TEEAM 50th ISSUE

Jogathon 2007

he annual TEEAM Jogathon was held on 25th November 2007 at Taman Tasik Perdana (Lake Garden), Kuala Lumpur with 243 joggers taking part. Mr Toh Wai Kuen of Wong Electrical & Teak Wood Sdn Bhd won the 6-km race men's category in 26 minutes 21 seconds. Cik Rohana of Clipsal Manufacturing (M) Sdn Bhd clocked 37 minutes and 31 seconds to become the Champion of Ladies' event

A big thank you to our generous sponsors who made the event a success, namely EITA Holdings Sdn Bhd, JJ-Lapp Cable (M) Sdn Bhd, PDL Electric (M) Sdn Bhd and Syarikat See Wide Letrik Sdn Bhd.

Our appreciation also goes to St John's Ambulance and the first aiders for helping out in case of emergency.

All winners are listed on page 29.



Busy moment – A shot taken during registration in the early morning.



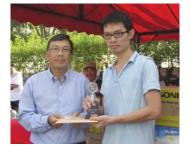
Lady joggers – A pose taken before flag-off.



Waiting patiently – Joggers waiting under the morning sun for the results to be announced.



We did it! – (wearing vest) Mr Liang Kok Boon (Sports Chairman) giving moral support to some joggers.



Repeated Champion — (right) Mr Toh Wai Kuen of Wong Electrical & Teak Wood Sdn Bhd receiving Jaya Jusco Voucher worth RM 300 and a trophy from Mr David Chong Ah Nyap (TEEAM Vice President).



Emerging Ladies' Champion – Cik Rohana of Clipsal Manufacturing (M) Sdn Bhd receiving Jaya Jusco Voucher worth RM 300 and a trophy from Mr Liang Kok Boon (Sports Chairman).



Bravo! – A group photo taken after the prize presentation. Congratulations to all the winners!



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E-Mail: safety@teknik.com.my URL:http://www.teknik.com.my



Jogathon Results

Men's Event

Champion

Toh Wai Kuen

Wong Electrical & Teak Wood Sdn Bhd *Trophy + Jaya Jusco Voucher* (worth RM300.00)

1st Runner-Up

Wu Jong Kwong

Tenaga Teknik Kian Lee Sdn Bhd *Trophy + Panasonic Vacuum Cleaner*

2nd Runner-Up

Sundaresen a/l Perumal Individual Member Trophy + Jaya Jusco Voucher (worth RM100.00)

Fourth

Thanaseelan

Clipsal Manufacturing (M) Sdn Bhd Elba Rice Cooker

Fifth

Mak Wei Mun

Nanyang Electric Co. (M) Sdn Bhd *Pensonic Oven Toaster*

Sixth

Yap Yin Ken

Letrik P. J. Union Sdn Bhd Hanabishi Slow Cooker

Seventh

Prithivi

Clipsal Manufacturing (M) Sdn Bhd Sanyo Electric Kettle

Eighth

Kue Chin Wei

Clipsal Manufacturing (M) Sdn Bhd *Porcelain Dining Set*

Ninth

Chong Khee Chon

Program Electronic Sdn Bhd

Khind Hair Dryer

Tenth

Roman Haidmann Siteco Lighting (M) Sdn Bhd Takada Sandwich Maker

Ladies' Event

Champion

Rohana

Clipsal Manufacturing (M) Sdn Bhd Trophy + Jaya Jusco Voucher (worth RM300.00)

1st Runner-Up

Irene

EITA Holdings Sdn Bhd Trophy + Panasonic Vacuum Cleaner

2nd Runner-Up

Crystal

EITA Holdings Sdn Bhd Trophy + Jaya Jusco Voucher (worth RM100.00)

Fourth

Nur Syuhada Clipsal Manufacturing (M) Sdn Bhd

Elba Rice Cooker

Fifth

Ee Keok Hwa JJ-Lapp Cable (M) Sdn Bhd

Pensonic Oven Toaster

Sixth

Amararathi

Clipsal Manufacturing (M) Sdn Bhd *Hanabishi Slow Cooker*

Seventh

Yap Siew Foon

Nanyang Electric Co. (M) Sdn Bhd Sanyo Electric Kettle

Eighth

Fazimah

Clipsal Manufacturing (M) Sdn Bhd

Porcelain Dining Set

Ninth

Anuzah Arumaugam Clipsal Manufacturing (M) Sdn Bhd Khind Table Fan

Tenth

Onn Yee Sen

Success Electronics & Transformer Manufacturer Sdn Bhd Takada Sandwich Maker

Eleventh

Nguyen Thi Thuy Liieu Clipsal Manufacturing (M) Sdn Bhd Faber Iron

Twelveth

Tan Chung Ling

Success Electronics & Transformer Manufacturer Sdn Bhd *Tesco Bread Toaster*

Thirteenth

Norliah

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1 unit Panasonic Vacuum Cleaner

Syarikat See Wide Letrik Sdn Bhd RM250.00



Partnership with TEEAM in Training

The Electrical and Electronics Association of Malaysia (TEEAM) is **offering partnership opportunity** with any institution/body/company to jointly organise **training courses in all categories**. Please be informed that the proposal on training courses is not restricted to merely electrical and electronics (E&E) courses, it can be any areas of training and yet maybe of interest to our members who are involving in the E&E fraternity. TEEAM was established since 1952 and has membership of over 1,600 nationwide. We have facilities for wiring training as well as a conference room. We have an efficient Secretariat to handle the broadcast of events to all our members as well as related Government Agencies, Associations and Institutions. All proposals are welcomed to be submitted to the TEEAM Secretariat via email (teeam@streamyx.com or teeam@po.jaring.my). Deadline for the submission is **before 28th March 2008**. Our training committee will take due consideration on every proposal that is submitted.











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State Associations News

Following are the reports of activities submitted by the various State Association Members of TEEAM.

Penang Electrical Merchants' Association

No. 171A, Malacca Street, 10400 Penang. Tel: 604 - 229 0195 Fax: 604 - 228 4233 E-mail: pema@streamyx.com Website: www.pema.org.my

Walkathon 2007

On 25th November 2007, the PEMA Recreation Committee headed by the Chairman, Mr Lim Kim San organised a walkathon to Air Itam Dam, Penang. Its objective was to foster closer relationship among PEMA trustees, advisors, members, their employees and families. About 200 walkers participated in the event. They received T-shirts, goodies and some attractive prizes for the lucky draw. Refreshments were served at the top of the hill. It was a joyous occasion where all mingled to get to know each other in the spirit of PEMA sportsmanship.



Sweaty walkers - A group photo for the album.

1-day Seminar

A 1-day seminar on Electro-Mechanical Motor Starter Solution, Type Co-ordination & Protection was jointly organised by PEMA and Schneider Electric on 13th November 2007 at Evergreen Hotel, Penang. Speaker, Mr Ken Leow was invited from Schneider Electric. He is a graduate in Technology (Management) from University of Ballarat, Australia. The seminar was organised by Mr Chee Soon Chin (Manufacturer Committee Chairman) and Ir Chong Yew Lam (Technical Committee Chairman). The seminar successfully drew 60 participants. Five CPD hours were approved by BEM. The proceeds from the registration fees went to the PEMA Education Fund.



