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School set to reap savings, environmental benefits with solar panels project

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Kah Woh (centre, left) and Lee officiating the solar energy system. – P. CHANDRA SAGARAN/THESUN

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BY P. CHANDRA SAGARAN
 newsdesk@thesundaily.com

IPOH: Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (C) Sam Chai at Jalan Shah Bandar here became the first government-assisted school in the country to use Net Energy Metering (NEM 3.0) solar panels system to generate power.

It is expected to generate 91,000 kWh in the first year and the school can save up to RM382,993 in its utility bills over a 20-year period.

Those using solar panels need not worry about hike in tariffs as the rates are fixed despite any increment in normal electricity rates.

Chairman of the school's board of governors, Yip Chee Kheong, said: "Our current billing stands at around RM7,000 per month. With the solar panel there would be an estimated reduction of RM1,000."

The solar project was completed three months ago by GSPARX, a subsidiary of Tenaga Malaysia Berhad (TNB), at no charge, he added.

Apart from bringing down costs it is also beneficial in producing new energy, reducing air pollution and protecting the environment.

The project is an initiative by Ipoh Timor MP Howard Lee Chuan How and the Ipoh Timor

Service Centre, together with private think-tank Malaysia 100, TNB and GSPARX.

The event was jointly officiated by Education Deputy Minister Wong Kah Woh and Lee on July 13.

Also present were Lee, GSPARX managing director Sansubari Che Mud and the school's headmistress Wong Mei Leng.

The initiative would also support the government's national energy transition agenda.

"This project will create awareness among the pupils on environment and energy," said Kah Woh.

"They can witness for themselves the benefits of green technology although related subjects are taught at school."

According to Lee, discussions and meetings were held for the past one and half years before the project was implemented.

"We found schools not utilising their assets, so it gave us an idea to use the roof for producing solar energy."

"We hope the pioneer project would attract other schools and similar facilities can be implemented by them as well."

"A total of 15 schools in Kinta district have signed MOUs and theirs boards of governors will take the next step," he added.