

25 NOV, 2022

ESG in the news

The Star, Malaysia



Oct 26

• **Sunview Group Bhd** has secured a RM93.8mil contract from **Advancecon Holdings Bhd** for the development of a 26 megawatt photovoltaic (PV) plant in Kuala Langat, Selangor. The end-to-end solar PV system construction player said its wholly-owned subsidiary, Fabulous Sunview Sdn Bhd, had secured the contract from **LSS TPG Sdn Bhd**, a wholly-owned unit of Advancecon Holdings Bhd.

• **Tenaga Nasional Bhd's (TNB)** expansion plans, which are in line with its commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, will be the group's main growth catalyst in the quarters ahead, says Kenanga Research.

The research house said the utility giant had recently announced two new power plant projects, namely the repowering of its Sungai Perak hydro power plant and a greenfield 2,100 megawatt (MW) combined cycle gas-fired power plant in Kapar.

Oct 28

• Malaysia will be **Thamlev USA Ltd's** manufacturing base in South-East Asia for the production of electric bikes outside the United States.

The new site will expand on Thamlev's existing manufacturing capacity and will help raise the profile and development of the electric vehicle (EV) sector in Malaysia.

• **Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB)** has tied up with **Gamuda Land** to build two electron stations for electric vehicle (EV) charging at the latter's property development projects in Selangor.

The companies had inked a memorandum of understanding to develop Malaysia's first electron stations at Gamuda Cove in southern Klang Valley and Gamuda Gardens in northern Klang Valley for communities in the projects and visitors to the water theme park at Gamuda Cove.

The MoU is set to pave the way for TNB and Gamuda Land to collaborate towards increasing the usage of EVs.

– **TNB chief strategy and ventures officer Datuk Megat Jalaluddin Megat Hassan**

Oct 29

• **Petroleum Nasional Bhd (PETRONAS)** is expanding its partnership with state-owned **Petroleum Sarawak Bhd (Petros)**, inking two agreements on collaboration opportunities under the Sarawak Gas Roadmap, which PETRONAS said will help accelerate both parties' shared aspirations to sustainably grow the Sarawak's energy industry.

The first is a heads of agreement (HoA) to expand the usage of natural gas within the state for supply of 60 million standard cubic feet per day of gas by 2026 to the proposed 400 megawatt combined cycle gas turbine power station in Miri.

The Malaysian giant energy company has also inked a joint collaboration agreement (JCA) with Petros that would see them working closely together to establish carbon capture and storage (CCS), hence, positioning Sarawak as a regional sequestration hub.

Oct 31

• **Sustainable finance** is fast gaining traction and is set to become the future mainstream financing instrument in corporate Malaysia at a time when the global economy is facing recessionary risk, according to industry experts.

With the various initiatives in place, they concurred that amid challenges, it would further spur the growth of sustainable finance and attract sustainable investments.

Sustainable finance relates to investment decisions that consider the environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors of an economic activity or project.

Over the past three years, Malaysia for

ESG

in the news

As a long-term partner of Sarawak, PETRONAS continues to play its role in developing a sustainable and progressive oil and gas industry in the energy transition landscape, through world-class projects, such as the Kasawari gas development that includes the application of carbon sequestration technologies.

– **PETRONAS executive vice-president and chief executive officer of upstream Datuk Adif Zulkifli**

example, has seen consecutive years of growth in the volume of sustainable debt issuances. In 2021, Malaysia saw a 306% increase from 2020, with a volume of RM8.425bil in such issuances.

This upward trend has continued and year-to-date, the nation has achieved a record RM10.64bil in sustainable debt issuances. This figure is anticipated to rise further.

• **Sarawak** targets to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 600,000 tonnes per annum by 2030. This will be achieved by electrifying the state's mobility fleet, according to Sarawak Premier Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg.

"In order to fulfil our commitment to lower carbon emissions and decrease our reliance on fossil fuel, Sarawak has ambitiously aligned our post-Covid 19 development strategy to expand on our initial strategic economic blueprint under the **Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy** launched in 2008," he said in a recent keynote address at the Singapore Energy Summit in conjunction with the Singapore International Energy Week (Oct 25).

• **BayWa r.e. Malaysia**, a unit of Germany-based renewable energy giant BayWa r.e. AG, is eyeing more local residential, commercial and industrial sectors as it looks to deepen its presence amid the competitive renewable energy (RE) market.

Apart from this, the company intends to intensify its greenfield development of solar farms as one of its strategies to fuel its revenue growth since making its presence in the country in 2017.

Its managing director Niranpal Singh said despite the saturated solar renewable energy business, there is a huge demand on the whole for solar distribution in Malaysia.

• **Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd** aims to boost its syariah – environmental, social, and governance (ESG) assets to RM4bil by the end of 2025 from RM2.62bil in June 2022.

The value in June was 16.4% higher compared to the RM2.25bil recorded a year earlier, the bank said in a statement to announce the launch of its ESG Risk Management Framework.

Group chief executive officer Mohd Muazzam Mohamed said that, as part of the group's broader aspirations to be the leading Islamic financier in Malaysia, it has implemented approaches to consider the ESG risk profile of its customers as part of its financing origination process.

Nov 1

• **RHB Bank Bhd** plans to introduce its digital banking platform as early as the second half of next year, according to its top executive, as the country's fifth biggest

lender looks to hold back a tide of financial technology (fintech) startups.