At the seminar - Speaker sharing his knowledge with the participants.

TNB Friendly Golf with Prime Customers

TNB Pulau Pinang invited PEMA to join their friendly golf which was held on 26th August 2007 at Penang Golf Resort, Bertam, Penang. Council Members, Mr Teoh Yew Yean and Mr Lee Kuan Meng together with two members participated in the event.

Courtesy Visit to ST

A 7-member delegation led by PEMA President, Mr Hong Yeam Wah paid a courtesy visit to Ir Md Zakuan Hj Ibrahim (Director of Energy Commission, Northern Region) on 5th July 2007. Some PEMA activities and problems faced by the members were highlighted during the visit.



Souvenir presentation – A souvenir was presented to Ir Md Zakuan Hj Ibrahim by Mr Hong Yeam Wah (PEMA President) at the end of the fruitful discussion.



Sabah Electrical Association

Lot No. 3-3-R, Beverly Hills Plaza, Jalan Bundusan, 88300 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Tel: 6088 - 712 358 Fax: 6088 - 717 358 E-mail: pes233@tm.net.my

11th Anniversary Dinner

The Sabah Electrical Association (PES) celebrated its 11th anniversary on 26th January 2008. A grand dinner was organised at Putera Theatre Ballroom, Bukit Padang, Kota Kinabalu. Highlights of the dinner were lion dance, lucky draw, energetic dances and singing session. Some 1,010 guests and members attended the dinner.



All smiles – A group photo of guests at the VVIP table.

TEEAM Council Meeting

PES hosted a Council Meeting for TEEAM on 26th January 2008 at PES premises in Beverly Plaza, Kota Kinabalu. PES President, Ir Shim Siong Lit together with PES Secretary, Mr Lee Vui Ken and PES Treasurer, Mr Foong June Choy were present at the meeting. PES also organised two friendly golf games at Sutera Resort Golf Club and Karambunai Golf Club. Lit was present at the meeting.



PES President - Ir Shim Siong

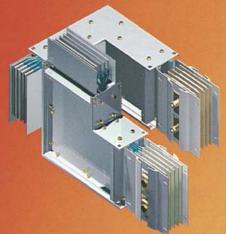




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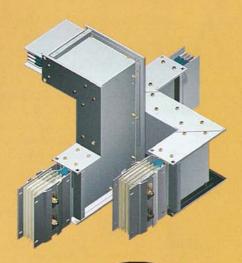
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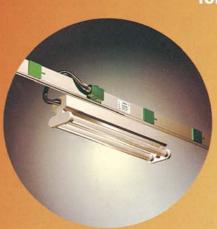
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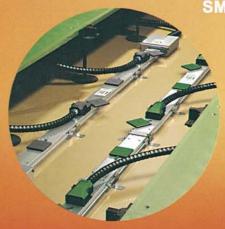
DAVIS LIGHTRACK BUSWAY

40A and 63A Lighting Busway for Lighting Applications



DAVIS POWERTRACK BUSWAY

40A, 63A and 80A Power Busway for SMI Applications



DAVIS BUSTRACK BUSWAY

63A Busway for Raised Floor Applications

..... Continue State Associations News

Sandakan Electrical Engineering Association, Sabah

Block A, Lot No. 1, 2nd Floor, Bandar Tong Huat, Batu 3, Jalan Utara, 90000 Sandakan, Sabah. Tel: 6089 - 213 978 Fax: 6089 - 213 978 E-mail: chin336@tm.net.my

2008 Annual Dinner

The Sandakan Electrical Engineering Association (SEEA) organised its annual dinner on 19th January 2008 at Ocean King Restaurant. During the dinner, SEEA presented the Datuk Edmund Chong Scholarship to members' children who achieved excellent academic performance.



Datuk Edmund Chong Scholarship Presentation – An award presentation was held in conjunction with the dinner celebration.



Yam seng! – SEEA Committee Members and Chairman, Mr Chin Ket Hiung (4th left) standing on the stage to toast to the guests.

TEEAM Council Meeting

SEEA Chairman, Mr Chin Ket Hiung attended the TEEAM Council Meeting in Kota Kinabalu which was held on 26th January 2008.

> Mr Chin Ket Hiung – SEEA Chairman at the meeting.





Electrical Association of 3rd, 6th & 7th Divisions, Sibu

No. 6, Lane 4, Kandis Road, Off Maling Road, 96000 Sibu, Sarawak. Tel: 6084 - 331 460 Fax: 6084 - 346 114 E-mail: sccci@streamyx.com

30th Anniversary Dinner

The Electrical Association of 3rd, 6th & 7th Divisions, Sibu will be celebrating its 30th anniversary with a grand dinner towards end of 2008. A souvenir programme book will be published in conjunction with the dinner. Members of TEEAM are welcomed to advertise in the souvenir book for publicity and support purpose. For details, please contact the TEEAM Secretariat at Tel: 603-9221 4417 E-mail: teeam@po.jaring.my



The Perak Electrical Association

No. 12-A, Jalan Datuk Mahmud, 31650 Ipoh, Perak Darul Ridzuan. Tel: 605 - 254 1502 Fax: 605 - 250 9145 E-mail: meiyu@streamyx.com

Safety Campaign Programme

On 13th December 2007, the Perak Electrical Association (PEA) attended an electrical and gas safety campaign programme which was organised by the Energy Commission (ST) at Hotel Impiana Casuarina, Ipoh , Perak. YB Dato' Yip Phooi Hong, Timbalan Yang Dipertua Dewan Negeri Perak was the guest of honour. Some 120 participants attended the programme.

Dialogue with Suruhanjaya Tenaga

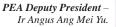
ST held a dialogue with stakeholders on 9th January 2007 to discuss street lighting in housing project. Some 18 persons were presented at the dialogue which was chaired by ST Manager, En Nor Ali. Those present from TNB, REDHA Taiping Municipal, PEA and representatives from chargemen & wiremen association.

AGM 2008

PEA will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the year 2008 on 16th March 2008 at PEA premises.

TEEAM Council Meeting

PEA Deputy President, Ir Angus Ang Mei Yu attended the TEEAM Council Meeting in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah on 26th January 2008.





Other State Association Members' contacts:



Malacca Electrical Contractors and Traders Association

No. 389-G1, Taman Pringgit Jaya, Jalan Mata Kuching, 75400 Melaka. Tel: 606 - 283 8688 Fax: 606 - 781 1466



Negeri Sembilan Electrical Engineering Association

c/o No. 194, Jalan Pantai, 71000 Port Dickson. Tel: 606-647 1105 Fax: 606-647 4728



Sarawak Electrical Association

Lot 412, (2nd Floor), Lorong 11D,
Off Jalan Ang Cheng Ho, 93700 Kuching, Sarawak.
P. O. Box 1494, 93730 Kuching, Sarawak.
Tel: 6082 - 423 145 Fax: 6082 - 429 011
E-mail: btanhakkoon@yahoo.com



Johor Bahru Electrical & Electronics Association

No.7-01, Jalan Bentara Luar, Taman Iskandar, 80050 Johor Bahru, Johor Darul Takzim. Tel: 607 - 333 8174 Fax: 607 - 224 1923 E-mail: jatco@pd.jaring.my





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Challenges and Opportunities in Electrical Industry - Part 7

This paper was prepared by Ir Chew Shee Fuee, TEEAM Immediate Past President.

