

Jumpstarting 'green' industry in North Kalimantan

INDONESIA has never shied away from expressing its hunger for modernisation and industrialisation.

The country has been taking a pragmatic approach to achieving its dream of leapfrogging toward a high-income country.

Developing a green and high-value industrial sector is what President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) deems the key to transforming the country by taking a ride on the wave of the global climate agenda.

The strategy will be built upon Indonesia's comparative advantages, including sunlight, land, water, feedstock, and labour force.

In his whirlwind visit in July 2022 to the three regional powerhouses in the Asia Pacific, i.e., China, Japan, and South Korea, the President consistently highlighted Indonesia's request for investment and technological support in developing its first green industry park in North Kalimantan, namely Tanah Kuning-Mangkupadi Indonesian Green Industrial Estate (KIH).

It has been deemed Indonesia's flagship to knock on the door of an advanced economy.

Mega hydropower projects

As described in an earlier article, in the current plan, mega hydropower backed by Chinese technologies will serve as the primary source of electricity for the park's operation.

The 9,000MW Kayan



Exploring Sustainable Development

with Dr Goh Chun Sheng

Hydropower Project in Bulungan District, to be built by Power China, has already begun construction in 2019.

Another smaller project with a capacity of 1,375MW, namely the Mentarang Induk Hydroelectric Project in Malinau District, will be jointly developed by a local firm with Sarawak Energy.

While Korea's dam constructing firms have been active in Southeast Asia, the Korean-backed hydropower projects in Indonesia are on relatively smaller scales.

Japan's presence in Indonesia's hydropower sector is rather limited.

President Jokowi managed to bag home about US\$320 million in loans from Prime Minister Kishida for an Indonesian hydropower project during his recent trip to Tokyo.

As a comparison, this amount is only about 1.5 per cent of the Kayan project's total cost.

A regional value chain for electric vehicle

The core of Indonesia's green industry development plan is establishing a regional value

chain for electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing.

Holding almost a quarter of the world's nickel reserves, the country has a comparative advantage in making batteries for EVs.

Nickel is also an essential ingredient for stainless steel manufacturing. By banning the export of nickel ore, Indonesia is pushing to keep the country's added value.

In the last few years, China and Korea have been expanding in nickel mining and processing in Indonesia, especially in Sulawesi and North Maluku.

However, there has been substantial pressure from the market to phase out fossil fuels, particularly coal, in powering nickel processing facilities.

This situation has led to the idea of moving the ore processing components to Tanah Kuning, powered by the said mega hydropower plants.

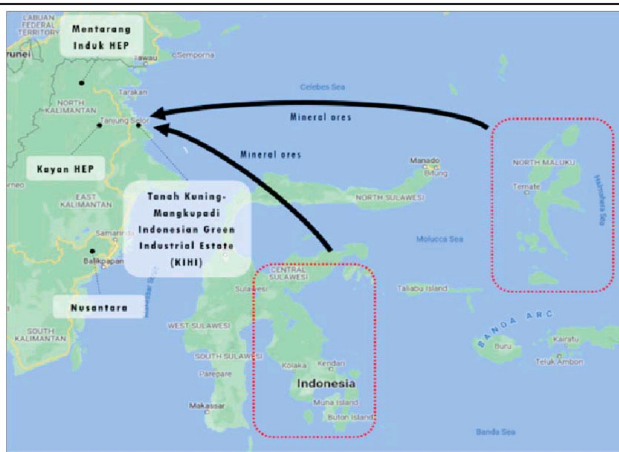
Furthermore, the President is keen to expand downstream to battery manufacturing.

Indonesia can now produce intermediates for making battery cathodes with Chinese technologies.

It may soon be able to manufacture batteries for EVs with a Korean-backed facility which is currently under construction in West Java.

In contrast to China's and South Korea's swift actions, Japan is relatively slow in this race to EV, as it was rather keen to push for hydrogen-based or hybrid cars.

The disagreement in development directions has



Approximate locations of the projects.

even caused some friction between Japan and Indonesia, with the Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs of Indonesia, Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, openly accusing Japan of technology colonialism.

