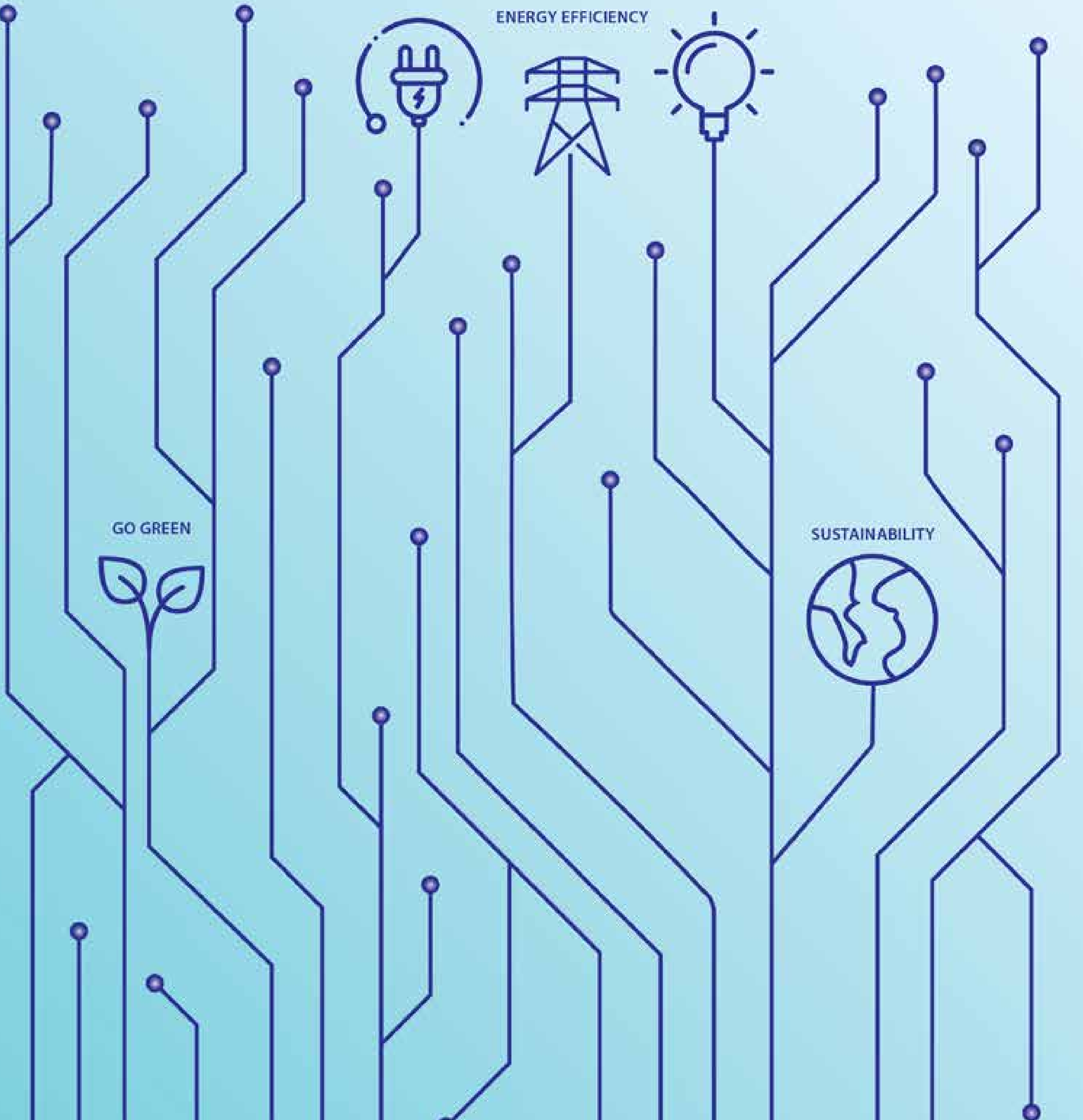

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SUARA TEEAM

A Publication of The Electrical and Electronics Association of Malaysia

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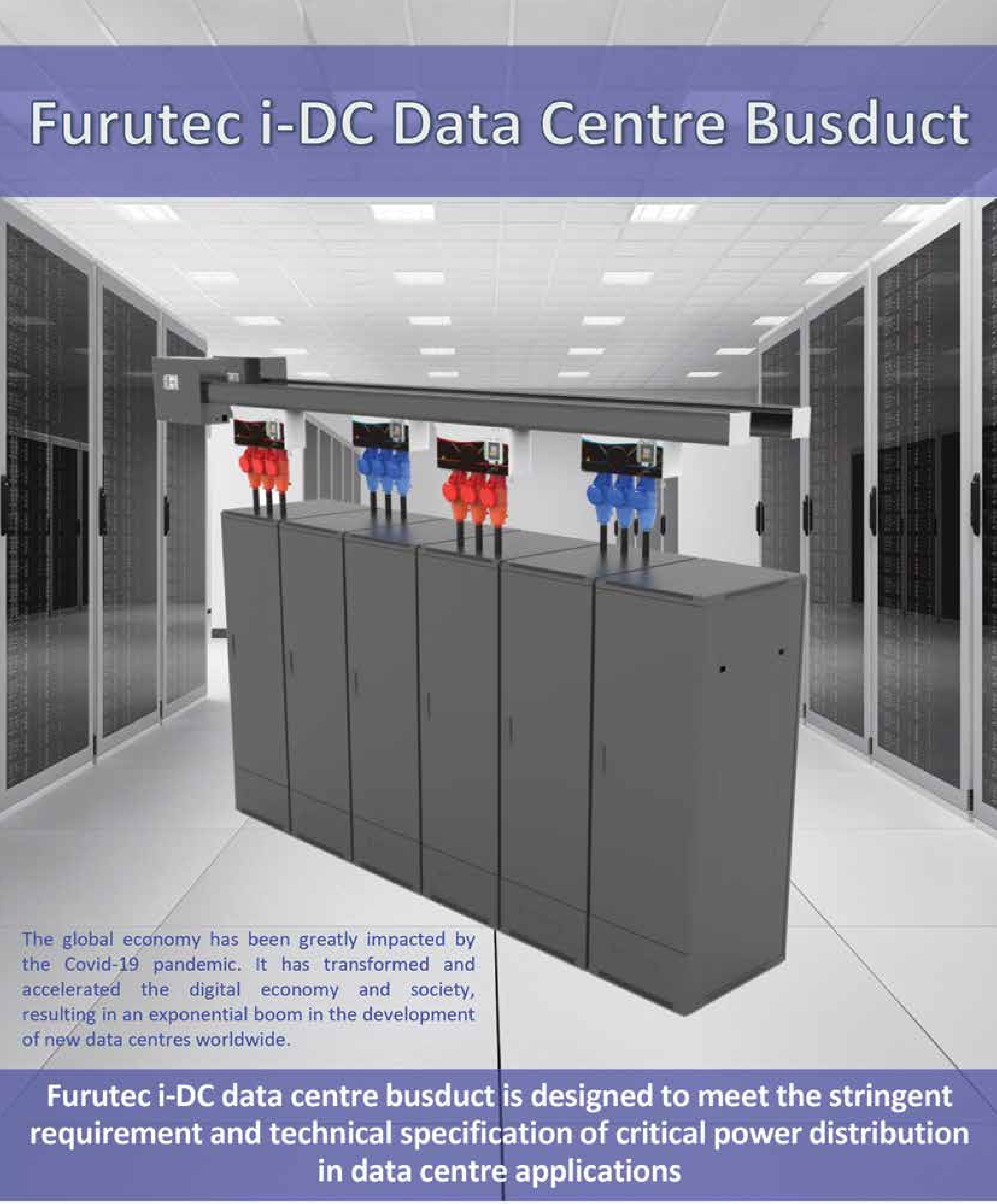

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Interlocked Switched Socket-Outlets


TM...SP

Plugs - Low voltage from 50V to 690V

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C-Type

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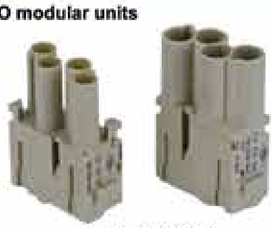
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Terminal blocks inserts screw terminal connection

CP 6 Poles 35A-400/690V


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From The Editor's Desk

We have bravely endured for more than a year and a half of COVID-19 and unfortunately, Malaysia is currently still facing a serious threat of the pandemic. Our members other than those from the Manufacturing Sector, are quite seriously impacted by the frightening escalation of the COVID-19 infection rate followed by the many lockdowns.

