainable practices. Hotels like Sheraton Kuching, Temple Tree Resort, and The Danna Langkawi are making real changes—using bamboo products, replacing plastic, and promoting recycling.

Guests are encouraged to join through towel reuse programmes, recycling bins, and Earth Hour events. The Danna also upcycles linens and supports local sourcing. Temple Tree harvests rainwater and uses solar energy.

These hotels show that green initiatives can work without sacrificing comfort. Together with eco-conscious travellers, they're shaping a cleaner, more responsible future for tourism in Malaysia. [READ MORE](#)



# DPS, Invest Energy Partner to Power AI Hub with Solar Energy

DPS Resources Bhd is teaming up with Invest Energy Sdn Bhd to develop solar farms and sustainable infrastructure for its upcoming AI data centre and high-tech industrial park in Alor Gajah, Melaka. The collaboration was formalised through an MoU between DPS's subsidiary, DPS Energy, and Invest Energy Ventures.

The deal includes the development of solar farms and independent utility systems, such as district cooling and steam distribution facilities. These systems will form a centralised utility facility (CUF) to power and support the energy needs of the site.

DPS stated that a definitive agreement will be executed within 60 days of securing a client for the AI data centre. Terms for investment and profit-sharing will be finalised in that agreement.

Executive chairman Tan Sri Sow Chin Chuan described the partnership as a milestone in combining green energy with technological progress. He said the project underlines DPS's ESG focus and commitment to Malaysia's digital transformation. [READ MORE](#)



# Malaysia, Japan Unite on RM142 Million Gurun Solar Project

Malaysia strengthens its clean energy push with a RM142 million solar project in Gurun, Kedah, announced at Expo 2025 Osaka. The 29.99 MW project will be developed by SM01 Sdn Bhd, a joint venture between Malaysia's Solarvest Asset Management and HSS Engineering, and Japan's Shizen Energy Inc.

Facilitated by MIDA under the Corporate Green Power Programme, the project aligns with Malaysia's National Energy Transition Roadmap. It is expected to reduce over 1.1 million metric tonnes of carbon emissions over its lifetime and reflects Malaysia's role as a regional green investment hub.

The partnership highlights strong international collaboration, with each company holding equal equity. Shizen brings renewable energy expertise, while local partners lead engineering and project delivery.

Leaders from Solarvest, Shizen, and HSS expressed confidence in Malaysia's supportive regulatory environment and commitment to ESG goals. The SM01 launch reinforces the country's drive to attract impactful, sustainable investments in green energy infrastructure. [READ MORE](#)



# Sarawak and China Partner to Boost Renewable Energy Investment Projects

InvestSarawak and China Energy Engineering Investment Corporation Ltd (CEEIC) have signed a memorandum of understanding to develop large-scale renewable energy and infrastructure projects in Sarawak. The collaboration involves a potential investment of US\$1.35 billion (RM6 billion), targeting a total energy capacity of two gigawatts.

This partnership supports Sarawak's goal to shift towards low-carbon manufacturing and a hydrogen economy under its Post Covid-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030. The initiative reinforces Sarawak's role as a regional hub for renewable energy and sustainable growth.

Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Awang Tengah welcomed the investment, highlighting its alignment with the state's clean energy ambitions. CEEIC also expressed commitment to delivering long-term value and aiding Sarawak's energy plans, pending Chinese government approval.

InvestSarawak will assist in project development, from planning to implementation. CEEIC, a subsidiary of China Energy Engineering Corporation, brings expertise in solar, wind, and hydroelectric energy infrastructure. [READ MORE](#)



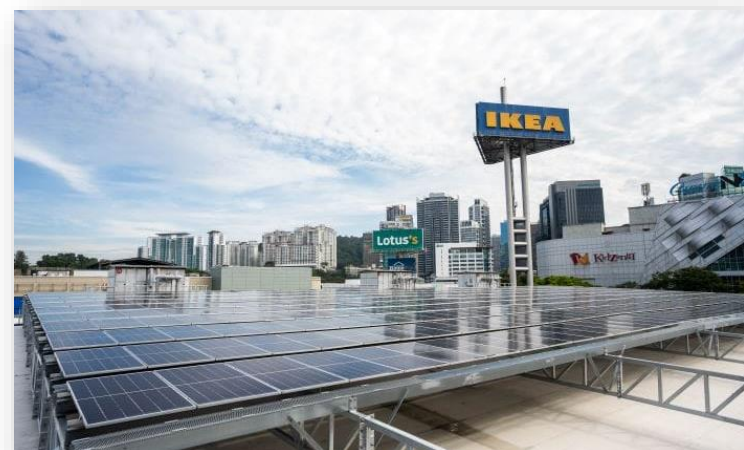
# IKEA Malaysia Expands Solar Power, Marks Earth Day with Impact

IKEA Malaysia marked World Earth Day by installing 2,668 solar panels on its Damansara store rooftop, spanning 12,000 square metres. The system will generate 2 MWh of energy annually, powering 25% of the store's needs and cutting 1,330 tonnes of carbon emissions each year.