After President Jokowi's recent trip to Tokyo, there seems to be a U-turn on this —Toyota has pledged to invest US\$1.8 billion in the EV industry in Indonesia.

Malinau wood pellet plant

Whether co-fired with coal or burnt in stand-alone units, bioenergy may play a complementary role as baseload power.

This option remains attractive due to the location of the said industrial park —it is surrounded by large tracts of oil palm plantations in both Kalimantan and the adjacent Sabah states of Malaysia, which generate an enormous amount of biomass residues from both the plantations and the mills.

Japan and Korea have been very active in Indonesia's

biomass industry, particularly eyeing importing biomass to be co-fired in their coal power plants.

In contrast, China has not operatively participated in Indonesia's biomass sector. Recently, it was reported that the Indonesian coal producer Mitrabara Adiperdana (MBAP) has started constructing its first wood pellet plant in Malinau District.

The pellets will be exported through Tarakan port to Japan, aiming to tap into the country's feed-in-tariff scheme. The plant is expected to start operation in early 2024, targeting an annual output capacity of at least 120,000 tonnes.

The raw materials will come from MBAP's 10,000-ha timber plantation, mainly eucalyptus, kalinda, and sengon.

Future perspectives

Indonesia's grand plan for the green industry is still in its infancy.

As things are evolving rapidly, it is worth paying close

attention to the dynamics and complexity of the involvement of investors along the entire chain.

The participation of foreign capital and technology providers can be viewed as both a blessing and a curse, particularly from China, Japan and South Korea.

Their collaborations and competitions may make a valuable contribution to pushing Indonesia's 'green' agenda, but may also place the country in an awkward position of geopolitical struggles.

Indonesia will have to manoeuvre this carefully to achieve its dream of transforming toward a green and advanced economy.

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Experts highlight ways to tackle abuse of elderly folk down to the core

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's ageing population is on the rise and based on recent projections, the number of people over 65 is expected to triple from two million today to over six million by 2040.

The sharp increase in the number of elderly population means a rise in people living with non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and likely higher incidents of elderly abuse incidents.

A recent study published in the BMJ Medical Journal by local researchers found that about over eight per cent or about one in 11 elderly adults polled experienced physical (3.4 per cent) or financial (4.8 per cent) abuse.

The findings of the study titled, 'Mortality of elder financial and psychological abuse victims in rural Malaysia: A prospective cohort study', were not far from the statistics in the Health Ministry's National Health and Morbidity Survey 2018.

Similarly, the survey found that one in 11 elderly people were at risk of abuse at the hands of someone they trusted.

It was also found that the elderly folks with the poorest social support experienced the most abuse.

Elaborating on the findings, researcher Dr Raudah Mohd Yunus said there were many known risk factors for abuse of the elderly people.

"Some of them include family disharmony or poor relationships between elderly and caregiver, mental health issues or substance abuse among caregivers, older adults' dependency on others due to chronic illness or physical dysfunction as well as poor education or low socio-economic condition."

The study, which surveyed 1,927 elderly people, highlighted that about 70 per cent of the abuse victims had at least one NCD.

According to Dr Raudah, NCDs may not be the determining factor for the prevalence in



Studies have found that one in 11 elderly people in Malaysia are at risk of abuse or neglect.

abuse of the elderly folks.

She, however, noted that having NCDs would generally make it more difficult to care for an older adult, which might eventually lead to neglect or the inability of the caregiver to cope with the situation.

"NCDs can also lead to more physical dysfunction needing aid for most of their daily activities or even poor mental health."

"This situation makes them more prone to abuse and neglect."

Dr Raudah said the study also found that an elderly person living alone was at higher risk of abuse.

"In my opinion, it also depends on the type of abuse."

"For instance, those living alone may be more prone to neglect or other types of abuse mainly because they are isolated and the abuser has easier access to the victim."

On the other hand, she said if the victim lived only with the abuser, this would also make abuse easier to happen.

"Our paper found that having companions other than the caregiver or abuser in the house could be protective against abuse."

"This is rather obvious because if other family members are there, it won't be so easy for

the perpetrator to victimise the elder."

Dr Raudah noted that the financial situation of the abuser or the victim could also be a contributing factor to elderly abuse incidents.