The industry outlook is not bright for this year too. However, we still need to move on, come what may. The cost of doing business has been severely hampered by the restriction in the number of staff allowed, and the various additional requirements such as the COVID-19 tests, among others. Hence, we need to boldly face the current challenge and hope for the best in this most depressing of times.

For your information, we have in store many informative industry-related articles and they may very well be highly beneficial to many of us in these desperate times. Additionally, Digitalisation is now necessary and will really expand in all business areas in the future. Working From Home (WFH) is the new norm. We also realise that it will require a radical transformation in business administration processes. The Government too is ever-desperately trying its level best to assist the business community during the current situation, by providing much-needed financial aids via the various financial-distress aid packages.

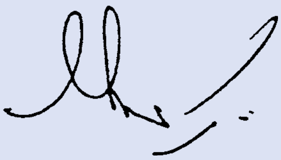
TEEAM is a member of MCMEA (Malaysia Council of Mechanical & Electrical Associations). In this issue, we present some news pertaining to the MCMEA Council Meeting slated for this year.

The TEEAM-TNB Virtual Engagement Session on Connection Charge had attracted some 70 attendees and a brief of the details on the enhanced terms for connection charge implemented by TNB effective 15 January 2021 is available in this issue of SUARA.

CIE 2021 Midterm Meeting & Conference, which is organised by MyCIE (Malaysia CIE) and CIE (International Commission on Illumination), will be hosted online from 27 to 29 September 2021. TEEAM supports this esteemed industry event and wishes them a highly successful Meeting and Conference.

In the meantime, let us all be ever more vigilant and do our utmost to always stay safe!

Regards,



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TEEAM-TNB Virtual Engagement Session on Connection Charge

The TEEAM-TNB Virtual Engagement Session on Connection Charge was held on 27 January 2021. The session enlightened members on the enhanced terms for connection charge implemented by Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) effective 15 January 2021. The session attracted 70 attendees.

Connection Charge

A Connection Charge is the upfront payment made by consumers who require a new electricity supply infrastructure and/or an upgrade of an existing infrastructure to cater for additional power supply. The Connection Charge is imposed as part of TNB's cost to build the infrastructure for an electricity supply.

The Government has approved enhanced terms for Connection Charge and in line with this, TNB has implemented these enhanced terms in the Connection Charge invoice effective from 15 January 2021. The updated terms are as follows:

Type of Consumers

Consumers are categorised based on the supply voltage level, as follows:

- Low Voltage: Supply voltage below 6.6kV
- Medium Voltage: Supply voltage from 6.6kV to below 132kV
- High Voltage: Supply voltage 132kV and above

Statement of Connection Charges (For 3 Categories of Consumers)

1. Low Voltage Consumer

Connection Charge for Low Voltage Consumer consists of:

i) Maximum Demand Charge
ii) Additional Cable Charge (if any)
iii) Special Features Charges (if any)

i) Maximum Demand Charge

- Connection Charge depends on maximum demand requested by the consumer. The schedule of charges can be referred to at the TNB Website: https://www.tnb.com.my.
- This is only applicable for request of supply not more than six (6) km away from the nearest available supply (that could meet the requested load demand).
- Should the nearest available supply be unable to meet the requested load demand, the supply may have to be drawn from the nearest sub-station. In this case, the Connection Charge still applies as long as the distance does not exceed 6 km.

ii) Additional Cable Charge

- Should the distance exceed six (6) km, the consumer will only pay for the size of the cable necessary to meet the requested load in excess of six (6) km based on scheduled standard rate of cable even though a larger cable may be laid by TNB to meet the demand of other consumers.

iii) Special Features Charge

- Any request for additional or special features, e.g., special request for an additional feeder by consumer or any request from third party such as the Local Authority or Government Agencies, the consumer will be required to pay the full cost of the additional request.

A cross-section of participants at the TEEAM-TNB Virtual Engagement Session.

