

OPENING REMARKS
YBHG. DATO' DR. DOLBANI BIN MIJAN
DIRECTOR GENERAL
FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING MALAYSIA
MINISTRY OF URBAN WELLBEING, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA
2016
21ST APRIL 2016
BERJAYA TIMES SQUARE HOTEL,
KUALA LUMPUR

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim and Assalamualaikum w.b.t,

Thank you Madame Emcee,

1. Yang Berbahagia Datuk Ismail bin Ibrahim
Chief Executive, Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA)
2. Mr. Shinsaku Fukazawa,
Senior Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
3. Prof. Dr. Ho Chin Siong,
Project Manager for Development of Low Carbon Society Scenarios for Asian
Regions, UTM
4. Dr. Junichi Fujino,
National Institute for Environmental Studies Japan
5. Dr. Gary William Theseira,
Deputy Undersecretary, Environmental Management & Climate Change Division,
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Head of Departments from National, State and Local Agencies, Speakers and Panellist, Distinguished Guests, friends from the Media, Dato'-Dato', Datin-Datin, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Salam Sejahtera, Salam 1Malaysia and a very good morning.

First and foremost, it is my pleasure and privilege to welcome all of you to this auspicious event, the International Symposium on Low Carbon Development in Asia 2016. I would like to start by thanking our co-organizer for this event; UTM, IRDA and JICA.

We are all here today to witness research outputs of the "Project for the Development of Low Carbon Society Scenarios for Asian Regions", and share the related initiatives and activities in Malaysia towards the creation of quality and sustainable living environment in our country.

BACKGROUND ON HOW JPBD INVOLVED IN LOW CARBON

In 2008, Japan Government proposed to set up the “International Research Network for Low Carbon Societies (LCS-RNet)” at the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting as global effort and contribution to tackle climate change by sharing up-to-date scientific findings on visions and pathways towards low-carbon societies. In order to support Low Carbon Societies in Malaysia, JICA in collaboration with Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) with the cooperation from Kyoto University, Okayama University, National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), UTM, FDTCP and IRDA were involved in “Development of Low Carbon Society Scenarios for Asian Regions”. The progress of this project and its result were presented and shared at the Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting where Director General of Federal Department of Town and Country Planning Malaysia (FDTCP) chaired the meeting once a year since 2011.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Collaboration between FDTCP and Japan had started in 2009 where FDTCP, UTM, IRDA and JICA involved in series of ‘Expert Talk on Low Carbon Society’ (LCS), research workshop and several dialogues. In September 2010, FDTCP was invited to joint the Malaysia – Japan Low Carbon Society Working Visit to discuss the research collaboration for “Development of Low Carbon Society for Asian Regions” and visit some of the best practices of model environmental cities in Japan together with UTM, IRDA and JICA. From there, we realize that green growth, green technology industry, sustainable forest management, renewable energy (RE), energy efficiency (EE), walkable and connectivity of the city, waste recycle, waste management and changing lifestyle aspect must be part of Malaysian land use planning policy.

As you all are aware, the ‘Project for Development of Low Carbon Society Scenarios for Asian Regions” is one of the famous activities in Malaysia. The reason why we highlight the Project today is that the Project has been implemented in the way of mutual collaboration between research and policy. I have been quite impressed that the research outputs produced by the Project were all approved and endorsed not only by the local state in Johor, but also our Prime Minister at the table of Members of Authorities. Besides, the research outputs were already incorporated into the Comprehensive Development Plan in Iskandar Economic Regions.

I am therefore excited to be here today not only to see the details of research findings and its relevant activities, but also to learn how they could achieve such milestones.

FDTCP GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GUIDELINES

Ladies and Gentlemen,

During United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen year 2009, Malaysia government is committed to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) up to 40% in terms of emission intensity of GDP by the year of 2020. During the COP21 in Paris held in December last year, 195 countries agreed to keep the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

As all are acknowledged, the issues of climate change, global warming and the management and sustainability of our environment requires coordinated actions among academia, federal, regional and local authorities and local communities in order to ensure the next generations will inherit a place that is conducive for future growth and prosperity.

To improve quality of life of the communities, FDTCP has introduced The Green Neighbourhood Planning Guidelines that take into consideration of the social, environment, application of green technology and well being of the people. This planning guideline was approved by the Malaysian Cabinet in November 2011 and National Physical Planning Council in Mac 2012. The guideline served as a tool to drive planning and the formation of green urban neighbourhoods in Malaysia, including carbon reduction assessed by Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water under the Low Carbon Cities Framework. This guideline was prepared to:

- i. assist state government to formulate policies and rules to promote green neighbourhood development in their respective states;
- ii. assist local authorities as the basis to process and consider an applications for development projects; and
- iii. provide design guidance for developers in designing and developing green neighbourhood.