"In general, our data shows that those from the lower income groups are more prone to financial abuse."

"For example, the elder may get regular pension money which the abuser can take advantage of, or maybe the elder has properties that the abuser may claim ownership, or deceive the old parent into unknowingly signing a document."

Speaking about the prevalence of elderly abuse, Dr Raudah said she believed many abuse incidents were not reported for various reasons including shame, stigma and lack of proper reporting channels.

"Some ways to prevent such incidents include promoting healthier family dynamics and relationships, caregiver training and having greater awareness on this issue among the public and family members."

"It is also important to train social workers and healthcare providers on how to detect and manage elder abuse cases, having laws that protect our elders from abuse and strengthening the welfare support system."

Tackling the core of the issue

Looking at the bigger picture, the Health Ministry's deputy director for non-communicable diseases Dr Feisal Idzwan Mustapha said the issue of elderly abuse went back to a lack of awareness and caretakers' knowledge in handling emotional stress and coping skills.

"Additionally, lack of support for victims in the family is among the contributing factors towards family violence. Basically, this relates to the level of health literacy."

Moving forward, Dr Feisal said efforts towards abuse prevention should focus on increasing awareness towards a strong family structure and cohesiveness, increasing mental health literacy, coping skills and self-care among family members.

"Mental health life skills such as anger management, communication and conflict resolution are vital in tackling the elderly abuse issue."

Dr Feisal also noted that measures to prevent abuse should be targeted to address the predisposing factors towards abuse. According to him, there are some measures that are already in place or should be strengthened in Malaysia.

"One of the ways is to support primary caregivers in terms of training and mental strength in handling patients."

The caregivers also need support to find community resources in terms of obtaining financial and emotional support, self-care and stress management."

Dr Feisal said there was a need to increase accessibility to provide comprehensive support for family violence victims in primary care settings, including psychosocial support, counselling and strengthening capacity building of health care workers to handle family violence cases.

"Empower the older adults on keeping active, engaging activities in the community and practising a healthy lifestyle."

—Malay Mail

Saudi-Malaysia relations continue to develop, says ambassador

KUALA LUMPUR: Saudi ambassador to Malaysia Datuk Mahmud Hussein Sa'eed Qattan said the relations between Saudi Arabia and Malaysia continued to develop and progress.

He said this year witnessed many signs of the development of the relations.

The relations witnessed an increase of 104 per cent in the volume of trade exchange between the two countries in the first half of 2022 compared to the same period last year, and the volume of trade between the two countries amounted to US\$3.6 billion (RM16 billion).

"The opening of the Malaysian office in Jeddah for the purpose of promoting commodities such as palm oil, rubber and timber also started to show positive results."

"In the field of investment, Saudi Ajjlan & Brothers Group in August signed a number of memoranda of understanding (MoU) with several Malaysian companies involving investments of almost RM34 billion," Qattan said.

He said this year, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia offered 300 scholarships for Malaysian students to continue their studies in Saudi universities, which included many advantages such as travel tickets, medical insurance, housing and allowances.

The ambassador said this in his speech at the celebration of the 92nd National Day of Saudi Arabia at a hotel here Friday night.

The annual event, which had been postponed for two consecutive years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, was attended by, among others, Malaysia's Youth and Sports Minister



Datuk Mahmud Hussein Sa'eed Qattan

Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu who was the guest of honour, foreign diplomats, government officials, the business community and the Saudi community here.

In the field of tourism, Qattan said more than 120,000 Saudi tourists visited Malaysia in 2019, and after easing the precautionary measures of Covid-19 pandemic, in May of this year, thousands of Saudi citizens flocked to visit Malaysia.

In 2019, about 300,000 Malaysian citizens visited the Kingdom.

Qattan said since the launching of Vision 2030, and during the past six years, the Vision 2030 had achieved several basic reforms that had contributed to the implementation of many important achievements.

He said Saudi Arabia sought to assert its presence and participation in important cultural and sports events in the regional and international arenas, as Riyadh would organise the Asian Games in 2034, and the Kingdom was seeking to organise the World Expo 2030 in Riyadh.

"I would also like to thank the Malaysian government for its support in Riyadh's bid to host the Expo 2030", he added. —Bernama