2. Medium Voltage Consumer

Connection Charge for Medium Voltage Consumer consist of:

i) Maximum Demand Charge
ii) Additional Cable Charge (if any)
iii) Special Features Charge (if any)
iv) Connected Load Charge
v) Liquidated Damages

i) Maximum Demand Charge

- Connection Charge per kilowatt Maximum Demand (kW MD) is applicable. The amount to be paid depends on the Maximum Demand requested by the consumer.
- The Connection Charge is RM45/kW MD
- The sub-station building and the land is to be leased to TNB at a nominal cost of RM10.
- In the even that disagreement arises between the owner and TNB, then the cost of any land will be determined in the manner as stipulated in the provisions under the Electricity Supply Act 1990.
- Applicable only for requests of supply not more than 6 km away from the nearest available supply (that is able to meet the requested load demand).
- Should the nearest available supply be unable to meet the requested load demand, the supply may have to be drawn from the nearest sub-station. In this case, the Connection Charge still applies as long as the distance does not exceed 6 km.

ii) Additional Cable Charge

- Should the distance exceed 6 km, the consumer will only pay for the size of the cable necessary to meet the requested load in excess of six (6) km based on scheduled standard rate of the cable even if a larger cable is laid by TNB to meet the demands of other consumers.

iii) Special Features Charge

- Any request for additional or special features, e.g., special request for an additional feeder by consumer or any request from third party such as the Local Authority or Government Agencies, the consumer will be required to pay the full cost of this additional request.

iv) Connected Load Charge

- Connected Load Charge (CLC) is subjected to consumers who take supply at Medium Voltage and High Voltage. Please find the details of CLC information at the TNB website.

v) Liquidated Damages

- Liquidated Damages (LD) is applicable for consumers who fail or cease to take supply for five (5) years after the supply has been connected. The basis of calculating the quantum of Liquidated Damages is as follows:

For each month in the 5-year period, the consumer shall pay 1/120 of the Net Capital Cost of the project.

In general, the LD is calculated according to the formula:

1/120 x Net Capital Project Cost x (60-n)

$$= \frac{(60 - n) \times (P-C)}{120}$$

where :
P – Total Capital Cost of the project
C – Connection Charge paid by the consumer
(P-C) – Net Capital Cost of the project
N – Number of months that have lapsed after supply is given

3. High Voltage Consumer

Connection Charge for High Voltage Consumer consists of:

i) Connection Charges based on 1st Principle calculation
ii) Refundable Connection Charges if Connection Charges under 1st Principle is greater than Project Cost
iii) Premium for project implementation under fast track timeline (if any)
iv) Project Minimum Monthly Charge (PMMC)
v) Special Features Charge (if any)
vi) Connected Load Charge
vii) Liquidated Damages

i) Connection Charges based on 1st Principle Calculation

The basis of the charges is that the consumer has to make up for the shortfall in the return on the capital invested by TNB (hereinafter defined as "Project Cost"), at Internal Rate of Return (IRR) approved by the Government and secured through the revenue earned from the sales of electricity to the consumer for a 15-year period of supply.

IRR is the Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC) approved by the Government under the Incentive-Based Regulation (IBR) regime. The formula for the Connection Charge is given below:

Revenue – Running Cost = Annuity Amount
Present Value Future Cash Flow = Annuity Amount x PVIFAWACC
where:-
PVIFA – Present Value Interest Factor of an Annuity; and
WACC – Weighted Average Cost of Capital

Connection Charges are payable if Present Value Future Cash Flow < Project Cost.

If the return falls short of the annual return required (Present Value Future Cash Flow is less than Project Cost), then a Connection Charge is levied by an amount so that the resultant investment by TNB is reduced to such an extent that the required return is achieved.

Under this principle, the capital invested by TNB of the project attributable to the consumer (Project Cost) is dependent on the nature of the supply based on the following criteria:

- If the supply is fully dedicated to the consumer, full Project Cost will be imposed to determine, as the baseline, to identify if Present Value Future Cash Flow is greater or less than the Project Cost; or
- If the supply is non-dedicated to the consumer or will be part of TNB's transmission network, Project Cost will be apportioned depending on the requested Maximum Demand of the consumer and the carrying capacity of the transmission line.

ii) Refundable Connection Charges if Connection Charges under 1st Principle is greater than Project Cost

Based on the principle mentioned under 1st Principle calculation where consumer is not subjected to Connection Charges if the Present Value Future Cash Flow is greater than Project Cost, the consumer is subjected to Refundable Connection Charges (RCC) which is equivalent to 25% from the Project Cost.

