

Action plan mooted to ensure Temburong stays 'green'

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Temburong is a special district in Brunei Darussalam, known for its primeval forests and is home to one of the world's highest levels of biodiversity set in 50,000 hectares of untainted rainforest. But growing economic activities are anticipated, especially when the Temburong Bridge approaches completion.

The 1st Working Meeting for Temburong Eco Town Phase 4 Study to ensure the district retains its "green" identity was launched by Permanent Secretary (Energy) at the Ministry of Energy, Manpower and Industry (MEMI) Haji Azhar bin Haji Yahya yesterday.

The two-day meeting will be spearheaded by the MEMI's Sustainable Energy Division in collaboration with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), alongside government agencies and stakeholders. This is to explore ways to make Temburong District

a 'Low-Carbon District' or a 'Smart City' that is self-sufficient in terms of its energy resources and other natural resources, and a district that emits net zero carbon.

In his opening remarks, Haji Azhar reminded all stakeholders that it is of "national interest" to ensure Temburong's identity will not be lost, but rather "enhanced."

He said, "Turning it into the so-called 'Eco Town' that is self-sufficient in terms of natural resources will showcase our firm commitment under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

"At the same time, it seeks to gear up the anticipated growing economic activities in the district in a much more environmentally sustainable manner once the Temburong Bridge opens by the end of this year."

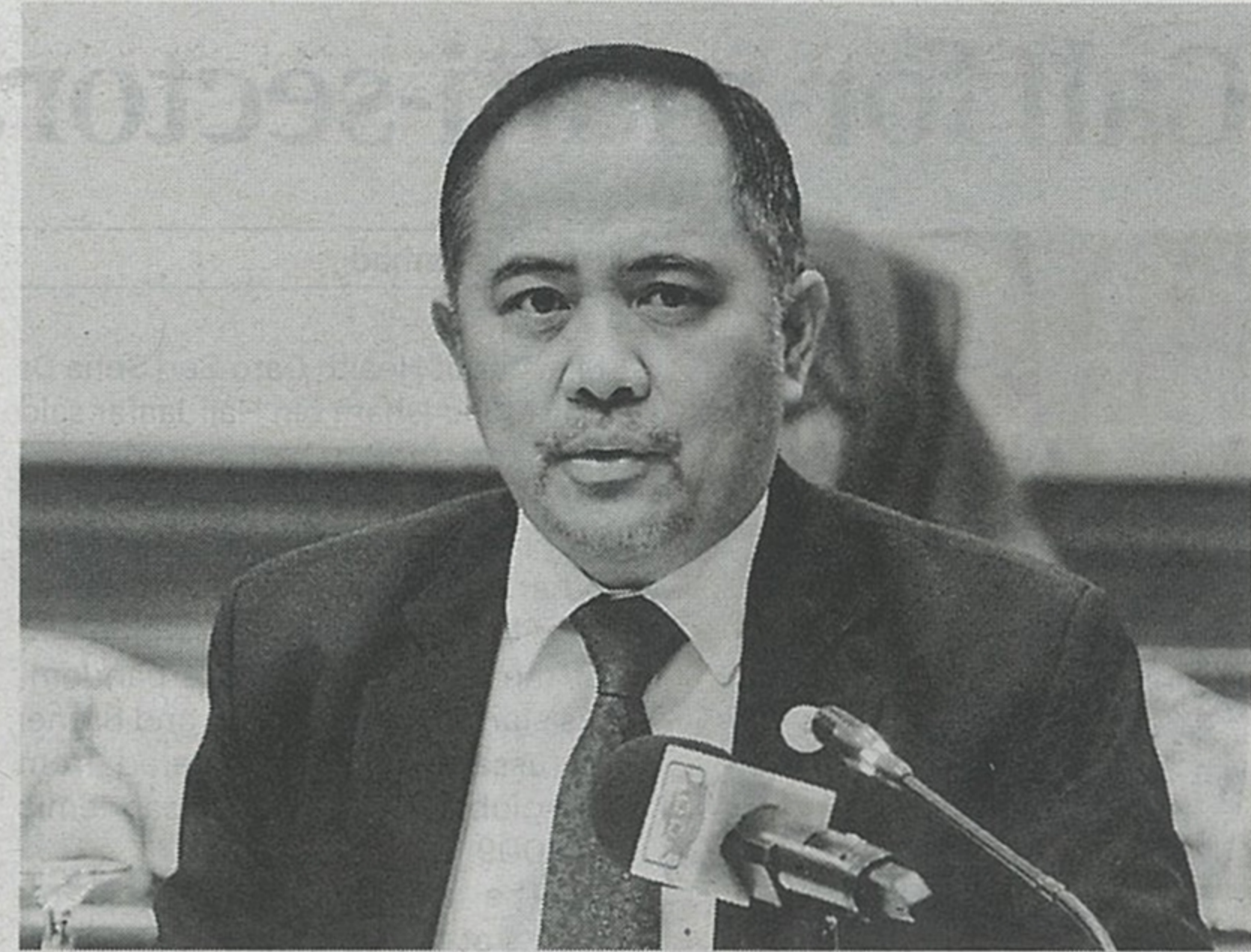
He advised stakeholders to work together in "close coordination and synergy" with the 'Whole of Nation' approach.

"For a successful coordination, appropriate governance and

accountability frameworks must be put in place and the roles, responsibilities and contribution of each agency should be clearly documented via the Terms of Reference (ToR)."

The findings and data from the study will provide information on clean electricity supply through the application of the micro grid technologies and a low carbon transportation system for the development of Temburong as an Eco Town. During the meeting, ERIA along with relevant government agencies and stakeholders outlined several recommendations, alternatives and strategies that can be applied to the Temburong Low Carbon District model.

Among the projects explored include the construction of buildings in compliance with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Guidelines, development of Smart Grid system coupled with the deployment of variable renewable energy, and also the introduction of a green transportation system



Permanent Secretary (Energy) at the Ministry of Energy, Manpower and Industry (MEMI) Haji Azhar bin Haji Yahya speaks at the event.

PHOTO: AZIZ IDRIS

which includes the use of fuel efficient vehicles, hybrid cars and electric vehicles.

Conclusions from Phase 3 of the project were discussed early last year, whereby ERIA and Nikken Sekkei Civil Limited had successfully formulated the Master Plan of Temburong Eco Town Development, which proposes a next generation eco-city model that balances

development and preservation by focussing on opportunities such as energy, tourism as well as life and work style.

Special Adviser on Energy Affairs from ERIA Shigeru Kimura and representative from government agencies and stakeholders participated. The meeting was officiated at The Centrepont Hotel in Gadong.