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GREEN GROWTH

SUCCESS DEPENDS ON PUBLIC'S LIFESTYLE

Way of living should demand greater efficiency



ROY GOH

ASTANA (Kazakhstan)

MALAYSIA is primed for growth in renewable energy having put in place principles and policies for its development.

However, its success depends on whether its people will lead lifestyles that demand greater efficiency.

This will be the message that the country hopes to convey in the Expo 2017 here, where it will showcase its efforts and aspirations on green growth.

The expo, begun two days ago, ends on Sept 10.

The Malaysia Pavilion, themed "Powering Green Growth", was launched here yesterday.

It aims to attract renewable energy players from 115 countries

taking part in the expo.

Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili, who launched the Malaysia Pavilion, said renewable energy was not merely a slogan for the country.

"Malaysia has created a plan and is delivering on that plan to foster green growth.

"Today, 22.1 per cent of our energy-generating capacity comes from renewable sources, such as biogas, biomass, hydropower and solar.

"We are a global leader in the photovoltaic value chain, with two and three top leadership positions in module and cell production.

"Despite our national development pursuit, we want to make Malaysia green for future generations as green growth is in our nature.

"Going green begins with the right mindset. It is our belief that this sets green growth in motion.

"Small actions can lead to large effects, and that is how Malaysia's butterfly effect is going to take shape."

Maximus said at the expo, Malaysia would feature its national butterfly, the Rajah Brooke's birdwing, to foster interest and

concern in the global community.

"We wish to create a butterfly effect of sorts, where a small event in one part of our planet can have a larger impact in another part of our world.

"Small actions, like closing a tap or switching off lights when not in use, will have an effect on mankind. We can all play that role, no matter how small, but collectively it will have a great impact.

"I am confident that the Malaysia Pavilion will inspire action towards a green future. We are officially inviting the world to create a green future with Malaysia. Malaysia is the most forested emerging market among the world's top 100 nations.

"So naturally, green growth is in our nature and we plan to prove to the world that emerging markets, like Malaysia, can and shall be leaders of green growth."

Also present were Malaysian ambassador to Kazakhstan Syed Mohamad Bakri Syed Abd Rahman, Energy, Green Technology and Water secretary-general and Malaysia Pavilion commissioner Datuk Seri Dr Zaini Ujang, Energy Commission chairman Datuk Abdul Razak Abdul Majid and Sustainable Energy Development Authority chairman Datuk Dr Yee Moh Chai, among others.