RCC = 25% x Project Cost.

Consumer is required to achieve 75% from its declared Maximum Demand within:

- Six (6) years from when the new supply is commissioned for the new consumer; or
- Five (5) years from when the upgraded supply is commissioned for existing consumer who required the additional load with system upgrading.

If the consumer fails to achieve 75% from its Maximum Demand within the time mentioned above, TNB will forfeit or claim the RCC.

iii) Premium for project implementation under fast track timeline

Consumer may request and TNB may consider, a scheme of supply which is earlier than the date of supply to be made available by TNB in accordance with its current process of providing supply of electricity (hereinafter defined as "Fast Track Supply").

For project implemented under Fast Track Supply, the consumer is subjected to premium charges based on the following project timeline:

Level	Project Timeline (Months)	Premium (% From Project Cost)
1	0 – 12	15
2	13 – 18	10
3	19 - 24	5

The premium charge is an up-front payment which is not part of Project Cost for the purpose of calculating Connection Charges under the 1st Principle.

iv) Project Minimum Monthly Charge (PMMC)

Means a fixed monthly charge equivalent to two per cent (2%) of the difference between the Project Cost (as defined below) and the Connection Charge, payable monthly by the Consumer, for a maximum period of up to five (5) years from when the supply at High Voltage is commissioned.

PMMC = 2% x (P - C)
where
P - Project Cost
C - Connection Charges based on 1st Principle
(P – C) - Net Capital Cost of the project

v) Special Features Charge

- Any request for additional or special features, e.g., special request for an additional feeder by consumer or any request from third party such as the Local Authority or Government Agencies, the consumer will be required to pay the full cost of the additional request.

vi) Connected Load Charge

- Connected Load Charge (CLC) is subjected to consumers who take supply at Medium Voltage and High Voltage. Please find the details of CLC information at the TNB website.

vii) Liquidated Damages

- Liquidated Damages (LD) is applicable for consumers who fail or cease to take supply for 5 years after the supply has been connected. The basis of calculating the quantum of Liquidated Damages is as follows:

For each month of the 5 year period, the consumer shall pay 1/120 of the Net Capital Cost of the project.

In general, the LD is calculated according to the formula:-

$$1/120 \times \text{Net Capital Project Cost} \times (60-n) = \frac{(60 - n) \times (P\text{-}C)}{120}$$

where :
P – Total Capital Cost of the project
C – Connection Charge paid by the consumer
(P-C) – Net Capital Cost of the project
N – Number of months that have lapsed after supply is given

Members were enlightened on TNB's enhanced terms for Connection Charge.

SME Digitalisation Initiative

Evolve your business to the digital forefront and get your business digitalised! SME Digitalisation Initiative is a new grant initiative provided by the Ministry of Finance Malaysia (MOF) to assist Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to adopt digitalisation in their business operations.

The favourable provisions for digital adoption set out in the 2020 Budget denotes the Government is pro-actively encouraging more local businesses to move rapidly into the technology sphere. Through a strategic collaboration effort, the Government through MOF, is working together with Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN) as the Lead and Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) as the Partner, in managing the grant to eligible SMEs to adopt digitalisation in their daily operations. The initiative in the form of Matching Grants is worth RM500 million over five (5) years, limited to the first 100,000 SMEs applying to digitalise their business operations.

Matching Grant

As an initiative under Budget 2020, the Government provides a 50% Matching Grant of up to a maximum of RM5,000.00 per SME for the subscription of digital services that will enhance their productivity and competitiveness. Interested SMEs applying for the SME Digitalisation Grant will need to select from the Technology Solution Providers (TSPs) listed by MDEC in the MDEC Website (http//:mdec.my).

Digitalisation Services

There are seven (7) types of digitalisation services available. They are as follows:

1) Electronic Point of Sale System (e-POS)
2) Human Resource Payroll System (HR)/ Customer Relationship Management (CRM)
3) Digital Marketing/Sales
4) Procurement
5) Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)/ Accounting and Taxation
6) Remote Working
7) E-Commerce

Applicant Eligibility

- Available to SMEs registered under the relevant laws of Malaysia;
- The SME is at least 60% owned by Malaysian;
- The SME has been in operation for at least six (6) months; and
- The SME has a minimum average annual sales turnover of RM50,000.

