

Kids can learn all about 'turtle power' in a fun way

By MENG YEW CHOONG
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PETALING JAYA: It's been a long labour of love for two conservationists as they worked on a children's book about freshwater turtles.

Loretta Shepherd and Dr Chen Pelf Nyok, both with a combined experience of more than three decades in the field of turtle conservation in Malaysia, have now produced a colouring book.

But *Turtles of Malaysia* is more than just that – it also doubles up as an educational book for children aged seven and above.

"It is fully-illustrated and contains bite-sized information on all the 18 species of freshwater turtles in Malaysia, in both English and Bahasa Malaysia," said Chen,



Labour of love: Shepherd (left) and Chen with their dual-purpose colouring book.

co-founder of the Turtle Conservation Society of Malaysia, a non-profit organisation dedicated

to the protection and conservation of freshwater turtles in the country.

Shepherd is a former Malaysian journalist turned conservationist who, over the years, has been actively involved in Malayan tiger conservation as well as the wildlife rescue and rehabilitation of mainly tortoises.

She is now the communications coordinator for the Monitor Research Society.

"I strongly believe that teaching kids about unknown species is key to changing the future for wildlife," she said.

For Chen, this bilingual book – in English and Malay – that took six months to produce is a channel to impart knowledge in highly accessible manner.

"When we talk about turtles, peo-

ple generally assume we're talking about sea turtles.

"There's so much more that we should do to raise awareness of our freshwater turtles, hence the book.

"We wanted to produce a book that is not only educational for children, but equally beneficial for parents, guardians and teachers.

"Chances are, most adults in Malaysia do not know that we have 18 incredible freshwater turtles and tortoises," said Chen, who has been a freshwater turtle researcher and conservationist since 2004.

She has also conducted more than 130 educational programmes with school students from a decade ago, with these "turtle camps" having benefited more than 16,000 rural school students, mostly

in Terengganu.

In addition to educational programmes, Chen also leads the Turtle Conservation Society's community-based river terrapin research and conservation projects, as well as women empowerment initiatives.

For her efforts, she was named the Commonwealth Point of Light for Malaysia by Queen Elizabeth II in 2018.

Turtles of Malaysia is available now at Lit Books at Tropicana Avenue here, other than Shopee.

Those who need more assistance can email pelf@turtleconservation-society.org.my, while more information about the Turtle Conservation Society and its efforts can be found at www.turtleconservationsociety.org.my

Disabled join fight against graft

MACC to form special platform for them to get info and report corrupt practices

By JOSEPH KAOS Jr
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PUTRAJAYA: It will soon be easier for Malaysians with disabilities to lodge reports against corruption or get more information on graft, with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) looking to form a special platform for this.

MACC deputy chief commissioner (prevention) Datuk Seri Norazlan Mohd Razali said the platform could be set up as early as August and will

start with a collaboration with the Malaysian Federation of the Deaf (MFD).

"Corruption is something that occurs everywhere and affects all communities, including the disabled.

"At present, we do not have a structured platform, so this makes it difficult for the deaf community and people with disabilities to know what to do when they come across corruption.

"With this communications

bridge, we hope to establish more interaction with the deaf community. They will know how to file a complaint or gather more information on corruption.

"After this, if they spot acts with elements of corruption such as misappropriation of funds meant for an association, they can easily lodge reports.

"Swift action can then be taken and we will be able to prevent leakages," Norazlan told a press conference after attending MACC's Anti-

Corruption Programme with the Deaf Community here yesterday.

As for confidentiality, Norazlan said MACC will always ensure that its whistleblowers are protected by the law.

He said MACC's platform with the deaf community should be ready in August, and the commission will also be engaging with other associations of disabled persons in the near future.

Also present at the event were OKU Sentral president Senator

Datuk Ras Adiba Radzi and MFD president Mohamad Sazali Shaari.

"The disabled community including deaf people are limited in terms of communication. The disabled have difficulties expressing themselves and they are left out from information," said Ras Adiba.

"The MACC has been very inclusive to include the disabled community in their fight against corruption, at least the disabled will not feel like third-class citizens," she added.

THE Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA) Malaysia will be organising its fifth International Sustainable Energy Summit (ISES) 2022 in collaboration with the Energy and Natural Resources Ministry (KeTSA) from Aug 29-30.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob will officiate the summit at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC).

