

RM40mil for city's climate solutions

George Town seeks aid to initiate green programme after winning award

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GEORGE TOWN: After emerging as the city winner at the inaugural Climathon Global Awards, George Town is requesting US\$10mil (RM41.1mil) to fund nature-based solutions to fight climate change.

The concept paper on the programme that was co-developed by the Penang Island City Council (MBPP) and Think City has been submitted to the World Bank's Adaptation Fund.

State local government committee chairman Jagdeep Singh Deo

said the concept paper was submitted last month, with a full application to follow in June.

"If successful, the programme will be initiated in 2020, and will have an implementation duration of five years," he said here yesterday.

Jagdeep said Penang, which earlier received a cash prize of €60,000 (RM270,00) from the Climathon Global Awards, would invest in projects with ongoing technical support from the EIT Climate-KIC network, Europe's largest public-private partnership to tackle climate change.

He said the funds would be used to conduct studies and pilot projects in the state's climate adaptation programme.

"Our approaches include planting climate-resilient species of trees and introducing upstream retention which helps cool neighbourhoods and prevent flooding.

"We are also looking at raising awareness through social programmes and in empowering the most exposed communities, including women and girls, in the decision-making process," he said.

"Additionally, we want to develop a pilot project for identification of

heatstroke in public, since we currently do not treat heatstroke as a symptom.

"Lastly, we hope to create a knowledge transfer platform to scale municipal adaptation for all cities in Malaysia."

On the Climathon Award, Jagdeep said Penang was granted the award due to the combination of its technical approach and extensive collaboration during implementation between state and federal agencies, community groups and scientific institutions.

"Besides, the winning climate adaptation programme included

goals to reduce temperatures, eliminate flooding, strengthen social resilience and reinforce institutions with knowledge bank and capacity," he said.

MBPP mayor Datuk Yew Tung Seang thanked Penangites for their efforts in putting Penang on the world map.

The winning submission to the Climathon Global Awards was jointly developed by MBPP, Think City, UN-Habitat, the Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Ministry, as well as several local companies and institutions.