Required Documents

1) Completed SME Digitalisation Initiative Application Form,
2) A copy of the Identification Card or Passport of Director(s)/Partner(s)/Proprietor(s) of the SME, whichever is applicable,
3) A copy of the SME's business registration licenses (CCM or any similar forms under the Companies Act 2016),
4) Latest audited financial statements or latest financial management account statement or the bank statement for the latest two (2) months,
5) Quotation/Invoice for the selected digitalisation services from the Solution Providers listed by MDEC, and
6) Any other information and documents as and when required by the Bank.

How to Apply?

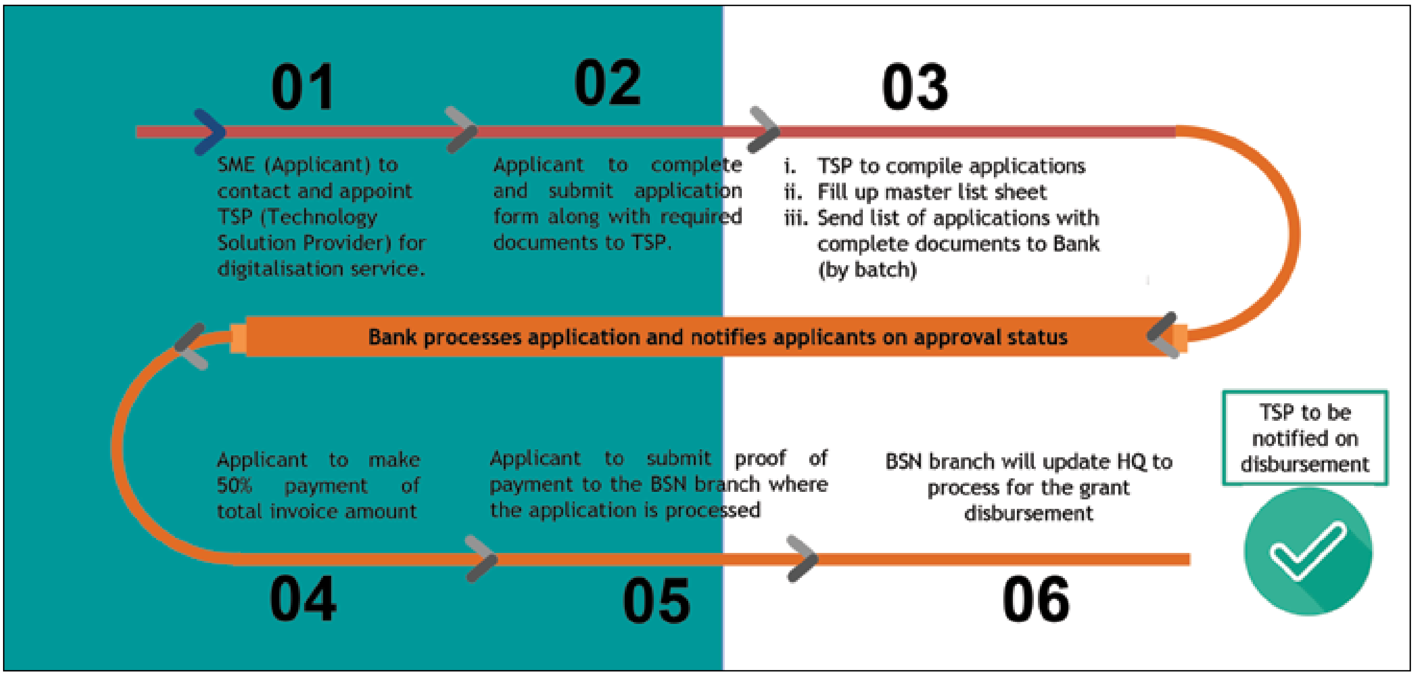
1) The Applicant must contact and appoint one or more of the panel of Solution Providers listed by MDEC (http//:mdec.my) to perform any of the digitalisation services available – maximum of 3 digital services,
2) The Applicant is to complete and submit the application form along with the required documents to the Solution Provider,
3) The Solution Provider is to submit the application form together with the supporting documents to the Bank,
4) Once the application is approved, subject to the total invoice amount, the Applicant is responsible to pay the difference of the total invoice after deducting the subsidised amount granted from the Initiative for each digitalisation service, to the Solution Provider, and
5) The Bank will then make a direct 50% payment of the total invoice amount or up to RM5,000.00 to the Service Provider in one lump sum payment, or in stages based on the Bank's discretion.