RCBO - Residual Current Breakers with Overload Protection

Recently I was informed that we have local manufacturer of RCBOs. When I asked why they are not selling it in the local market I was told that it is too expensive. Just to let you know that we have advanced from fuses to MCBs (Miniature Circuit Breakers). Currently we have a single RCD (Residual Current Breaker) in each DB (Distribution Board) whether it is single phase or three phase. The problem with this is that if the RCD operates all the circuits in the DB are affected. I have previously written in detail to propose more zones of protection.

If RCBO is used every outgoing circuit is protected individually for both overload and earth leakage protection. The RCBO is the integration of a MCB with a RCD.

Therefore if you intend to protect each circuit with earth leakage protection you can look forward to apply RCBOs in your DB.

The RCBOs are currently being used in UK and Europe.

Non Electromechanical Overcurrent and Earth Fault Relays

Over the years we have replaced numerous numbers of non electromechanical overcurrent and earth fault relays. We have also carried out repairs of non electromechanical relays in a greater number. It is almost certain that non electromechnical relays fail after a period of time in service. The period can be a few years to ten years. Fortunately most of these relays fail without causing unnecessary outages. However some relays fail by causing outages.

There is a great percentage of the relays which have failed power supply units. If the power supply units can be replaced the relays will be functioning again.

What should we do with these non electromechanical overcurrent and earth fault

relays if we know that they are likely to fail one way or the other? In the case where failure can cause outages it is necessary to replace them before suffering great losses.

Since electronic relays are normally associated for usage in more controlled temperature and humidity environment it is now necessary to keep them in such required conditions. This will be a capital investment in substation and switchroom design. There will be an operational cost in maintaining the air-conditional rooms. However it is also able to keep switchgear in better operating conditions than the normal ones. It is hoped that the better environment will improve the lifespan of the electronic relays.

Frustrations on Service Providers for Residential Electrical Equipment

After building my house eight years ago, I have experienced frustrations in getting the relevant service providers for my electric gate and water pumps.

The electric gate motor is the most robust but the control and wireless part are likely to fail once in a while. The first failure is the power supply to the control unit. There is a transformer in use to provide the low voltage used in the control circuit. The failure can be in the fuses on the 230V side and the transformer itself can fail as well. The

frustration is to get the right person to sort out the problem. The company that sells these systems usually do not have sufficient technicians and you are unlikely to be attended in the same day. In my case the gate once failed during the Chinese New Year period. In the end I was forced to carry out my own fault finding and changed a transformer. Later on the control card was damaged and had to be replaced. I am not sure whether I choose the wrong vendor but the number of failures of my electric gate was too many for me to endure.

In order to have good water pressure I used water pumps. The pumps are made by reputable manufacturers. However it seems that the water pumps require maintenance much like our cars. The frustration is that inspite of maintenance the pumps can still fail. The failures are in two modes. The pump runs without stopping. The other is that it will not pump when the water pressure is low. Again the control of the motor circuit is at fault

The vendor of the pump cannot provide service within the same day because they just do not have enough technicians to do so. Therefore I am forced to learn to solve these problems by myself.

The above two items can be very essential and obviously requires better level of service from service providers.

Ir Chew Shee Fuee B.Sc. (Hons) (Strathclyde), PEng, CEng, FIEM, MIEE Member, IEEE Member, 1st Grade Electrical Engineer (Competent up to above 500 kV).

Ir Chew is the President of The Electrical and Electronics Association of Malaysia (TEEAM) for 2001 - 2003 and 2003 - 2005. He is the Past President of the Asean Federation of Electrical Engineering Contractors (AFEEC).

Ir Chew is the Managing Director of G. H. Liew Engineering (1990) Sdn Bhd and QATM Engineering Services Sdn Bhd. He graduated from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow with a B. Sc (Hons) in Electrical & Electronics Engineering. He is a Professional Engineer and is also licensed by Energy Commission as a competent engineer (without voltage limits) and a service engineer to carry out electrical testing up to a voltage of 500 kV.

Ir Chew has 26 years experience in electrical control and relay protection. He is also specialised in electrical site tests on power equipment, electrical fault investigation, service and maintenance of electrical switchgear and relays. His work also includes electrical supervision of substations and electrical audit. He presents lectures on electrical apparatus and the protection system. He can be reached at E-mail: sfchew@ghliew1990.com



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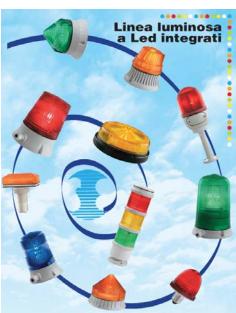














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Klang office:

No. 54, Lebuh Merpati, Off Jalan Meru, 41050 Klang, Selangor. Tel: 603-3341 4101 (H/Line) Fax: 603-3341 4077



New Members

The following new members have been approved and accepted by the TEEAM Council (as at 26th January 2008). A warm welcome to all the new members and special appreciation is extended to those who introduced these new members. For those who are not yet members.....why wait? Join us and find out how our Association can offer our services to you.

