

ZERIN HABITAT

Issue 79

WEEKLY UPDATES

ESG IN REAL ESTATE



National ESG Strategic Plan Anchors Malaysia's Green Economic Transition

Malaysia is finalising two major frameworks: the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP) and the National ESG Strategic Plan (NESP). The 13MP will be tabled in Parliament next month, while NESP will support businesses, especially SMEs, in adopting ESG practices in line with global standards and national sustainability goals.

Sarawak is leading with its Sustainability Blueprint 2030, aiming for net zero by 2050. This includes RM50 million in green financing for SMEs. These efforts form part of a broader national transition, projected to draw RM1.3 trillion in green investments by 2050, add RM220 billion to GDP, and create 310,000 jobs.

The government targets a renewable energy mix of 70% by 2050. Businesses are urged to embrace long-term strategies, invest in green skills, and embed inclusive, responsible practices.

Climate change is no longer distant. Leadership and immediate action are essential to build resilience, safeguard the economy, and secure future competitiveness. [READ MORE](#)

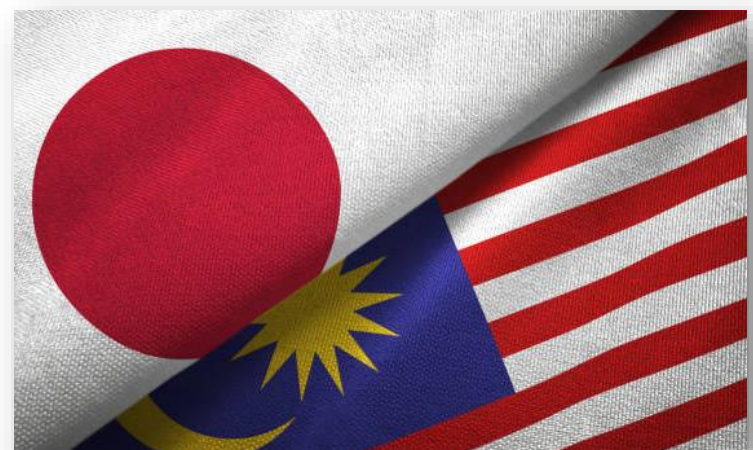


Japan and Malaysia Strengthen Space Ties for Shared Prosperity

Japan and Malaysia are building a sustainable, commercially viable space ecosystem to address societal challenges and drive mutual growth. This partnership is grounded in long-standing cooperation between JAXA and the Malaysian Space Agency (MYSA), reinforced by a memorandum of cooperation signed in 2023.

JAXA supports Malaysia through space-based research, satellite development, and technical expertise. These efforts align with Malaysia's Space Exploration 2030 (MSE2030), a national strategy to boost competitiveness, strengthen sovereignty, and improve service delivery across key sectors using space technology.

The recent Technomart Malaysia-Japan event at Expo 2025 Osaka showcased practical business opportunities in Earth observation, small satellite manufacturing, launch services, and lunar exploration. It served as a strategic platform to connect innovation with impact. With Malaysia investing in talent and Japan seeking global partnerships, both nations are poised to lead in regional space innovation through collaboration, technology, and shared commitment to sustainable progress. [READ MORE](#)



Selangor Boosts SME ESG Readiness and Climate Resilience Initiatives

Selangor, in partnership with the UN Global Compact Network Malaysia and Brunei, has launched a capacity-building programme to help SMEs integrate ESG practices and stay competitive in the green economy. This effort is anchored by the Selangor Climate Adaptation Centre (SCAC), launched on May 19, which supports climate-risk monitoring and policy development.

State councillor Jamaliah Jamaluddin stressed the programme reflects Selangor's broader response to climate threats like sea level rise and extreme weather. The state is committed to balancing environmental goals with socio-economic needs, particularly for communities affected by emission reduction and energy transition measures.

Selangor is exploring carbon markets and green growth strategies to generate revenue for long-term adaptation. Key projects include the Raw Water Security Scheme and broader climate policy goals under DPINS. The state is also accessing international climate finance through a partnership with MIGHT, securing support from the Global Environment Facility for sustainable development. [READ MORE](#)



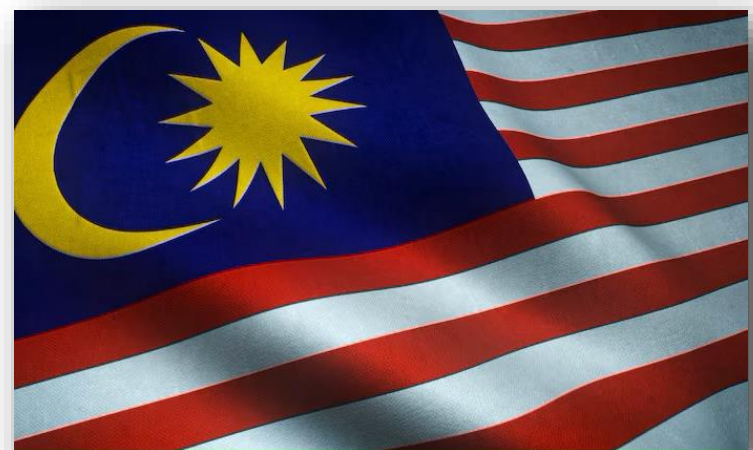
Malaysian Companies Must Deepen ESG Reporting and Board Independence

Public-listed companies in Malaysia are now required to disclose sustainability strategies in annual reports. These statements must cover ESG risks and opportunities, though there is no uniform reporting template. ESG priorities may differ across sectors, but transparency is vital for building investor trust and long-term value.

While ESG reporting has grown, especially in environmental areas, social disclosures lag behind. Issues like forced labour, as seen in the YTY Group case, show the urgency for stronger oversight on employment practices and ethical supply chains. Addressing social sustainability calls for inclusive, root-cause-driven approaches.

