

15 APR 1999

Energy

NEW ENERGY STRATEGY IN EIGHTH MALAYSIA PLAN

KUALA LUMPUR, April 15 (Bernama) -- The government is reviewing its four-fuel energy strategy with the aim of adding renewable energy as the fifth fuel, Energy, Telecommunications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Leo Moggie said today.

He said the new five-fuel strategy would be incorporated in the Eighth Malaysia Plan which would mark an important step in the development of a sustainable national energy policy.

Solar and hydro energy, wind and biomass are some of the renewable energy resources which could be harnessed, said Moggie.

"Renewable energy is increasingly more important now and technology development and research has progressed so much in the last few years that the viability of some of the renewable energy resources are beginning to be seen," he told a news conference when announcing the World Renewable Energy Congress (WREC) '99 Malaysia to be held from June 8 to 11.

He said renewable energy resources were cleaner than traditional ones, given the concern of countries worldwide over environmental questions.

The four energy resources Malaysia currently depends on are oil, gas, hydro-power and coal.

On WREC, Moggie said this would be the first congress to be held outside the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and in Asia.

He said the event was an activity of the Solar World Programme 1996-2005 (WSP), an initiative of the World Solar Commission (WSC) aimed at promoting the development, adoption and wider utilisation of renewable energy resources globally.

The congress, expected to draw about 500 participants, is to be officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is a WSC member.

Moggie said June 8, this year, would be treated as the "Renewable Energy Day" for Malaysia with a host of related programmes scheduled in conjunction with the opening ceremony of the congress.

They include the official opening of the Malaysia Energy Centre and the flag-off of the central leg of the Malaysia International Solar Cycle Challenge by Dr Mahathir.

WREC '99 Malaysia is organised jointly by the public and private sectors, local universities and non-governmental organisations.

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