Acoustics Power Engineering Sdn Bhd No. 17, Off Jalan 27A, Kawasan 16, Sungai Rasa, 41300 Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Tel: 603-3342 4043 Fax: 603-3343 4264 E-mail: benwong7733@hotmail.com Contact Person: Mr Wong Sock Yee Business: Manufacturer switchboard.	Sparx Services Sdn Bhd No. 7, Jalan SS 26/8, Taman Mayang Jaya, 47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Tel: 603-7957 6773 Fax: 603-7957 9773 E-mail: sparx.services@gmail.com Contact Person: Ms Agnes Tee Lay Yeong Business: Electrical services.
Chang Yew Cheong No. 5, Jalan Amanat U2/45, Taman TTDI Jaya, 40150 Shah Alam, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Mobile: 012-234 7919 E-mail: changyc@theiet.org Business: Engineering services.	Syarikat Victoria Letrik P. O. Box 12692, 88830 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Tel: 6088-435 998, 435 989 Fax: 6088-439 131 E-mail: vklee72@streamyx.com Contact Person: Mr Lee Vui Ken Business: Mechanical and electrical contractor.
Better Power (M) Sdn Bhd No. 47, Lorong SJ 8/8A, Taman Seremban Jaya, 70450 Seremban, Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus. Tel: 606-679 5650, 679 5660 Fax: 606-679 5640 E-mail: betterpower@hotmail.com Contact Person: Mr Allakhappayee a/l Solamuthu Business: Electrical contractor.	Thiam Electrical Construction Sdn Bhd Lot 185, 1st Floor, Jalan Datuk Abang Abdul Rahim 4, 93450 Kuching, Sarawak. Tel: 6082-482 036 Fax: 6082-482 037 E-mail: gj_chu69@yahoo.com Contact Person: Mr Chu Gwo Jiun Business: Contractor for M&E services and works.
Group Engineers Malaysia Sdn Bhd Lot 280, Tabuan Road, 93200 Kuching, Sarawak. Tel: 6082-410 477 Fax: 6082-426 853 E-mail: groupeng@streamyx.com Contact Person: Mr Kuek Eng Mong Business: Engineering contractor.	Wong Gar Sim No. 82, Jalan Foochew/Kejatau, 95000 Sri Aman, Sarawak. P. O. Box 17, 95000 Sri Aman, Sarawak. Tel: 6083-322 159 Fax: 6083-322 159 Mobile: 019-817 8468 Business: Electrical contractor and supplier.
Erakan Bina Letrik Sdn Bhd No. 19, Jalan 13/142, Taman Orkid Desa, Cheras, 56000 Kuala Lumpur. Tel: 603-9101 3363 Fax: 603-9102 4363 E-mail: erakan@tm.net.my Contact Person: Mr David Lee Yuen Heng Business: Electrical contractor.	Khoon Lee Electrical Works No. 88, Kenyalang Park, Jalan Chanwan, 93300 Kuching, Sarawak. P. O. Box A339, 93806 Kuching, Sarawak. Tel: 6082-332 635 Fax: 6082-335 636 Contact Person: Mr Koh Bok Heng Business: Electrical contract and installation.
Teetronics Industrial (M) Sdn Bhd No. 29, Jalan Selat Selatan 17, Portland Industrial Park, Pandamaran, 42000 Port Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Tel: 603-3168 3986 Fax: 603-3166 2599 E-mail: t_tronic@tm.net.my Website: www.teetronics.com Contact Person: Mr Tee Beng Hok Business: Manufacturing of automotive, electrical and electronics components.	Pierlite Malaysia Sdn Bhd No. 18, Jalan SS 4C/5, 47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Tel: 603-7803 9888 Fax: 603-7803 9777 E-mail: sales@pierlite.com.my Website: www.pierlite.com Contact Person: Mr Jeffrey Ng Hoon Ting Business: Trading of ballast, lighting poles, lighting, lamps and bulbs.
Wong Gar Sim Electrical Works No. 22, Lot 526, Jalan Sabu, 95000 Sri Aman, Sarawak. Tel: 6083-322 159 Fax: 6083-322 159 Contact Person: Mr Wong Gar Sim Business: Electrical works and supplier.	TEEAM offers Wiremen Training Contact the Secretariat for details: Tel: 603-9221 4417 E-mail: teeam@po.jaring.my Website: www.teeam.com



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The Magic Roundabout - Cycles of Energy

By John Loughhead BSc (Eng) MSc DIC ACGI Executive Director, UK Energy Research Centre

The story of energy is one of cycles, from the largest to the smallest scales. From the nano-power stations embedded in plants, animals and even humans, to scheme on a geological scale, the range is striking. In this talk we shall explore these cycles, how they are a history of engineering and science, and how they might develop as we look for a new means of energy supply.

The original development of reliable energy supply is one of the greatest achievements of science and engineering. It is the foundation of advanced economies today. It was also a key driver of the emergence of engineering, firstly through need for energy and transport, and then in opening up the development of novel devices which exploited the exciting new possibilities of electricity.

Recently however growing evidence from environmental scientists have shown that the burning of fossil fuels that provide most of this energy is leading towards potentially damaging changes in weather patterns threatening to alter the very basics of our lives.

Among the responses to this has been a large increase in research efforts to find new means of sourcing and delivering energy with much reduced impact on the environment. If this is successful could we be returning to the energy sources of 200 years ago, those which when replaced by fossil fuels were found to have been the limiting factors on industry and society?

If we are, what can new scientific insights and modern engineering technology do to stop a cycle back to the lower living standards of the early 19th century?

Programme

8.30 am Registration

9.35 am Arrival of Minister of Energy, Water and Communications, Malaysia

9.40 am Welcome address by Chairman, IET Malaysia

9.45 am Opening address by Minister of Energy, Water and Communications, Malaysia

10.00 am Introduction of Speaker by Director of Trade & Investment, British High Commission, Kuala Lumpur

10.05 am Lecture starts 12.00 noon Adjournment

The programme is subject to change.

Registration by 21st March 2008-Free Admission

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alaysian companies and households can collectively save millions of ringgit a year by using electricity more efficiently. As the economy of the country expands and the standard of living rises, there will be an increasing demand for energy-consuming products, not only for the industrial and building sector but also for the domestic sector. This will add to the already increasing demand for energy. The obvious solution would be to increase energy supply and capacity but there is a better alternative, that is a combination of supplying more energy and improving the efficiency of energy consumption.

One of the easiest ways to achieve energy efficiency is through the use of energy efficient appliances. Although they may cost slightly more, the use of energy efficient appliances will more than pay back the extra costs involved from the savings in energy costs when used over a period of time. Using electricity more efficiently is the key to satisfying rising needs for energy in industries and businesses to sustain economic growth in Malaysia. Energy efficiency is the most practical and least expensive solution to meet the country's growing energy needs, especially in the industrial, transport and commercial sectors.

Malaysia has more than 10,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It is estimated that these companies use a combined 19 million fluorescent tubes. There are more than 3,000 buildings in the country, and the buildings use about 7.5 million fluorescent tubes. The implementation of energy-efficient lighting would help SMEs save up to RM147 million a year in their electricity bills.

For residential consumers, the potential saving is even higher. If 5.5 million households in the country replace three 60W incandescent lamps with three 11W CFLs (Compact Fluorescent Lamps), this would lead to energy savings of up to 80 per cent, or close to 1.5 billion kWh. Residential consumers could save up to a total of RM 400 million every year if they switch to energy-efficient lighting.

Malaysia needs to encourage businesses and homes to use energyefficient products, so that electricity supply companies can more easily meet the demand of other sectors, avoiding costly investment in new facilities. At the same time, they reduce the environmental impact of new power plants and improve public image.

Another potential area for energy-saving is through more efficient cooling systems which could save up to 40 per cent of energy in buildings. The demand for computing horsepower at most businesses is skyrocketing. But as energy costs rise, the sheer volume of hardware necessary to keep up with that demand is driving data centre power consumption budgets through the roof. Power utilisation, cooling optimisation and preventative maintenance strategies can help deliver saving. By focusing on key areas and taking proactive steps, companies can cut costs and increase data centre efficiency. It is time for companies to go green and adopt more environmental methods to reduce operational cost and ensure that the business backbone is protected and always running.

One full load wash per week will cost RM 0.18. If daily wash is done on partial load, the cost per week is RM 0.18x7 = RM 1.26 per week. Washing three times a week on full load will save about RM37.00 per year.

If the temperature of the freezer is correctly adjusted to -18°C instead of -21°C, a saving of 60kWh per year can be obtained, equivalent to RM13.00 per year.