The planning guideline sets five key components that should be taken into account in planning and designing a green neighbourhood. The key components are: Site Selection and Site Planning, Green Design (which touches on community design, urban transportation, green network, green building features), The 3Es (Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy And Water Efficiency) and Green Communities.

Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen,

FDTCP has set Implementation Guide for Green Neighbourhood Development Initiatives for Malaysia Local Authority in 2013 as an action plan which is:

- i. Provision of pedestrian walkway;
- ii. Provision of bicycle lane;
- iii. Rain water harvesting system (SPA);
- iv. Waste composting; and
- v. Community farming.

Since then, our department in conjunction with the celebration of World Town Planning Day presented the Green Neighbourhood Initiatives Award to local authorities which have successfully implemented 5 green neighbourhood initiatives in their areas of administration. The purpose of the award is to encourage local authorities to implement those initiatives as part of the nation's efforts towards achieving the target of reducing 40% of the carbon intensity by 2020.

Walking and cycling will reduce the use of motorised vehicles which subsequently reducing carbon emissions. Rainwater harvesting system is to reduce the demand for treated water which directly reduces the need for water treatment process. Waste

composting will reduce generation of organic solid waste, thereby reducing the need to dispose and managed of waste. Community farming is a community activity which will promote closer relationship among residents and reduce vehicle trips made by residents to buy vegetables from local markets. The ultimate goal is to reduce carbon emissions through the implementation of all the five initiatives.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, I am very happy that most of the Local Authority in Malaysia participated in these initiatives and we will continue this effort towards achieving low carbonization and economic development in Asia.

In this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere thanks for the researchers in University of Technology Malaysia, and our Japanese friends in Kyoto University, Okayama University and National Institute for Environmental Studies Japan for their superb commitment and commitment to develop “Low Carbon Society Blueprint for Iskandar Malaysia”, its “Roadmap” and “Low Carbon Society Action Plan for 2025” for 5 local governments in Johor. All of these research outputs will surely guide us to overview our policy directions and its implementation toward development of environmentally sustainable cities.

I would also like to thank IRDA for having taken the part in bridging between research and policy. I envisage the role of IRDA was huge to lift the performance of the Project by helping bring research outputs into the practical policies to be implemented. I have learnt that IRDA has successfully coordinated and consolidated the relationship between academia and policy makers not only within Johor state, but also between top federal authorities and local authorities in Johor state. You also acted a role in strengthening relationship between Malaysia and Japan.

I also thank JICA and Japan Science and Technology (JST) for extending long term support for the Project. I learned that the Project will end its activity soon in next month, after the 5 years’ commitment in the Project. However, I am confident that we will carry on our initiatives based on your support for the Project. We will fully utilize the research outputs, its expertise and methodologies for our own initiatives for sustaining the environment in Malaysia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we will have 3 keynote speakers in the morning session:

Firstly, Professor Dr. Ho Chin Siong from UTM. He is the project manager of the LCS Project and he will present “Realization of Low Carbon Development in Asia”. He will talk about the details of research findings and its outputs under the Project for Development of Low Carbon Society Scenarios for Asian Regions.

Secondly, Datuk Ismail Ibrahim, Chief Executive of IRDA will present the “Low Carbon Society Project: From Research to Policy Formulation, Implementation and a Low Carbon Iskandar Malaysia”.

Finally, Dr. Junichi Fujino from Institute for Global Environmental Strategies and National Institute for Environmental Studies Japan will talk about “Paris Agreement and Low Carbon Development”.

In the afternoon session, we will have four (4) panellists from both in federal and local government authorities in Malaysia to share their initiatives and related activities about their trials and daily efforts to ensure environmental sustainability and to tackle climate change issues. We will have:

Dr. Gary Theseira, Deputy Undersecretary, Environmental Management & Climate Change Division from Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment,

Dato’ Omairi bin Hashim, Vice President, City Services Department from Putrajaya Corporation,

Mr. Peter Sawal, Director of Natural Resources and Environment Board from Sarawak,

and

Tuan Haji Ismail bin Muhamad, Director of Urban Planning Department from Majlis Perbandaran Subang Jaya.

I would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to all co-organizer that have made it possible for this event and I hope that today’s symposium will provide each of you with a lot of insights and you can spend fruitful time with us. Today marked the collaborative effort between academia, national government and local authorities to realize environmentally sustainable cities in Malaysia.

Thank you.