With this addition, IKEA Malaysia now operates over 20,437 solar panels nationwide, producing 6.3 MWh of renewable energy annually. This milestone highlights IKEA's commitment to sustainability and energy independence across its operations.

The company's efforts go beyond solar. IKEA Cheras was the first store globally to receive both Malaysia's GBI Gold and LEED Gold certifications, a feat since matched by IKEA Batu Kawan. IKEA is also expanding its electric vehicle fleet to achieve 100% sustainable deliveries by 2030.

As a pioneer in environmental retail practices, IKEA continues to lead with bold steps—phasing out single-use plastics early, switching fully to LED lighting, and offering energy-efficient home solutions. [READ MORE](#)



# CelcomDigi Leads ESG Rankings Among Malaysian and ASEAN Telcos

CelcomDigi Bhd has emerged as Malaysia's top telecommunications company in environmental, social, and governance (ESG) ratings, according to CIMB Securities. It scored highly across MSCI, FTSE4Good, and Refinitiv, positioning itself as a regional ESG leader.

Telekom Malaysia (TM) followed closely, performing well in Refinitiv and S&P Global scores. Maxis and Time dotCom ranked third and fourth respectively. While ESG ratings vary across agencies due to differing methodologies, CelcomDigi consistently performed well, earning an AA rating from MSCI alongside Maxis.

Compared to major ASEAN peers, only Thailand's Advanced Info Service matched CelcomDigi's standing. Time dotCom excelled under Sustainalytics, ranking second among 14 ASEAN telcos. In Refinitiv's evaluation, both CelcomDigi and TM were among the regional top five.

Despite moderate ESG risks in the sector, CIMB sees limited valuation impact. However, cyber threats and service quality remain key concerns. The firm maintains an 'overweight' rating on Malaysia's telecom sector, highlighting future growth through cybersecurity services. [READ MORE](#)



# EdgePoint Launches Solar Hybrid Site to Power Greener Connectivity

EdgePoint Towers Sdn Bhd, a unit of EdgePoint Infrastructure, has launched its first solar hybrid telecom site in Malaysia, a key step toward sustainable digital infrastructure. This innovation aims to deliver energy-efficient connectivity, especially in remote and transit-heavy zones.

The site features a 5.9-kilowatt peak solar system with battery storage, enabling it to meet up to 100% of its power needs. It's expected to reduce annual carbon emissions by about 78%, significantly cutting diesel reliance.

CEO Muniff Kamaruddin said the hybrid solution is ideal for high-demand areas like highways and tunnels, ensuring reliable connectivity while lowering emissions and operating costs. The initiative supports seamless network performance without sacrificing environmental goals.

This development forms part of EdgePoint's broader sustainability agenda. By the end of 2025, the company plans to expand its solar and hybrid network sites nationwide, reinforcing its commitment to clean energy solutions across Malaysia's telecom infrastructure. [READ MORE](#)



# US Hits Southeast Asia Solar Imports With Steep New Tariffs

The US has imposed duties as high as 3,521% on solar imports from Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Thailand, citing unfair subsidies and below-cost pricing. The move aims to protect US solar manufacturers but may disrupt renewable energy development reliant on affordable foreign supplies.

The duties follow a yearlong probe launched under President Biden, with support from domestic firms like Hanwha Q Cells and First Solar. They add to earlier tariffs imposed under Trump and could reshape global supply chains. Despite these measures, some firms have already shifted production to nations like Indonesia and Laos.

Cambodia received the highest duty after exiting the investigation. Other key players like Jinko, Trina, and JA Solar face steep levies across multiple countries. While stocks remained steady, long-term impacts hinge on further trade rulings.

The US International Trade Commission will soon decide if the tariffs are justified by harm to domestic producers, potentially spurring more global responses and reshaping the solar industry. [READ MORE](#)



# Malaysia and Turkiye to Strengthen Renewable and Nuclear Energy Ties

Malaysia and Turkiye are advancing their energy partnership by formalising a memorandum of understanding (MoU) focused on renewable and nuclear energy. Deputy Prime Minister Fadillah Yusof confirmed efforts to elevate an earlier letter of intent to a structured MoU after discussions with Turkish officials in Ankara.