Energy-Saving Tips		
Products	Saving per month (RM)	Saving per year (RM)
Lighting If one 60W bulb used 4 hours per day, is replaced by one energy-saving bulb.	1.11	13.37
Air Conditioner Using a 1 hp air conditioner with a load rating of 850W instead of one with a rating of 950W for 6 hours a day.	4.00	48.00
Washing Machine If daily partial load wash is reduced to three full load wash per week.	3.08	37.00
Freezer If temperature is set at -18°C instead of -21°C. Choosing a chest freezer as instead of an upright freezer.	1.09 4.00	13.08 48.00
Television The electricity consumption for standby can easily run up to 100 kWh per year equivalent to RM 22.00.	1.82	21.80

Know Your Lamps



Incandescent Lamps

Generate a high amount of heat and are typically used with a rating of 60W. They are inefficient artificial light source and their light intensity efficiency is about 18 lumens/watt.



Fluorescent Lamps

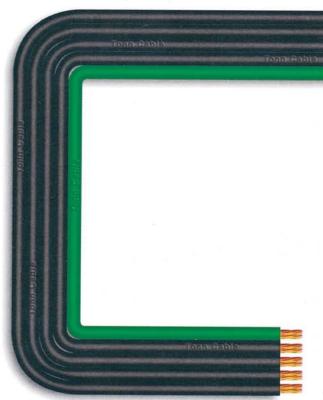
Generate bright light and are most often used with a rating of 32W/36W. These lamps come together with ballasts, normally rated at 8W loss, although low ballasts (up to 6W) or high frequency electronic ballasts (nominally less than 2W) are also available.



Compact Fluorescent Lamps

Compact fluorescent lamps with power consumption of 9W have equivalent bright light compared to incandescent lamps with power consumption of 60W. Light intensity efficiency of compact fluorescent lamps is about 60 lumens/watt. These lamps are fairly expensive, but they last up to 8 times the typical incandescent lamp and use only about 20% of the energy to emit the same amount of light.

Source: NST Biznews published on 23rd January 2007.



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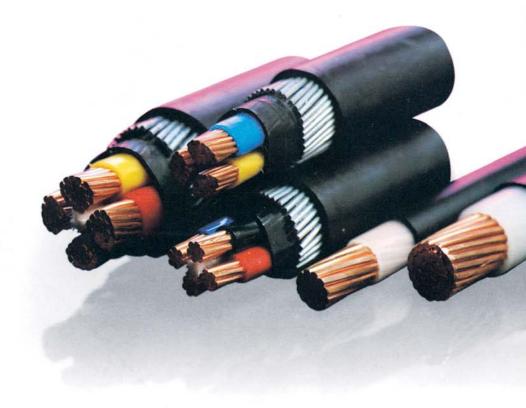
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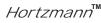






















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TEEAM 50th ISSUE

Malaysia and the WTO

This article is aimed to provide an understanding on the WTO system and its implications to Malaysia. It is hoped that TEEAM members will take a keen interest in WTO issues and reap the benefits from its rules and disciplines as well as the market access opportunities created under the WTO.

Introduction

he World Trade Organisation (WTO) was established on 1st January 1995. The WTO replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) following the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations in 1994. While the GATT established rules for trade in goods, the WTO also encompasses other trade-related areas such as services and intellectual property rights.

Malaysia is a founding member of the WTO by virtue of its membership in the GATT since 1957.

WTO provides benefits to its Members through the establishment of an international trading environment which is transparent and predictable. These benefits are secured through the implementation of Members' obligations in the form of trade rules and market access negotiated on a multilateral basis. As a major trading nation, transparency and predictability in trade rules are important to Malaysia.

Malaysia is able to comply with its WTO obligations as it has:

- already adhered to multilateral trading rules as a Member in the GATT;
- continuously been undertaking voluntary reduction and elimination of tariffs to enhance Malaysia's competitiveness; and
- adopted open and transparent trade policies and measures over the years.

The Ministerial Conference which is held at least once every two years is the supreme body of the WTO. It comprises representatives of all Members and functions to oversee the implementation of Members' obligations as well as the negotiations of new agreements. The day-to-day business of the WTO is conducted by the General Council which comprises representatives of all Members to the WTO who are usually at Ambassadorial level or the equivalent. It has authority to act on behalf of the Ministerial Conference and oversees the operations of agreements and ministerial decisions. This includes functioning as a body to settle trade disputes between Members and as a forum for Members to examine each others' trade policies. The General Council also oversees matters relating to trade in goods and services as well as traderelated aspects of intellectual property rights.

WTO Principles

Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) Treatment

MFN treatment is the principle of nondiscrimination among Members, requiring all Members to be treated equally. There are however, some exceptions to this principle. For instance, preferential duties are allowed for Members of regional trading arrangements or preferential schemes such as the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP). Members are also allowed to raise barriers against those involved in unfair trade practices. These exceptions are allowed only under strict conditions.

National Treatment

National treatment stipulates that domestic goods and foreign products should be treated equally. It prohibits discrimination between imported products and equivalent domestically-produced products, both in the levy of internal taxes and in the application of internal regulations. Imposition of import duties on foreign products is not a violation of the national treatment principle.

Transparency

Notifications requirements as provided for in specific WTO agreements are means to achieve the objective of guaranteeing the fullest transparency possible in the trade policies of its Members in the area of goods, services and the protection of intellectual property rights. In addition, the Trade Policy Review Mechanism of the WTO provides an opportunity for the examination and clarification of the trade policies and practices of Members.

Special and Differential Treatment

The WTO recognises that Members are at different levels of development. The WTO agreements provide flexibility as part of the special and differential treatment to developing countries. This could be in the form of longer transition periods or lower levels of market access commitments.

Trade in Goods

Tariffs

In principle, the WTO allows Members to use tariffs as a means of protecting domestic industries. The WTO allows members to determine their own tariff rates for all types of products within the jurisdiction of their national policies. Members can impose tariffs and make amendments to them in accordance with their respective national policies. However, the WTO requires every Member to have the tariff rates published so that other Members and interested parties are fully aware of them. The WTO also prescribes that once a tariff has been determined for a product, it has to be applied

uniformly to that particular product imported from any other Member country according to the MFN principle.

WTO Members have agreed, through negotiations, to bind tariffs at particular levels. The bound levels are recorded in a table that is called the "schedule" of a Member. Members can raise tariffs at any time only up to the bound levels or on products that are not bound. However, Members can raise that tariff over the bound rate for products covered under the binding commitments, if they can offer compensatory concession on some other items.

Examples of Members' Average Bound Tariffs Negotiated Under the Uruguay Round

Member	Average Bound Tariff (%)
Australia	9.9
Brazil	30.8
Canada	5.3
China	9.1
Egypt	28.3
EU	3.9
Hong Kong	0
India	34.3
Indonesia	35.6
Japan	2.31
Malaysia	4.93
Mexico	4.9
Norway	3.12
Philippines	3.43
Pakistan	5.3
Switzerland	0
Thailand	24.2
US	3.2

Additional tariffs can be imposed on imported products if there is a significant increase in these imports and it is proven that there is material injury to domestic industries producing like products. These additional duties are referred to as anti-dumping duties.

Quantitative Restrictions

The WTO generally prohibits quantitative restrictions on the importation or exportation of any product. An example of a quantitative restriction is the import quota.