Board independence is emerging as a key driver of ESG performance. The MCCG 2021 supports this through reforms such as the two-tier voting process and discouraging political appointments. As of October 2024, 67% of listed companies meet the 50% independence threshold. Still, ESG progress needs strong internal governance and a long-term mindset to ensure lasting impact.

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Sabah Strengthens Position as Hub for Renewable Energy Investment

Sabah is emerging as a strong contender for renewable energy investment, with potential to tap into debt capital markets to finance large-scale green infrastructure. Maybank's Head of ESG Strategy, Ranita Abdullah, noted the state's past success in attracting sustainable finance and emphasized the role of green sukuk and bonds in supporting long-term, fixed-rate projects.

Maybank has mobilized RM160 billion in sustainable finance since 2021. Ranita highlighted that while funding is available, project quality remains key—off-take risk, regulatory clarity, and long-term viability are crucial for securing support. Financial institutions are well-positioned to assist if these elements align.

According to SEDA's Saiful Hakim, Sabah's renewable potential is diverse, including hydro, bioenergy, geothermal, and ocean energy. However, connectivity remains a challenge, especially for remote resources, and bioenergy has lagged due to inconsistent feedstock. Meanwhile, solar has gained traction for its scalability, lower costs, and reliable performance, making it a preferred option for investors. [READ MORE](#)



LBS Secures RM88.4 Million for Solar Project in Senawang

LBS Bina Group's special purpose vehicle, Suria Hijauan Sdn Bhd, has secured RM88.4 million in green financing from Alliance Bank Malaysia to support its first 43 MWp solar farm in Senawang, Negeri Sembilan. The project falls under the Corporate Green Power Programme and is targeted for completion by year-end.

The solar farm will generate about 53,000 MWh of clean energy annually, offsetting around 35,000 tonnes of carbon emissions. This will provide LBS with recurring revenue and enhance its long-term earnings resilience. Atlantic Blue, a subsidiary of Solarvest Holdings, was appointed as the EPCC contractor under a RM104 million contract.

LBS Group executive chairman Tan Sri Lim Hock San said the project reinforces the group's sustainability commitment and strengthens its renewable energy expansion. It also complements their core property business with integrated green solutions. Alliance Bank CEO Kellee Kam highlighted the bank's support for sustainable development and praised LBS's strategic direction. [READ MORE](#)



Sarawak Partners with China Firms on 1,000MW Floating Solar Plan

Sarawak has formalised an MoU with China Three Gorges International Ltd and Shanghai Electric Power T&D Group to explore a floating solar project at the Bakun Hydroelectric Plant reservoir. Signed during the 2025 SNEC PV Expo in Shanghai, the agreement outlines joint studies for a facility of up to 1,000MW.

Sarawak Energy Bhd confirmed the collaboration aligns with the state's ambition to strengthen energy security and environmental sustainability. The MoU was signed by officials from Sarawak's Ministry of Utility and Telecommunication, CTGI, and Shanghai Electric, with high-level witnesses including Shanghai's mayor and Sarawak Energy's CEO.

Premier Tan Sri Abang Johari's keynote, read by Deputy Minister Datuk Ibrahim Baki, set ambitious goals: 10GW capacity by 2030 and 15GW by 2035, with over 60 percent from renewables. Sarawak's broader solar roadmap includes rural electrification, hydrogen-solar integration, and expanded net metering, following its successful 50MW Batang Ai floating solar project. [READ MORE](#)



Sarawak Aims for 1,500MW Solar by 2030, Boosting Green Growth

Sarawak is charging toward 1,500 megawatts of solar energy by 2030, a bold move to fuel its renewable energy ambitions. This target, part of the Sarawak Energy Transition Policy, drives the state's vision for sustainable, low-carbon progress. Premier Abang Johari Tun Openg emphasized that reliable, affordable energy is key to supporting Sarawak's booming economy and businesses.

The state's broader goal is to hit 10 gigawatts of total energy capacity by 2030 and 15 gigawatts by 2035. A 2023 Electricity Ordinance amendment strengthens this push, promoting solar and cascading power, encouraging independent producers, and ensuring grid integration with high reliability and environmental standards.

Sarawak aspires to be the "Battery of Asean," exporting clean energy to neighbors like Sabah, Brunei, and beyond. Plans include undersea cables to Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore, advancing the Borneo and Asean Power Grids. Investors are invited to join the Sustainability and Renewable Energy Forum (SAREF 4.0) in Kuching, September 3-4, to explore partnerships for regional green growth. [READ MORE](#)



Naza Enviro Drives ESG Progress with Integrated Waste Solutions

Achieving ESG goals requires robust scheduled waste management. Naza Enviro delivers this through Bukit Tagar Enviro Park (BTEP), which houses advanced recycling and treatment facilities via its subsidiaries, Amita Naza Sdn Bhd (ANSB) and J&T Naza Alam Murni Sdn Bhd (JNA). These entities align operations with ESG standards, enabling organizations to meet sustainability and compliance targets while reducing environmental and operational impacts.

ANSB focuses on co-processing scheduled waste into alternative raw materials without chemicals or residue, supporting resource efficiency and circular economy principles. JNA's integrated facility handles 76 waste codes through waste-to-energy, solidification, and secure landfill technologies, ensuring safe treatment, pollution control, and carbon footprint reduction.

Both entities work in synergy, recovering energy and optimizing moisture levels for efficient recycling. Rainwater harvesting, solar power, and energy profiling systems further reinforce ESG alignment across operations. Together, the group sets a clear benchmark in sustainable, ESG-driven waste management. [READ MORE](#)

