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EcoCeres' RM2.3 Billion SAF Facility Strengthens Malaysia's Aviation Decarbonization



Malaysia advances its position in sustainable aviation with EcoCeres' RM2.3 billion SAF facility in Tanjung Langsat, Johor. The Hong Kong based renewable fuels producer commissioned a plant capable of producing 420,000 tonnes annually, surpassing their Chinese facility by 40 per cent. This strategic investment positions Malaysia as Southeast Asia's leading SAF producer, directly supporting the Malaysia Aviation Decarbonization Blueprint.

The facility operates on circular economy principles, transforming waste materials like used cooking oil and palm oil mill effluent into high value biofuels. This approach aligns with Europe's Renewable Energy Directive III, which mandates progressive SAF blending from two per cent in 2025 to 70 per cent by 2050. The location capitalizes on abundant regional feedstock supplies and excellent port infrastructure for exporting to European markets.

Beyond production, the plant creates significant economic opportunities. Over 300 local technical staff are directly employed, while thousands more benefit through the broader supply chain spanning feedstock collection, logistics, and energy trading. The project demonstrates how Malaysia transforms environmental challenges into valuable industrial assets.

Northern Solar Captures RM20.5 Million BESS Contract Under New SelCo



Northern Solar Holdings positions itself strategically as Malaysia's solar market evolves beyond standalone installations. The company secured a significant RM20.5 million EPCC contract with FDIGS Makmur for a 5MW ground mounted SelCo system integrated with 10MWh battery storage in Pahang. This project will generate 6.68 million kWh annually, delivering estimated savings of RM3.93 million per year for the aquaculture operator.

The enhanced SelCo Programme, effective January 2026, mandates battery energy storage systems for installations above 72kWp. This regulatory shift favors engineering firms with integrated design capabilities. Northern Solar's early preparation in solar plus storage solutions positions the company advantageously as customers seek sophisticated energy systems beyond basic rooftop installations.

Managing Director Lew Shoong Kai emphasizes strategic diversification across market segments to mitigate policy risks. The company maintains focus on commercial, industrial, and residential projects with shorter execution cycles and stronger pricing flexibility. Additionally, selective participation in utility scale projects through joint ventures ensures margin protection while capturing opportunities in Malaysia's RM15 to RM18 billion solar supercycle through 2029.

Japan Plans Cross Border Carbon Storage to Malaysia's Offshore Sites



Japan advances plans to transport carbon emissions to Malaysia in Southeast Asia's pioneering carbon capture and storage project. The initiative targets 20 million tons of annual storage by 2030, representing approximately two per cent of Japan's yearly emissions. Japanese industries spanning electric power, oil refining, cement, shipping, and steel will ship liquefied carbon dioxide to depleted gas fields off Sarawak's coast.

Malaysia positions itself as the region's carbon storage hub despite generating 81 per cent of electricity from fossil fuels. The government passed legislation last year promoting the sector, projecting up to US\$250 billion economic contribution within 30 years. Petronas leads construction of a US\$1.1 billion offshore storage facility, slated as the world's largest by decade's end.

However, climate specialists question the approach. Critics label the concept as carbon colonialism, arguing it enables continued pollution rather than reducing emissions. The International Energy Agency forecasts carbon capture contributing less than five per cent of emission reductions by 2050, highlighting concerns about effectiveness versus proven decarbonization actions like renewable energy deployment.

IHH and KPJ Healthcare Achieve Enhanced ESG Performance Scores



Malaysia's leading hospital operators demonstrate measurable environmental progress according to Maybank Investment Bank's proprietary ESG methodology. IHH Healthcare improved its score to 69 from 66, while KPJ Healthcare maintained solid performance at 60 despite a numerical decrease from 67. Both companies reduced greenhouse gas emissions intensity through renewable energy contributions and strategic carbon initiatives.

IHH Healthcare's advancement reflects stronger qualitative measures, including adoption of IFRS S1 and S2 sustainability reporting standards. The group achieved three significant targets against its 2022 baseline, notably reducing virgin single use plastics by over 90 per cent across core markets. Furthermore, emission intensity per patient bed day decreased by 3.2 per cent across operations.

KPJ Healthcare's quantitative score rose to 47 from 42, supported by solar photovoltaic installations and participation in Tenaga Nasional's Green Electricity Tariff programme across 25 accounts. This lifted renewable energy contribution to 28 per cent while cutting post offset GHG emissions by 27 per cent across 42 operational sites. However, both operators remain below the recommended 30 per cent minimum for women directors.

Malaysian Corporations Link Executive Compensation to Sustainability Performance Targets



Malaysian companies progressively integrate sustainability goals into executive remuneration structures. Kenanga Research reveals that at least four in five FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI companies have established linkages between compensation and environmental, social, and governance metrics. This adoption extends beyond board level and senior management, though implementation pace varies across organizations.