The rationale behind the WTO's prohibition of quantitative restrictions is that they are highly restrictive and likely to distort trade. The use of quantitative restrictions by an importing country restricts exports of the exporting country in excess of the import quota no matter how price competitive their products may be.

The WTO however, provides exceptions to this principle. Members can use quantitative measures under limited conditions such as

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..... Continue Malaysia and the WTO

critical shortages and balance of payment problems.

Agriculture

The Agreement on Agriculture establishes a long-term reform programme in world agriculture trade, with the objective of reducing the use of export subsidies as well as trade distorting domestic subsidies. The Agreement contains several specific commitments in terms of market access, domestic support, export subsidies as well as disciplines on sanitary and phytosanitary measures that have to be implemented within six years by developed countries and 10 years by developing countries from 1st January 1995.

General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)

The General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) is a set of multilateral rules covering international trade in services. These include service sectors such as financial services, professional services, transport, communications, construction and distribution.

Unlike trade in goods where border measures such as tariffs are the main instrument used, trade in services is primarily governed by domestic regulation on the delivery and supply of services. Domestic regulation allows safeguards for domestic industries, with policy space to protect local culture and tradition and consumer interests.

There are four modes of supply for services specified by the GATS:

- Cross border (Mode 1)
 - services supplied from one country to another (e.g. telecommunications, mail, services offered through the internet).
- Consumption abroad (Mode 2)
 - consumers or firms making use of a service in another country (e.g. tourism, students studying overseas).
- Commercial presence (Mode 3)
 - A foreign company setting up subsidiaries or branches to provide services in another country (e.g. establishment of corporations, joint ventures, representative offices).
- Presence of natural persons (Mode 4)
- Individuals travelling from their own country to supply services in another country (e.g. consultants, doctors, lawyers, interpreters).

GATS provides General Obligations and Specific Commitments within which liberalisation are to be undertaken and implemented.

 General obligations include MFN treatment, irrespective of whether or not commitments have been made in that sector. Specific Commitments are sectoral commitments that are made to specific sectors.

Each Member's commitments are included in the respective schedules of commitments of the Members. Members may withdraw or modify their schedule of specific commitments only if they are prepared to offer equivalent concessions.

The GATS also provides for improvements to the initial commitments through negotiations in successive rounds five years after the GATS became applicable. The objective is to achieve progressively higher level of liberalisation in services sectors.

Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)

Prior to the WTO, protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) was on a voluntary basis by virtue of membership in IPR conventions such as Berne, Paris, Rome or World Intellectual Property Organisation. The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) built upon these Conventions to provide for minimum standards of protection and enforcement based on basic principles of nondiscrimination. TRIPS Agreement ensures that WTO Members give protection to intellectual property rights in their own territories and enforce them through national laws pertaining to copyright, trademark, geographical indications, industrial designs, patents and integrated circuits layout designs.

When the WTO agreements took effect on 1st January 1995, developed countries were given one year to ensure that their laws and practices conform to the TRIPS Agreement. Developing countries and transition economies were given five years while least developed countries have 11 years.

Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMS)

Trade-related investment measures are restrictions imposed by governments on investors. These restrictions are normally designed to protect and foster domestic industries and to prevent the outflow of foreign exchange reserves.

In the WTO, the Agreement on TRIMS prohibits the imposition of domestic rules, procedures and measures that restrict trade and investment. Examples of these restrictions include:

- local content requirements that require locallyproduced goods to be purchased or used;
- manufacturing requirements that certain components must be domestically manufactured;

- trade balancing requirements that limit the use of imported products in proportion to local products exported;
- domestic sales requirements that limit imported products in relation to total domestic sales;
- technology transfer requirements that stipulate an investor to share technology;
 and
- export performance requirements that specify percentage of production volume for exports.

The Agreement on TRIMS which took effect on 1st January 1995 prescribes that measures will be eliminated within:

- two years by a developed country Member;
- five years by a developing country Member; and
- seven years by a least developed country Member.

If a developing country member or a least developed country member faces particular difficulties in eliminating these measures according to this schedule, it may request for an extension of transition period. The Council for Trade in Goods will consider this request, taking into account the individual development, financial and trade needs of the member, and may extend the period.

Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)

The Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) provides that mandatory product standards should not be applied by countries so as to cause unnecessary obstacles to international trade. It states that countries have the right to adopt the standards they consider appropriate to protect human, animal, plant life, health and environment. Product standards should be based on scientific information and evidence.

Mandatory product standards should be based on internationally agreed standards. Where it is not possible for member countries to base their mandatory regulations on international regulations, they are obliged to publish these regulations in draft form to give producers in other countries an opportunity to comment on them. The Agreement also obliges member countries to take such comments into consideration when the standards are finalised, thus ensuring that the characteristics of products produced in, and exported by, other countries are taken into account.

Voluntary standards where compliance is not mandatory, may also pose problems in international trade if they differ widely from country to country. The TBT Agreement therefore urges countries to do their best in requiring national standardising bodies to use the same principles and rules in preparing and applying voluntary standards as are laid down for mandatory standards.

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Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)

The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures aims to protect human, animal or plant life or health from pests and diseases that may be brought in by imported agricultural products. The Agreement provides rules that are similar to those applicable to mandatory product standards under the Agreement on TBT. Unlike TBT, the Agreement on SPS permits countries to apply measures on a discriminatory basis, taking into account such factors as the differences in the level of prevalence of specific diseases or pests. The SPS Agreement further permits countries to take measures to restrict imports on a provisional basis, as a precautionary step, in cases where there is imminent risks of the spread of diseases, but the "scientific evidence is insufficient".

Anti-Dumping (AD)

Dumping is a situation of international price discrimination i.e. when the export price of a product is lower than its selling price in the market of the exporting country (normal value). Dumping is identified by comparing prices in two markets.

The AD Agreement comprises substantive rules governing the determination of dumping, injury and causal link and detailed procedural rules for the initiation and conduct of investigations, the imposition of measures and the duration and review of such measures. Measures that can be imposed include antidumping duties and price undertakings.

Anti-Dumping Agreement provides for action to be taken by members that requires the determination of three elements:

- · existence of dumping;
- · existence of injury; and
- causal link between the two.

Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM)

The Subsidies and Countervailing Measures Agreement (SCM) recognises that governments utilise subsidies to attain various policy objectives. However, it restrains the rights of governments to grant subsidies that can lead to unfair trade.

Only subsidies provided specifically to an enterprise or industry or group of enterprises or industries are subject to the disciplines in the SCM Agreement. This is because non-specific or widely available subsidies within an economy are presumed to be less trade distortive.

Categories of Subsidies

(i) Prohibited Subsidies (Red Box)

There are two categories of prohibited subsidies. They are subsidies contingent upon:

- export performance; or
- the use of domestic over imported goods.

(ii) Actionable Subsidies (Amber Box)

Actionable subsidies are not prohibited but may be subject to the remedies if they cause adverse effects, such as "serious prejudice" to other countries.

