

**Malaysia Best In Asean Region On Environmental Performance Index  
Bernama  
January 31, 2012**

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 31 (Bernama) -- Malaysia was top among Asean countries on the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) for 2011 released by the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Douglas Uggah Embas said among 132 countries in the world, Malaysia was ranked 25th.

"Malaysia was also in third spot in the Asia-Pacific region behind New Zealand and Japan," he said in a media statement Tuesday.

The EPI which was developed by experts from Yale University and Columbia University measures a country's sustainability level through environmental health and strong, healthy ecosystems.

Malaysia is also in the high-performance group on the EPI together with Germany, Iceland, Finland, Denmark, Japan and Belgium.

In 2010, Malaysia was ranked 54th among 261 countries compared to Singapore at 28th, but the island republic dropped to 52nd on the latest index.

Uggah said the ministry was now adapting the international EPI to develop the model for Malaysia, and the work was being headed by Malaysia Environmental Council chairman Prof Datuk Zaini Ujang of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

"Malaysia's achievement on the EPI this time has been due to various initiatives and new policies mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak who emphasises on sustainability in the New Economic Model," he said.

Malaysia notched encouraging scores in the aspects of air management and its impact on human health (97.3 per cent), agriculture (95.5) and biodiversity and habitat (90.1).

Other aspects like climate change, fishery, forestry, and water and air pollution were also evaluated.

-- BERNAMA

---BERNAMA

Copyright © 2012 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsindex.php?id=643329>