



**UNDP/MNRE National Conference on
Climate Change Preparedness: Towards Policy Change
Kuala Lumpur**

Brief Summary

The National Conference on Climate Change Preparedness was organized at Nikko Hotel Kuala Lumpur and was attended by more than 200 participants. The Minister of Natural Resources and Environment ministry (NRE), Dato Seri Azmi Khalid, officiated the event and in his opening remarks, he stressed the need for streamlining available policies, more mitigation efforts and more research in adaptation. He commended the UNDP and the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, and supported the objectives of the conference which are; to take stock and review current policies in various sectors; to identify key critical success factors in mitigating and adaptation efforts and to propose feasible solutions to the relevant authorities.

In conjunction with the Conference, the UNDP publication entitled “ Malaysia’s Generating Renewable Energy from Palm Oil Wastes” was also launched. The publication is a joint effort between UNDP and Pusat Tenaga Malaysia, showcasing achievements and lessons learnt in implementing the UNDP GEF Biomass Power Generation and Co-generation from Palm Oil Wastes project. Among the notable points included are the successful effort of increasing the new renewable energy (RE) tariff to 21cents/kWh, the establishment of a biomass one-stop center and the needs of having a renewable energy business facility.

The Conference started with an overview of the energy sector. It is noted that in Malaysia, growth of GDP and energy consumption has not been de-coupled yet. Biomass and biogas renewable energy projects and the continuation of increased energy efficiency efforts such as a concrete legislative framework and demand-side management are among the initiatives that are currently being pursued . The Conference also recognized that there is no national sustainable transport policy but rather a policy that encourages private car ownership. It is unfortunate that the transport ministry has not been presented at any of the UNFCCC COPs. Absence of official data on energy usage and climate change impact by the transport sector further

impedes research on transport in Malaysia. In managing solid waste, the 3R (reduce, reuse and recycle) shall be further enhanced through initiatives such as mandatory sorting, deposit rebate scheme, take back system and other mandatory measures. The recovery and destruction of GHG emissions from landfills are technologically easy to do and have been made more profitable with the use of the Clean Development Mechanism. GHG emissions from the energy sector show an increasing trend and the power industry is the biggest contributor followed by the transportation sector. Malaysia had embraced the CDM as one of the mechanisms to increase the mitigation of emissions. The ratification by Malaysia of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol is an initiative from Malaysia Government in addressing climate change. The country has established a national committee on CDM that is assisted by three technical committees: energy, forestry and agriculture.

The afternoon session focused on adaptation issues and that although there is recognition of the changing climate Malaysia has yet to develop its own adaptation policy. The representative from the Ministry of Health confirmed that in the event of a sudden increase of airborne or vector borne diseases (due to climate change), the hospitals and the medical professionals would be ready. The sea level in Malaysia has also increased for the past ten year at the rate of 1.25 mm/year. The level of increase is in line with the global figure and as such, more research on adaptation on water resource management and coastal area should be more encouraged. The panel concluded that efforts must be encouraged to increase consumer awareness and to attract private sector involvement by adopting their language (the reports can be converted into what they mean in “dollars and cents” and identify its own carbon print). The carbon print is proposed to be reported in the company’s annual report.

In conclusion, the Conference provided an overview of the current policies on mitigation and adaptation in Malaysia. The Conference also has identified potential areas to be explored and has successfully enlightened and providing major inputs to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment for their coming COP13 participation in Bali. Based on these recommendations, UNDP and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) will finalise a concrete recommendation through a series of stakeholder meetings towards the end of the year.

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