(iii) Non-Actionable Subsidies (Green Box)

Non-actionable subsidies are subsidies presumably protected either because they are considered extremely unlikely to cause adverse effects or because they are considered to be of particular value and not to be discouraged. They are:

- · Research subsidies;
- · Assistance to disadvantaged regions; and
- Environmental subsidies.

Safeguards

The Agreement on Safeguards authorises importing countries to restrict imports on temporary basis, if it is established that imports are occurring in increased quantities and cause serious injury to the domestic industry that produces like or directly competitive products. Such measures, which could take the form of an increase in tariffs over bound rates or the imposition of quantitative restrictions, should normally be applied on an MFN basis to imports from all sources. Members affected may seek compensation from the member imposing the safeguard measure.

The primary purpose of providing such temporary increased protection is to allow the affected industry time to adjust to the increased competition that it will have to face after the restrictions are removed.

The Agreement seeks to ensure that such measures are applied only for temporary periods by setting a maximum period of eight years for the application of a measure on a particular product. Developing countries can, however, impose them for a maximum period of ten years.

Customs Valuation

The Agreement for Customs Valuations provides a more objective and uniform set of rules and procedures to determine the customs value of imported goods. The determination of the customs value is essential in calculating the duty to be paid on imported goods.

Rules of Origin

The Agreement on Rules of Origin allows WTO Members to continue using their national rules of origin until new harmonised rules are established. These rules however, must be transparent, do not have restrictive, distortive

or disruptive effects on international trade. They must also be administered in a consistent, uniform, impartial and reasonable manner.

"Rules of origin" are the criteria used to define where a product was made. They are an essential part of trade rules because a number of policies discriminate between exporting countries in terms of quotas, preferential tariffs, anti-dumping actions and countervailing duty.

Import Licensing Procedures

The Agreement on Import Licensing procedures specifies that import licensing should be made simple, transparent and predictable. It also stipulates that governments imposing import licensing mechanism to publish rules and information concerning procedures for the submission of applications, including the eligibility criteria for applicants, the administrative bodies to be approached and lists of products subject to import licensing 21 days prior to the effective date of the requirement.

Other obligations contained in the Agreement include notification to the WTO of changes in existing import licensing procedures and introduction of new ones.

Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU)

The rights and obligations of WTO Members are enforced through the dispute settlement process under the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU).

The DSU provisions emphasise the importance of consultations in securing dispute resolution, requiring a member to enter into consultations and settlement of dispute within a specified time frame. The parties may voluntarily agree to follow alternative means of dispute settlement, including good offices, conciliation, mediation and arbitration.

The DSU procedure underscores the rule of law, and it makes the trading system more secure and predictable. It is clearly structured, with timetables set for completing a case. Rulings are made by the Panel comprising between three to five experts functioning in their individual expertise. Decisions of the Panels may be appealed to the Appellate Body on points of law. All final rulings or decisions are adopted by the WTO's full membership.

Implementation of Malaysia's Obligations and Commitments

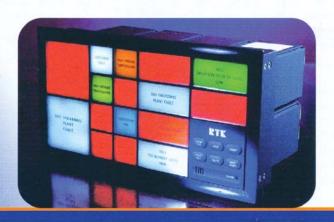
General Obligations

The general obligations under the WTO agreements include:





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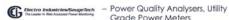
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i) Enactment or amendment of domestic legislation

Countervailing and Anti-Dumping Act Malaysia enacted the Countervailing and Anti-Dumping Act in 1993. The Act was amended in 1998 to meet WTO requirements and allows the Government to take remedial measures against unfair trade practices such as dumping and subsidised products.

Intellectual Property Rights

Malaysia already had in place a system of protection for intellectual property rights even before becoming a member of the WTO. Recognising the importance of protecting trademarks, designs and patents as an incentive for innovation, technology and research, IPR protection in Malaysia was progressively legislated from 1976.

Various Acts on intellectual property rights were amended or introduced to comply with the requirements of the WTO, for example:

- amendments to Industrial Design Act 1996, Trade Marks Act 1976, Patents Act 1983, Copyright Act 1987; and
- introduction of Layout Design for Integrated Circuits Act 2000 and Geographical Indications Act 2000.

ii) Establishment of enquiry points

Enquiry points were established to enable other members to seek clarification or consult on issues relating to standards and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures:

- SIRIM is the enquiry point for technical regulations; and
- Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry and Ministry of Health are enquiry points for SPS measures.

iii) Periodical notification of new legislation on trade and measures that affect the interest of trading partners

- Malaysia has notified the WTO of its standards and SPS transparency and compliance by Malaysia's trading partners.
- Other countries have also notified their measures, which allow Malaysian exporters to make the necessary adjustments to meet the requirements.

Specific Commitments

i) Market access for goods

As a developing country, Malaysia was not required to make major commitments during the Uruguay Round (UR) negotiations. Malaysia already had a liberal and open import regime even before the UR negotiations. On its own accord, Malaysia liberalised its import regime by reducing duties on many products beyond its WTO commitments.

Malaysia's specific commitments include:

- Binding of tariffs on 6,741 tariff lines (products) comprising 5,531 non-agricultural and 1,210 agricultural products accounting for 64% of Malaysia's tariff lines. The average bound tariff rate for Malaysia is 14.9%. This compares favourably with the average bound rate other developing countries such as Thailand (24.2%), Philippines (23.4%), Egypt (28.3%), India (34.3%), and Mexico (34.9%).
- Reduction of import duties on 528 items which include electronic, chemical and textile products. The reductions were in exchange for tariff reductions offered by other members for products of export interest to Malaysia such as consumer electronics, textiles, rubber products and wood based products. The commitments were fully implemented by 2000.
- Reduction of tariffs on agricultural products by an average of 24% over a period of 10 years starting from 1995. Malaysia, as a developing country, was allowed to make lower commitments than developed countries, which had to reduce tariffs by 36% and over a shorter period of six years. Malaysia's tariffs on most agricultural products were already low or duty free.
- Elimination of duties in stages for information technology products under the Information Technology Agreement (ITA). Being a party to the ITA, supports Malaysia's wider objective of encouraging greater use of information and communication technology. Global liberalisation under the ITA provides better export potential for IT products.

ii) Services

Malaysia's commitments in the services sectors were a result of bilateral negotiations in the Uruguay Round. These commitments include allowing foreign participation in the services industry. The level of market access offered however is subject to several conditions, which include:

- limitations on foreign equity participation;
- foreign suppliers are allowed to establish commercial presence only through joint ventures with local firms; and
- limitations on the number of foreign personnel allowed to provide services.

Malaysia's offer encompassed:

- Business and Professional Services
- Communication Services
- Construction and Related Engineering Services
- Financial Services
- Health-related Social Services
- Tourism and Travel-related Services
- Recreational, Cultural and Sporting Services
- Transportation Services
- Skills Training Services

The Ministries and agencies responsible for the implementation of WTO Agreements is as in Annex 1.

Doha Development Agenda

The WTO Ministerial Conference takes place at least once in two years to review and establish the work programme of the WTO. The Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference held in Doha on 9th-14th November 2001 agreed on the Doha work programme of the WTO. The programme, also known as the Doha Development Agenda, includes:

- negotiations on agriculture, services, industrial tariffs, intellectual property, environment, and dispute settlement; and
- clarification of elements for a possible multilateral framework or rules on investment, competition policy, transparency in government procurement and trade facilitation.

