



PRESS RELEASE

MALAYSIA LAUNCHES ITS FIRST CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT - ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION AND INNOVATION CENTRE (EPIC)

SEREMBAN July 17, 2017 – Natural Resources and Environment Minister, YB Dato Sri Dr. Haji bin Tuanku Jaafar Wan Junaidi launches EPIC - Environmental Preservation and Innovation Centre, Malaysia's first Centre of Excellence (COE) for Sustainable Environment and Waste Management located in Cenviro Eco Park, Sendayan TechValley Seremban, Negri Sembilan.

EPIC is first integrated training centre that is dedicated to waste management in Malaysia. 5.4 acres of land has been allocated to the building, which forms part of an Eco Park set in 100 acres of land adjacent to the existing Kualiti Alam Waste Management Centre.

EPIC's goal is to develop national and institutional knowledge while also providing creative and reliable solutions for the complete spectrum of waste management and renewable energy. EPIC also stands on Four Development Pillars, which include the positive development of the Human Capital, Innovation and Advanced Technology, a Green Economy and Environmental Awareness and Social Responsibility.

"This facility is going to be used for certified training, educating, disseminating information to children and adults alike, everything to do with waste management. It's like a training institution that comes with R&D and partnerships with companies from around the world, for us to learn about different technologies and to enhance people's knowledge in Malaysia about waste. Even the truck driver who transports our waste around will be certified." according to Khalid Bahsoon, Director of EPIC.

"EcoPark is basically a development to encourage recycling companies to invest with us or to set up here,, and whatever waste they need we can pass to them to recover or they can source their own waste based on their licence regulated by the authorities. The concept is to become a developer, a landlord, or a partner with recyclers. This is one the objectives of EPIC, in line with the aim to grow a Green Circular Economy. We hope that EPIC will be the catalyst for the development of Cenviro's EcoPark and aspire that the EcoPark be the Silicon Valley of recycling and recovery with extremely high standard, added Bahsoon.

For international recognition in technical education, EPIC is currently working towards accreditation by Edexcel – A UK certificate awarding body which has affiliated higher education institutes in more than 100 countries around the world to conduct a course in Sustainable Environment BTEC qualifications.

To ensure quality in services delivered right from the top management level to the last worker in a waste management facility, EPIC in partnership with the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management United Kingdom today exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a Chartered Institute of Waste Managers in Malaysia (CIWM) as the first chapter outside the United Kingdom. The institute will have the recognition to certify and qualify the waste and environmental management workforce. This will also provide a professional establishment to the industry as a future voice to the government.

EPIC will work with United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) to build the first World Waste University. This World Waste University will be located in the Cenviro Eco Park and will be part of the overall education hub for the waste industry. EPIC hopes to play its role as coordinator and catalyst in getting the government, industries and academician to work together towards moving research to commercialization.

The EPIC building, designed by renowned architect Hijjas Kasturi has been certified as a Platinum Green Building Index (GBI rating) and its construction is based on a bio-climatic design with green features such as rain harvesting solar and the use of recycled materials. This building is the 17th Platinum GBI in the country and the first in Negri Sembilan.

The building has all the facilities required for a training centre such as well-equipped training rooms, gallery, a cafeteria, a library and a multipurpose hall. The multipurpose hall was named after Cenviro's late Chairman, Dato Seri Ismail Shahudin Hall or DSI for short, has a capacity of 200 pax and is equipped with the state of the art audio & visual facilities.

"We are excited for the EPIC journey. In line with our vision as the Heart of the Green Solutions Revolution, we pray that EPIC will meet its objectives to uplift the nation's waste management standards for future generations and move the waste industry to the new era of holistic waste management while promoting circular economy." said Bahsoon.

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