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Planting seeds for new careers

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Jobs for the future: Sim (centre), Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia Danielle Heinecke (in green) and others taking a group photo at the Asean Green Jobs Forum 2025 at Le Meridien hotel in Putrajaya. — AZHAR MAHFUF/The Star

Investment in green economy creates jobs and improves lives, says Sim

PUTRAJAYA: The rise of Malaysia's green economy is opening new frontiers for workers with over 120,000 job opportunities already available since the launch of the MyFutureJobs portal in 2020, says Human Resources Minister Steven Sim.

He said over 30% of professional-level green jobs currently offer monthly wages exceeding RM4,000.

Even lower-skilled positions generally pay above RM2,000, which is higher than the national minimum wage, he said.

"This reflects encouraging progress in the green job market.

"The green economy is no longer about individuals switching to sustainable lightbulbs or communities engaging in recycling activities. It is about a systemic shift in the way we think

about development and finances," he said in his speech at the Asean Green Jobs Forum 2025 here yesterday.

Also present were Star Media Group chief content officer Datin Paduka Esther Ng and chief operating officer Lydia Wang.

Sim stressed that investment in the green economy has far-reaching consequences.

"When the region invests in green economy, the impact is huge. Money will be directed towards solving existential issues such as climate change, creating millions of green jobs and improving lives," he said.

He pointed to the National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR), launched in 2023, which aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

"These are not just documents.

They are roadmaps for jobs, investment and future industries."

He said that the first phase of the NETR had attracted RM25bil in combined investment, including RM2bil in government seed funding.

Sim pointed out that the roadmap is projected to create 300,000 jobs by 2050 with many of them in construction, engineering, maintenance and green technology.

"Through these projects, Malaysians will be upskilled for future industries," he added.

Citing examples of international collaboration, Sim highlighted ACWA Power's agreement with the Malaysian Investment Development Authority to develop up to 12.5 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2040,

backed by an initial US\$10bil (RM42.29bil) investment.

He also linked Malaysia's green ambitions to broader regional efforts.

"In May, Asean leaders reaffirmed their commitment towards a fully integrated Asean Power Grid by 2040, covering 2,800km of transmission lines.

"This will deliver clean energy across the region. A financing facility has also been launched to support it," he said.

Sim said Malaysia's green push is aligned with the 13th Malaysia Plan, which targets RM611bil in investment and 1.2 million high-skill jobs over the next five years, much of it in high-tech and high-value sectors.

"A large pool of these will likely be green jobs," he said.

Warning of the escalating cli-

mate crisis, Sim said Malaysia had already experienced its impact.

"We do not need to look at distant glaciers. The floods, sudden heatwaves, landslides and fluctuations in food prices are symptoms of the crisis we are facing," he said.

Under Malaysia's Asean chairmanship, he said the government would push for an Asean Framework and Action Plan for a Just and Inclusive Transition to Green Jobs (2025-2030) and establish a regional centre of excellence to promote investment, training and job creation in the sector.

"Asean has the potential to be a model of sustainable development. We must ensure collaboration remains at the heart of our efforts to secure a greener and fairer future," Sim said.