

Malaysia At Forefront In Managing Renewable Energy In Region
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GEORGE TOWN, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is at the forefront in Southeast Asia in managing renewable energy as it has established strong mechanisms for this purpose.

Chief operating officer of the Sustainable Energy Development Authority (Seda), Ir Dr Ali Askar Sher Mohamad said the Malaysian government was committed to encouraging the public to contribute to producing renewable energy by establishing Seda and introducing the Renewable Energy Act 2011, thus making Malaysia a role model.

"After we launched the feed-in tariff on Dec 1, 2011, then only the Philippines and Indonesia did the same project. We already have confidence, especially in solar photovoltaics (PV).

"Because of that, we are actually able to offer training and capacity building not only to Malaysians but also to others in the region," he said after a dialogue with the feed-in approval holders, here, Thursday.

Also present was Seda chief executive officer, Datin Badriyah Abdul Malek.

Badriyah, meanwhile, said although Malaysia was at the forefront in managing renewable energy, public awareness on renewable energy like its safety aspect and importance to the economy as well as the issue of global warming was still low, especially in the rural areas.

"A country's economy depends a lot on its energy supply. If it does not have enough of this, it will have a big problem.

"We need to have more promotions, to explain to the people on the importance of renewable energy as an alternative source to complement electricity supply," she said.

Earlier, in her opening remarks, Badriyah said the final release of 1,500kW of solar PV quota for individuals would kick-start on Sept 18 at noon.

She said to date, there were 1,585 applications from individuals, with 882 from the northern region.

"On Aug 28, we released 500kW individual quotas for solar PV and the response was overwhelming. The release of the second batch of 500kW solar PV quotas which should have been done on Sept 4, was called off due to an unexpected overwhelming number of incoming traffic to Seda Malaysia's portal.

"This is the first time the opening of solar PV quotas for individuals have attracted so much interest.

"The overwhelming interest in this programme has hampered the system in catering to the sudden huge increase in load. We have now rectified the problem," she said.

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