The MoU will enhance collaboration between policymakers, building on ties established during President Erdogan's visit to Malaysia in February. The meeting also explored European energy regulations and trading models as references for improving bilateral cooperation.

Key areas discussed include energy export-import management, regulatory frameworks, and expertise in grid systems and distribution. Officials from the Energy Transition and Water Transformation Ministry (PETRA), TNB, and Malaysia's embassy in Turkiye were present.

Fadillah will next lead the Malaysian delegation to the \*Future of Energy Security Summit\* in London. His participation signals Malaysia's sustained efforts in energy transition and security, in partnership with global energy leaders and institutions. [READ MORE](#)



# Malaysia Mandates CSI Platform for Sustainability Reporting by PLCs

Public-listed companies in Malaysia must now use Bursa Malaysia's Centralised Sustainability Intelligence (CSI) platform for sustainability reporting under the National Sustainability Reporting Framework (NSRF). The platform supports IFRS S1 and S2 standards and is aimed at ensuring structured, transparent disclosures.

The CSI offers free tools, including carbon calculators and reporting modules, and value-added AI features like CarbonGPT and ESG rating analyzers from SustenyX. These tools help simplify Scope 3 emissions reporting, generate reports, and offer actionable recommendations to improve disclosures.

Designed with smaller firms in mind, the CSI eases compliance through dashboards, templates, and e-learning modules. It also facilitates supplier engagement and training, vital for Scope 3 tracking.

While the CSI reduces complexity and cost, companies still need skilled professionals or consultants to meet evolving global standards. Bursa plans to regionalize the platform, supporting broader ASEAN adoption and enhancing sustainability reporting across supply chains. Access for auditors will be included by 2027. [READ MORE](#)



# Malaysia Aims to Lead Southeast Asia in Green Finance Shift

At the 2025 National Climate Governance Summit, Malaysia reaffirmed its climate leadership and ambition to be Southeast Asia's transition finance hub. The summit brought together 90 global experts to discuss sustainable finance, policy, and innovation.

Malaysia announced key initiatives, including a carbon tax by 2026, a domestic emissions trading system, and updated climate policies to reach net-zero by 2050. Financial institutions backed this push, offering green loans and support tools for small businesses.

Petronas unveiled plans to build three carbon capture hubs, aiming to store emissions from Malaysia and neighboring countries. Industry players like FGV and MISC shared efforts to cut emissions but called for stronger government support and clear incentives.

Speakers stressed the need for clearer policies, innovation-friendly regulations, and climate integration in boardrooms. The summit ended with a call for shared leadership across sectors to turn climate ambition into real-world action. [READ MORE](#)



# Bank Negara Champions Inclusive, Sustainable Finance Across ASEAN Region

Bank Negara Malaysia is backing ASEAN's 2025 chairmanship theme by driving financing for the region's energy transition and empowering SMEs toward low-carbon goals. Central to this is support for the ASEAN Power Grid (APG), a cross-border renewable energy project that needs infrastructure investment and strategic funding.

Alongside this, Bank Negara will expand its Greening Value Chain (GVC) programme across ASEAN. GVC equips SMEs to track and reduce emissions. A new playbook based on Malaysia's GVC rollout will guide regional businesses and financiers.

Assistant Governor Madelena Mohamed highlights the financial sector's role in reaching net zero by 2050. Islamic finance has laid strong foundations for climate finance, and new tools like the ASEAN Taxonomy help guide transition efforts.

Madelena also stressed the need for collaboration, resilience, and inclusive governance. Structured programmes are in place to build internal capacity, and the central bank is pushing for real, impactful implementation of its climate strategies. [READ MORE](#)



# Malaysia Plans Solar, EV Waste Guidelines Amid Green Growth Surge

Malaysia is exploring specific guidelines for the disposal and recycling of solar panels and electric vehicle (EV) batteries as green tech waste increases. While existing laws cover these waste types broadly, Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad said targeted policies are needed to address their unique life cycles and environmental risks.

The move follows a boom in solar installations, supported by the National Energy Transition Roadmap, which aims for 70% renewable energy by 2050—half of it from solar. However, Malaysia currently lacks infrastructure to handle large-scale solar waste, with most used panels exported instead of recycled, raising environmental and circular economy concerns.

Speaking at IKEA Damansara, where he observed a 2MWh rooftop solar installation, Nik Nazmi highlighted the urgency of responsible waste management alongside green energy growth.

He urged greater corporate involvement in sustainability efforts, citing IKEA's contribution of 20,437 panels across Malaysia generating 6.3MWh yearly as an example of impactful private sector leadership. [READ MORE](#)

