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# MAHB goes for renewable energy at KLIA

by **Charlotte Chong**

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SEPANG: Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) is expected to save RM2.1 million per year in electricity charges by using power generated from a solar system within the vicinity of its under-utilised land at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA).

The airport operator had leased part of its unused land in KLIA to solar technology manufacturer and provider, SunEdison Inc, which built and funded a RM200 million solar system in the area. MAHB will then buy the electricity at a cheaper rate compared with that charged by Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB).

SunEdison is one of Seda Malaysia's approved feed-in-tariff providers. The company is allowed to sell power generated from its renewable energy sources to TNB for a fixed period of time.

SunEdison president for Asia Pacific, Gulf Corporation Council (GCC) and South Africa, Pashupathy Gopalan, said the direct current solar system generates 19MW of electricity and is the largest in Malaysia to date.

"The project is fully commissioned and is already feeding electricity," Pashupathy told reporters after the launch of the solar power system yesterday.

SunEdison, which owns the assets, is leasing part of the unutilised land from MAHB for 21 years.

MAHB chief operating officer Datuk Abdul Hamid Mohd Ali said the company does not incur any cost on the project and charges rentals as well as receives a royalty. The solar panels were built in three areas within KLIA — at the peripheral of KLIA, the car park and the satellite building.

The system is to generate more than 26,000MW hours of energy per year and reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 18 million kilograms per year. This is equivalent to 6,742 tonnes of wastes from being sent to the landfill every year. The system uses SunEdisonSilvanis Solar PV Modules.

The SunEdison Renewable Operation Centre will provide round-

the-clock management and monitoring services for the project to ensure its assets continue to perform.

Abdul Hamid said MAHB is looking at building a similar system in landing ports and remote airports, especially in Sabah and Sarawak. MAHB currently owns 39 airports in Malaysia. "This is our priority at the moment."

Abdul Hamid said the airport operator has to study the glaring effect of the solar panels on the pilots before building more solar systems within its stable of airports in the country. Within KLIA, MAHB owns 24,200 acres (9,791.32ha) and has utilised half of the land.

MAHB, in addition to building the new RM4 billion klia2 which is set to open on May 2, is jointly developing a premium outlet with Japanese conglomerate Mitsui Fudosan Co Ltd.

"It is under construction and will be ready in three years," said Abdul Hamid, adding that MAHB is expanding its Miri airport.

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(From left) Abdul Hamid, Pashupathy and Deputy Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalidat at the launch of SunEdison solar power system at the main terminal building in KLIA.