The SME Digitalisation Initiative Application Form can be downloaded from the BSN Website at https://bsn.com.my.

For more information regarding the SME Digitalisation Initiative, please contact:

***MDEC** (Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation Sdn Bhd): 1-800-88-8338*

***BSN** (Bank Simpanan Nasional): 1-300-88-1900*



SME Digitalisation Initiative Application Process Flow.

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MCMEA News – Council Meeting

MCMEA, also known as the Malaysia Council of Mechanical & Electrical Associations, conducted a Council Meeting on 16 July 2021 via the Zoom platform.

MCMEA was founded as a result of collaborative efforts amongst various Associations aimed to effectively address all Mechanical and Electrical (M & E) works-related issues, thus providing one common platform and voice representing the said industries whenever the needs were to arise. MCMEA is a coalition of six (6) associations which includes over 3,000 member companies that employ in excess of 100,000 workers. The Association comprises the following:

- BASAM - Malaysia Building Automation System Association
- MACRA - Malaysian Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration Association
- MALEA – The Malaysian Lift and Escalator Association
- MFPA - Malaysian Fire Protection Association
- SKLPA - The Selangor & Kuala Lumpur Plumbing Association
- TEEAM - The Electrical and Electronics Association of Malaysia

The member companies that are represented through MCMEA play a very important role in the critical support and essential services in the safety, maintenance, security, economy, lives and livelihood of citizens of the country.

During the meeting, the MCMEA Council expressed worries and concerns that are being faced by member companies during the current prolonged lockdown. The Council decided to submit the following most urgent appeals from the insights of the M&E industries to the Right Honourable (YAB) Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhyiddin Haji Mohd Yassin:

1. Disruption of Value Chain

MCMEA is very concerned of a collapse of the entire value chain as certain sectors are allowed to operate but the manufacturing-related, supply chain and maintenance sectors are not allowed to operate, which is causing major disruption. Some members who belong to the critical essential group have not been able to obtain approval to operate since 1 June 2021. The M&E Industrial supply members are supplying critical and essential industrial electrical replacement peripherals and equipment that are critical to the continuity of electrical supply to all industries, factories, critical plants such as sewerage and water treatment plants, and essential buildings such as hospitals, and others, whilst the Services members (consisting of Contractors, Services Engineers, Integrators, Maintenance Personnel, Competent Personnel, and others are registered with the Energy Commission, CIDB, Bomba (Fire Brigade), and these groups of professionals and technical personnel are required to attend to critical safety and crucial maintenance work, but have been rejected via the CIMS 3.0 system. Without regular safety and maintenance works being carried out, many essential plants, facilities and buildings will suffer power failure, false alarms and breakdown of the building M&E services. This will gravely affect data centres, food storage, hospital ICUs, ventilation PPV centres, etc. A good example is the recent Sarawak blackout and as such the people do not wish to experience it in West Malaysia.

2. Opening the Economy

Businesses are badly affected by the ongoing EMCOs and MCOs and the Council expressed deep concern as SME and MSME members, who are not allowed to operate, continue to suffer serious losses and tight cash flows, which will force them to not be able to sustain their businesses any longer. This will create a domino effect which will lead to the loss of jobs to a whopping seven million workers. The unemployment rate is expected to hike up to a record of more than 1 million by August 2021. Closing down businesses will only harm the entire economy and livelihoods. All businesses will need to resume operations as soon as possible to survive through this pandemic. MCMEA earnestly wishes to open soon with a reduced percentage of work force, coupled with stringent and consistent SOPs.

3. Vaccination

Vaccination will be the way forward to save lives and livelihoods, as all will have to live with this virus (endemic situation) in our society. The Government's PIKAS , CIVac , RiVAC and PIEN initiatives will need speedy and effective implementation to the industries as the exit strategy. MCMEA members have already registered and have been waiting for months for this implementation which has yet to take place. MCMEA urged the Government to speed up and prioritise industries with herd immunisation via a minimum first dose and allow for its operation to help business survival, reduce unemployment and to the recovery of the economy.