The bank and its partner Boost, an arm of communications giant **Axiata Group Bhd**, could invest as much as RM1bil in the venture, said RHB chief executive officer Mohd Rashid Mohamad in an interview.

Boost and RHB were among five groups that won digital bank licences from Bank Negara in April. The others chosen include ventures led by Singaporean tech firms Grab Holdings Ltd and Sea Ltd.

Nov 2

• **Sunway Construction Group Bhd (SunCon)** has secured two letters of award for engineering, procurement, construction, and commissioning (EPCC), as well as building works, totalling about RM460mil.

In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, SunCon said it had secured a contract worth RM185mil from Sharp Ventures Solar Sdn Bhd to conduct EPCC works for a 50-megawatt solar photovoltaic energy-generating facility in Kapar, Klang.

Nov 3

• **Bursa Malaysia Bhd** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG)** to expand environmental, social and governance (ESG) collaboration between the two exchanges and explore new areas of opportunity.

Under the MoU terms, Bursa Malaysia and FTSE Russell, LSEG's global multi-asset index and benchmark provider, will expand its coverage of ESG scores to include all public listed companies (PLCs) on the Main and ACE Markets.

The signing of the MoU signifies another important step in the exchange's efforts to facilitate greater quality of ESG disclosure among Malaysian PLCs, which is in line with the exchange's aspiration to elevate them as regional leaders in the ESG space

– **Bursa Malaysia chief executive officer Datuk Muhammad Umar Swift**

Nov 4

• **IHH Healthcare Bhd** plans to focus on transitioning its hospitals to green hospitals, with the aim of reducing its carbon footprint and gaining investor confidence.

At its 'HealthcareInsider' webinar series, IHH Healthcare group managing director and chief executive officer Kelvin Loh noted that the healthcare industry contributed about 5% of the world's carbon emissions.

"We'll tackle this head on and convert our hospitals progressively towards being green," Loh said at the webinar titled *Sustainability: Building Trust and Enhancing Stakeholder Value*.

Nov 8

• **Jentayu Sustainables Bhd's** soon to be acquired **Telesosang Hydro One Sdn Bhd (Telesosang Hydro)** has started operations on Nov 5.

The run-of-river hydropower plant is now generating and supplying electricity to Sabah's power grid system, the company said in a statement.

This initial operation date paves the way for Jentayu Sustainables, formerly Ipmuda

Bhd, to eventually conclude its acquisition of Telesosang Hydro, and this will support the group's aspiration to be a major green energy player in the country, it said.

• **Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB)**, Malaysia's state-owned electric utility, is exploring selling a minority stake in a planned renewable energy unit to help fund its expansion into the sector, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

The Kuala Lumpur-listed power firm has asked banks to submit proposals and could raise US\$300mil to US\$1bil (RM1.42bil to RM4.74bil) from potential investors, the people said.

Nov 10

• It is still a bumpy road ahead for a significantly higher and more meaningful uptake in the **electric vehicle (EV)** adoption in Malaysia.

This is due to the various factors that are affecting the current EV manufacturing supply chain internationally, coupled with the high acquisition costs of such vehicles locally since these are imported and priced in US dollars, say industry observers.

However, they generally opined that there have been some progress on the infrastructure front with several parties such as **Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB)**, which is building chargers along key highways nationwide.

Nov 12

• **Kelington Group Bhd** will invest RM45mil to build its second carbon-dioxide gas recovery plant, dubbed as "P2", in Keroh, Terengganu, as its existing plant has already hit an operating capacity of over 80%.

With the new plant, which will be built by its subsidiary **Ace Gases Sdn Bhd**, Kelington will produce an additional 70,000 tonnes of liquid carbon dioxide per year.

• **Solarvest Holdings Bhd's** unit has been appointed by **Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB)** as the sub-contractor for engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning (EPCC) works at a 50MW large-scale solar (LSS) photovoltaic project in Bukit Selambau, Kedah.

Solarvest, via its subsidiary Atlantic Blue Sdn Bhd, entered into an EPCC sub-contract worth RM46.75mil with TNB's subsidiary, TNB Engineering Corp Sdn Bhd.

Nov 15

• **G Capital Bhd's** 74.64%-owned subsidiary, **Kundur Hydro R E Sdn Bhd (KHRE)** is in a renewable energy power purchase agreement (Reppa) with **Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB)**.

In a statement, G Capital said the feed-in approval, in respect of the 2.0 MW high-head mini-hydropower plant situated on Sungai Geroh in the vicinity of Kampar District, Perak, was only granted by the Sustainable Energy Development Authority Malaysia to KHRE in May this year.

Nov 17

• **Sunway Bhd** is rated as among the top performers in the environmental, social and governance (ESG) space in Malaysia, based on a recent report.

Supported by a wide range of initiatives, the company has achieved an overall score of 3.4 points out of a possible 4.0, according to a study by RHB Research.

The score was the highest among property stocks under the brokerage's coverage.

Nov 18

• **Kejuruteraan Asastera Bhd (KAB)** is eyeing sturdy growth in its sustainable energy solutions (SES) segment, which is supported by potential concession revenue of over RM500mil until 2046.

The engineering and energy solution provider expects the revenue generation to come from its growing asset portfolio in clean energy generation, renewable energy generation and the provision of energy-efficient solutions.

This is apart from its existing contracts in Malaysia and Thailand, as well as ongoing acquisitions.