Several corporations adopt phased approaches. Tenaga Nasional implements gradual integration, currently applying climate KPIs to C suite personnel with plans to expand alignment with IFRS S2 reporting recommendations. SD Guthrie introduced its ESG scorecard in 2022 for upstream operations, while PPB Group awaits sufficient data availability before cascading accountability to management levels.

Leading firms demonstrate broad implementation. Press Metal Aluminium expanded its ESG remuneration framework from management and division heads in 2024 to wider roles in 2025. CIMB Group ties entire division bonus pools to sustainability related KPIs. Major banks including Malayan Banking integrate ESG criteria into senior management vesting alongside traditional financial metrics, manifesting through equity based variable pay structures.

Tropicana's Dual Partnerships Enhance ESG Value for Avisa Residences Buyers



Tropicana Corporation strengthens its four star ESG commitment through dual strategic partnerships with Signature Distribution and EDCA Energy for Avisa Residences at Tropicana Alam. These collaborations unlock significant added value for homeowners of the township's first GreenRE certified two storey Premium Green Terraces, comprising 480 units priced from RM688,800.

Signature Distribution offers seven curated home enhancement packages starting from RM20,800, featuring a pioneering structured instalment based prepayment arrangement over six, twelve, or eighteen months prior to renovation commencement. This innovation provides homeowners greater financial flexibility and planning clarity. Meanwhile, EDCA Energy delivers competitively priced solar panel packages under the Solar Accelerated Transition Action Programme, available for the first 50 units.

Managing Director Ixora Ang emphasizes that these partnerships reflect Tropicana's 47 year legacy as a community builder. The 362 acre Tropicana Alam features 29 per cent green space, a 9.5 acre recreational park, scenic lake, and 1.3km jogging trail. The development incorporates sustainable features including low volatile organic compound paint, green concrete, drought tolerant plants, and superior ventilation design with stone wool roof insulation.

Penang's Esplanade Seawall Earns UNESCO Award for Heritage Conservation



Penang's Esplanade Seawall and Promenade project achieves international recognition at the 2025 UNESCO Asia Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The initiative received the New Design in Heritage Contexts award alongside Special Recognition for Sustainable Development, establishing a national benchmark for conservation integrated new design.

The seven member international jury praised the project's innovative hybrid of traditional and modern engineering elements addressing coastal degradation. The redesigned seawall features a wide promenade replicating 19th century typology with traditional granite construction, concealed sheet pile toe, and rock revetment for erosion resistance. A lower terrace submerges during spring tides, exposing the original seawall near the Cenotaph War Memorial.

State Tourism and Creative Economy Committee Chairman Wong Hon Wai shared that expert guidance enhanced the Esplanade's historicity, highlighting the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property Melaka and George Town. The project's dual structure design, utilization of local materials, and stakeholder governance framework are studied as models across Malaysia for climate responsive coastal infrastructure.

SOLS Energy Strengthens Strategy Following Solar ATAP Programme Launch



SOLS Energy refines its execution strategy following Malaysia's implementation of the Solar Accelerated Transition Action Programme effective January 1, 2026. The initiative continues the Net Energy Metering Programme which concluded June 2025, representing a significant milestone in Malaysia's energy transition under the National Energy Transition Roadmap.

Solar ATAP introduces enhanced frameworks permitting ground mounted systems and installations up to 100 per cent of demand, substantially expanding the addressable market. The programme particularly benefits farms, factories, and energy intensive users seeking sophisticated energy solutions beyond traditional rooftop applications. This regulatory evolution creates opportunities for companies demonstrating integrated design and execution capabilities.

The solar sector anticipates robust growth through 2029, with industry projections estimating a RM15 to RM18 billion supercycle. SOLS Energy positions itself to capture emerging opportunities by maintaining disciplined capital allocation and strengthening procurement planning. The company's strategic focus encompasses both commercial and industrial segments, where pricing flexibility remains stronger, while selectively pursuing larger scale projects through strategic partnerships to manage risk effectively.

Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre Integrates ESG Into Operational Framework



Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre transforms its sustainability approach under General Manager John Burke, evolving from simple tracking to embedding environmental, social, and governance principles throughout operations. The facility developed a comprehensive climate roadmap extending to 2050, marking a fundamental shift in how the venue manages environmental impact.

Since 2023, the main building operates entirely on Tenaga Nasional's green energy tariff, sourcing renewable power directly from the grid. Simultaneously, a complete building management system upgrade enables precision control, activating air conditioning and lighting only when needed. Thousands of devices undergo review for gradual transition to low energy alternatives, demonstrating commitment beyond purchasing green energy toward actual consumption reduction.

The centre processes over 3.3 tonnes of food waste monthly through composting partnerships, peaking at 4.3 tonnes during the ASEAN Summit. Safe surplus food channels to the Food Aid Foundation, while chefs develop zero waste menu concepts. As a Net Zero Carbon Events signatory, the facility tracks emissions using the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. Collaborative initiatives include partnering with WWF Malaysia to produce food waste management guidelines for hospitality students.