Ministers also agreed that addressing problems and concerns of developing countries would be a major part of the work programme to provide an opportunity for the WTO to review and strengthen rules that have not been operationalised or provided benefits to developing countries. Some of the measures to address the concerns of developing countries include granting of better market access opportunities and technical assistance in capacity building.

Agriculture

Negotiations are aimed at further reform in agriculture to make it more market-oriented. The reform process will be undertaken in the three main areas, namely, market access, domestic support and export subsidies. On market access, further tariff reduction and expansion of minimum access opportunities will be negotiated. On domestic support, there will be disciplines on the use of government assistance to farmers. Such government assistance should not lead to trade distortion. Negotiations on export subsidies aim to further limit or eliminate the use of subsidies for exports of agricultural products.

The agreed modalities will be the basis for Members to offer commitments to improve market access and reform their agriculture sector so that the use of trade distorting measures are reduced or eliminated.

Malaysia seeks greater commitments from the major users to eliminate export subsidies. Stronger disciplines are also needed to ensure domestic subsidies do not lead to trade distortion. Malaysia is also seeking flexibility to use policy measures including government support to pursue development goals such as poverty reduction and rural employment.

Non Agriculture Market Access (NAMA)

Tariff negotiations in the WTO are an important avenue to seek better market access opportunities for Malaysian products in both the developed and developing countries. Although the average tariffs of most developed countries are low, ranging from 3.5% - 8%, tariff peaks in selected products and tariff escalation exist in these markets.



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Tariff peaks refer to relatively high tariffs that are usually imposed on sensitive products. Tariff escalation refers to the imposition of higher duties on products that have been processed or semi-processed compared to raw materials. This practice protects domestic processing industries in the importing countries and discourages the development of processing activity in the countries where raw materials originate.

Issues pertaining to market access must be seriously addressed since the Malaysian economy is highly dependent on trade, with value of exports equivalent to 98% of GDP in 2006. Trade expansions, facilitated by multilateral rules and a liberal environment have contributed to the overall economic growth of the country. Malaysia will be fully engaged with all its trading partners to seek further liberalisation for products of interest to Malaysian exporters. Sufficient flexibilities will be sought to assist domestic industry that require tariff protection.

Services

The negotiations aim to further liberalise trade in services. The main approach to achieve this is through the bilateral request and offer approach by trading partners. The offers exchanged bilaterally will be open to all other Members of the WTO.

Malaysia's participation in the services negotiations provides an opportunity for Malaysian services providers to seek market access in both established and newly emerging markets.

Malaysia will continue to examine carefully all requests from trading partners and that commitments to liberalise the services market will be guided by the principle of progressive liberalisation. Market access for foreign service providers will be allowed only in sectors where domestic suppliers are ready to compete and contribute to development of the sector.

Environment

Malaysia attaches importance to environmental protection. This is reflected through our membership in many of the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Montreal Protocol and the Kyoto Protocol.

The WTO rules allow for measures to be taken to safeguard the environment. These measures however should not be discriminatory or used as a disguised form of protection. The current negotiations in the WTO are aimed at ensuring the mutually supportive relationship between trade and environment.

Malaysia and many other countries have maintained that existing rules in the WTO are sufficient to deal with environmental problems. Malaysia is now examining this issue further and seeking clarification on these rules. Trade restrictions are not always the best solutions to resolve environmental problems and international cooperation to promote development, transfer of technology and technical assistance may be a better means of dealing with global environmental problems.

Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)

The TRIPS Agreement provides for Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection and also allows exceptions to these rights through the issuance of compulsory license to produce goods without authorisation from IPR owners. This provision is meant to provide adequate level of flexibilities to countries in terms of ensuring access to medicines at affordable prices. The Declaration on the TRIPs Agreement and Public Health adopted at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference further clarified the flexibilities available in the TRIPs Agreement for Member countries to import or export patented drugs towards fulfilling public health objectives.

While Malaysia is not averse to the establishment of a multilateral system of notification and registration of geographical indications for wines and spirits, such a system should not become burdensome or costly.

Trade Facilitation

Negotiations on multilateral rules for trade facilitation are aimed at clarifying, improving and further expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, transparency and publication of trade regulations and enhancing technical assistance and capacity building.

Traders from both developing and developed countries have raised concerns that customs procedures and requirements often lack transparency and are vastly duplicative in many areas. Discussion on trade facilitation is also aimed at establishing cooperation between traders and government agencies including through a harmonised system for clearance of goods and simplification of trade procedures.

Malaysia is fully supportive of efforts in the WTO to develop multilateral rules on trade facilitation as these measures would aim to speed up delivery of goods, simplify customs procedures and reduce transaction costs.

National Consultations

The Government has regular consultations with the relevant Ministries, agencies, academicians, private sector and other stakeholders to discuss and formulate Malaysia's position on issues under the Doha Development Agenda. To facilitate the domestic consultative process the Government has established the National Committee on Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN), headed by the Ministry of

International Trade and Industry. Working groups that have been established to assist the MTN Committee include:

- Working Group on Agriculture;
- Working Group on Services;
- Working Group on Non-Agriculture Market Access (NAMA);
- Working Group on Trade and Environment;
- Working Group on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs);
- Working Group on WTO Rules; and
- Working Group on Trade Facilitation.

Conclusion

The WTO agreements provide the legal ground rules for the conduct of international trade. However, the WTO does not require Members to remove all barriers to trade and each Member is free to determine its own trade regime. Members have the right to take measures on legitimate grounds to pursue development goals, and pursue remedial actions when faced with unfair trade practices.

The WTO promotes global trade through market opening measures and through strengthening of existing or establishment of new rules. These rules:

- provide transparency, security and predictability;
- · prevent adoption of unilateral measures; and
- provide remedies for unfair trade practices through the dispute settlement mechanism.

Membership in the WTO, and the GATT previously, has contributed to Malaysia's economic growth. The lowering of trade barriers in the export markets and increased market opportunities has allowed Malaysia's exports to grow. The opening of Malaysia's market has encouraged inflows of foreign direct investment and injected competitive elements into domestic industries.

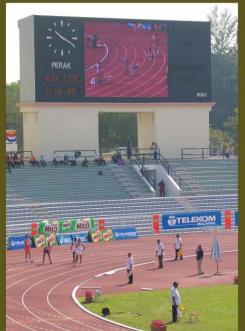
One of the major benefits enjoyed by Malaysia is the non-discriminatory treatment of Malaysian products in the markets of WTO Members. Any concessions granted by a Member to any other Member will also be accorded to Malaysia.

The WTO rules also provide for a more competitive business environment by discouraging "unfair" trade practises such as dumping products below cost to gain market share. Malaysia has used anti-dumping actions as a trade remedy against such practices that caused injury to domestic industries.

Through active participation in WTO negotiations, Malaysia will continue to ensure that trade regulations and trade measures that are negotiated are fair and provide the flexibility for Malaysia to implement development objectives and policies.

Source: Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia.





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