Launched in 2012, the biennial knowledge-based platform focusing on renewable energy and energy efficiency is back this year with a line up of 30 exhibitors and over 70 speakers to further drive the sustainability agenda and address climate change issues within the country and globally.

Patrons can expect large-scale exhibitions, technology showcases, trade programmes and business matching sessions all rolled into one event with an expected footfall of some 4,500 visitors.

The two-day event will explore two key elements – knowledge sharing in the form of conferences, and on ground activities via exhibitions, pocket talks, and others.

The theme for this year is *Empowering Energy Transition*, whereby the summit will convene thought leaders and global thinkers to share ideas on accelerating sustainability and the transition to clean energy from the perspectives of technology, business models, financing and government policies.

ISES 2022 will also provide a platform for intellectual and strategic discussions on the actions as well as interventions required towards achieving the government's aspirational renewable energy target of 31% by 2025 and 40% by 2035 outlined in the recent Malaysia Renewable Energy Roadmap (MyRER).

ISES 2022 will also include ses-

SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

ISES 2022 pushes the sustainable energy agenda forward

The fifth International Sustainable Energy Summit (ISES) 2022 follows the theme Empowering Energy Transition, which resonates with the global call for governments to prioritise and accelerate the energy transition agenda, especially in the implementation of the post Covid-19 economic recovery measures. This is also in line with the Malaysia Renewable Energy Roadmap 2035 (MyRER).

Aug 29 - 30, 2022

Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC)

ISES 2022 theme: Empowering Energy Transition

Expected footfall of some 4,500 visitors

Line up of 30 exhibitors and over 70 speakers

Hosted by: [Government of Malaysia]

Organised by: [SEDA]

International Sustainable Energy Summit

5th ISES 2022

EMPOWERING ENERGY TRANSITION

29th - 30th AUGUST 2022

KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE

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sions on exploring digital innovation in the electricity system.

Luminaries at the event will discuss topics such as the decarbonisation of the energy sector, green growth opportunities and regional interconnectivity.

With a stellar lineup of thought leaders, the main plenary session on *Empowering Energy Transition* will feature the perspectives of energy experts on the industry's pressing issues, against the backdrop of the global energy supply crisis.

One of the key panellists, World Bank lead economist for Malaysia Dr Apurva Sanghi, will bring macro-economy with environmental expertise to the table.

He has worked on development topics ranging from infrastructure and climate change to micro-finance and agricultural economics and is the lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Joining him and chairing the ses-

sion will be Bursa Malaysia Berhad chairman Tan Sri Abdul Wahid Omar, one of the most versatile corporate leaders in Malaysia.

Abdul Wahid has successfully led four major organisations in infrastructure development, telecommunications, financial services and investment management.

He also served as a Senator and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department in charge of Economic Planning from June 2013 to June 2016.

Rounding out the session will be key panellist and EU ambassador to Malaysia, Michalis Rokas, who has 26 years experience in foreign affairs, having joined the European Commission External Relations Directorate General in 1994.

Spearheading the second plenary session on *Financing Energy Transition: Unlocking Opportunities and Enabling Impact Investments* will be World Bank infrastructure finance specialist Prajakta Chitre.

Based in Singapore, she has 13

years' experience working on infrastructure finance, public-private partnerships and guarantees across the energy, transport and water sectors. She has worked on various transactions to advise on structure risk mitigation instruments to mobilise private capital for strategic infrastructure projects in emerging and developing markets.

Patrons will be privy to plenary sessions and deep-dive workshops offering benefits and opportunities to develop and generate programme and product commercialisation related to sustainable energy.

Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia Dr Justin Lee will chair the Deep Dive Workshop Three on *Managing High Penetration of Variable Renewable Energy (VRE) in the Electricity Grid*.

Lee is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and was most recently

First Assistant Secretary, Multilateral Policy Division.

He has previously served overseas as Head of Mission in Bangladesh, as well as Deputy Head of Mission in Jakarta and in Port Moresby.

ISES 2022 is supported by Platinum sponsors such as Cenergi SEA Bhd, Concord Renewable Energy Sdn Bhd, Malakoff Corporation Berhad, PETRONAS and Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) with Diamond sponsors like NUR Power Sdn Bhd.

The summit is in line with MyRER and follows the global call for governments to prioritise and accelerate the energy transition agenda especially in the implementation of post-Covid-19 economic recovery measures.

To register and learn more about ISES 2022, go to www.ises.gov.my.