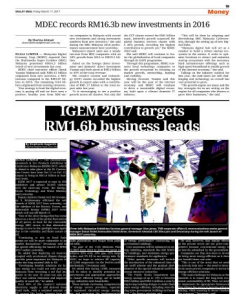


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MediaTitle	Malay Mail		
Date	17 Mar 2017	Language	English
Circulation	100,000	Readership	300,000
Section	Money	Page No	19
ArticleSize	551 cm ²	Journalist	Stephanie
PR Value	RM 18,887		



IGEM 2017 targets RM1.6b business leads

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KUALA LUMPUR — The International Greentech & Eco Products Exhibition & Conference Malaysia (IGEM) 2017, which is slated to take place at the KL Convention Centre here from Oct 11 to Oct 13, targets to bring in RM1.6 billion in business leads.

IGEM 2017 is expected to rope in 300 exhibitors and attract 30,000 visitors over the three-day event, the Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry said yesterday.

Deputy minister Datuk Seri SK Devamany S. Krishnasamy officiated the soft launch of IGEM 2017 here yesterday, on the sidelines of the Electric, Power, and Renewable Energy (EPRE) 2017 event which will run till March 17.

“One of the silver linings that has come about as a result of the global fluctuation of oil prices, at least for the renewable energy (RE) sector, is that alternative energy is now in the spotlight once again due to the volatility and finite nature of oil.

“Continuing to rely on fossil fuels means we will be more vulnerable to its market fluctuations,” Devamany said in his speech officiating the launch of EPRE 2017 earlier yesterday.

He added that depleting oil reserves coupled with accelerated climate change provide great impetuses for Malaysia to make the long-awaited shift to RE.

“Developing feasible solutions for future energy use could not only prevent Malaysia from becoming a net fuel importer in the next 30 years but also reduce our carbon emissions and improve quality of rural life,” he added.

Over 90% of the country’s national electricity supply is still derived from fossil fuels, with a minimal amount of RE sources like hydro, biomass from oil palm plantations and biogas from palm oil mills.

“As part of the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP) from 2016 to 2020, we target to

achieve 53% coal, 29% gas, 15% large hydro, and 3% RE in our energy mix. By 2020, we hope to achieve RE capacity of 2,080 megawatts via the feed-in tariff mechanism,” Devamany said.

He added that during 11MP, measures will be taken to identify potential improvements and appropriate approaches to ensure efficient energy use in buildings, industries and households.

These include increasing competencies of energy service providers, especially registered electrical energy managers, and promoting the implementation of energy performance contracting for government buildings.

User awareness will be enhanced on energy labelling, standards like ISO 50001 for buildings, and minimum energy performance standards for appliances.

“Other specific measures will include the introduction of the enhanced time of use tariff scheme and the gradual abolishment of the special industrial tariff for energy-intensive industries.

“The Public Works Department saw energy savings of up to 14% or between RM2 million and RM2.5 million a year by improving building designs to make them more energy efficient, including retro-fitting some government buildings in Putrajaya,” the deputy minister said.

He said, however, that similar efforts in the private sector are not price-competitive because conventional energy is so heavily subsidised by the government.

Companies are thus less keen to invest in being more energy-efficient as it does not benefit them cost-wise.

“This is one of the areas that we need to actively look into — the need to incentivise more private companies to invest in energy-efficient solutions.

“The main challenge for Malaysia at the moment is to ensure the long-term economic sustainability of RE. Thus, we need to implement the appropriate framework that allows the sector to become self-sus-

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taining, while ensuring it doesn't burden the taxpayer," Devamany said.



(From left) Malaysian Exhibition Services general manager Alun Jones, TNB corporate affairs & communications senior general manager Datuk Mohd Aminuddin Mohd Amin, Greentech Ideaslab CEO Elina Jani and Devamany during the soft launch of IGEM 2017 yesterday.