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Renewable energy in new fuel strategy

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Government is reviewing its current four-fuel energy strategy with the aim of incorporating renewable energy as a fifth fuel in the Eighth Malaysia Plan.

Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Leo Moggie said today the new five-fuel strategy would mark an important step in the development of a sustainable national energy policy and strategy.

"We will focus on improving technology for deriving renewable energy such as solar power and processing bio-mass waste including from our palm oil and rice industries," he told reporters at his Ministry today.

"This will mitigate the environmental implications of conventional energy sources and also prolong the depletable sources we depend on right now, which are oil, gas, coal and hydro-electricity."

As part of a global initiative to promote the development, adoption and wider use of renewable energy sources, Moggie said Malaysia would host the World Renewable Energy Congress 1999 Malaysia (WREC '99 Malaysia) from June 8 to 11.

It will be the first time the WREC will be hosted by an Asian country and one outside the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The congress will be organised under the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, an initiative under the World Solar Commission.

More than 500 policymakers, energy planners researchers, business leaders, academics and members of non-governmental organisations have registered for the WREC, which will see more than 250 papers presented.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will deliver the keynote address, flag off the Malaysian International Solar Cycle Challenge and launch the Malaysian Energy Centre (Pusat Tenaga Malaysia).

Dr Mahathir will also give away prizes for the National Schools Poster Competition on the Promotion of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in the Country.

The competition is organised by the Centre for Environment, Technology and Development Malaysia with the support of the Energy, Communications and Multimedia and Education ministries.

WREC '99 Malaysia is being organised as a joint effort between the public and private sectors, as well as universities and non-governmental organisations. The main sponsors are Tenaga Nasional Bhd and Musteq Holdings Sdn Bhd.

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