MCMEA Council hoped to receive the urgent attention of YAB Prime Minister to address the plight of M&E members who are now at the critical breaking point! The fruitful meeting adjourned with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

16 July 2021 – MCMEA Council Meeting via the Zoom platform.

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Tel : +603 55258160, Fax : +603 55258161
Email : info@gruppelighting.com
Website : www.gruppelighting.com

TEEAM Media Statement

14 June 2021

TEEAM urges the Government to allow Supporting Manufacturing-Related Services and Critical Essential Sectors to operate and to provide assistance for business survival.

TEEAM lauds the Government's recent PEMERKASA+ RM340 billion Economic Stimulus & Assistance Package to assist businesses and households impacted by the "total lockdown" MCO3.0. However, the announcement of an extension of the "total lockdown" for another two weeks from 15 to 28 June 2021 is devastating to most SMEs in the Industrial Electrical & Electronics (E&E) Supply and Engineering Services who are not allowed to operate to support all the essential services and all of the value chains in the sectors that have been granted to operate.

Industrial E&E Trading supplies critical and essential industrial electrical replacement peripherals and equipment that are critical to the continuity of electrical supply to all industries, factories, critical plants such as sewerage and water treatment plants, and essential buildings such as hospitals. Whilst the Engineering Services consisting of Contractors, Services Engineers, Integrators, Maintenance Personnel & Competent Personnel, are required to inspect, install, and repair important electrical peripherals for on-going operation in factories and buildings to ensure no disruption to the electricity supply, there are also very important supporting Manufacturing Related Services that should have been allowed to operate to support all of the critical and essential sectors.

TEEAM strongly urges the Government to urgently attend to the devastating impact on our E&E SMEs which is the backbone of the country's economy and a major source of employment for the Rakyat (Citizens). Immediate financial aids to ease cash flow is the key for SMEs' survival and to ensure that they do not go bust. TEEAM proposes the following immediate financial assistance to SMEs in the country and pleads that the Government seriously consider these proposals:

Mr Siew Choon Thye
TEEAM President

1) Unemployment rate in April 2021 is at 4.6%, recording a total of 742,700 unemployed. This figure will continue to rise as closure of businesses and cash flow troubles have led to more loss of jobs and retrenchment. The extension of wage subsidy programme for RM1,000 per employee until the end of December 2021 to all E&E sectors will help to lighten the burden of SMEs.
2) To allow statutory payments such as EPF and SOCSO to be deferred for 6 months until December 2021 for employer. This is to ensure sufficient cash flows are restored for the survival of SMEs.
3) To allow the postponement of all outstanding tax payment to LHDN (Inland Revenue Board) and Customs until December 2021, and also reducing the tax payable for Year 2022, as well as temporarily suspending the penalty on tax payable of forecasted profit vs. actual profit under these unforeseen circumstances so as to lessen the financial weight of SMEs.
4) To give SST exemption for local E&E manufacturers' products & services (not limited to automotive only) effective June until December 2021 in order to help manufacturers' survival, cash flow and promote local products.
5) To extend the loan moratorium until December 2021 to help SMEs to ride through these difficult times.

TEEAM is hopeful that the Government will provide these urgently-needed crucial assistance to the E&E SMEs to ensure that businesses will be able to ride through the pandemic and thus they can further assist the Government in providing sustainable, longer-term economic solutions to all our fellow Malaysians.

PEMULIH Wage Subsidy Programme (PSU4.0)

Under the PEMULIH Wage Subsidy Programme (Program Subsidi Upah - PSU4.0), all sectors that are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, can apply for two (2) months of wage subsidy of RM600 per staff per month for a maximum of 500 staffs. There is no limit of monthly income. Employer must indicate the wage subsidy in the employee's salary slip OR provide a written notification to inform the employee that wage subsidy is received. The application period is from 1 August 2021 to 31 October 2021. Companies must prove 30% or more in reduction of monthly sales/ income compared to the same month before the Movement Control Order (MCO).

Application can be made through http://prihatin.perkeso.gov.my. Please refer to the PERKESO FAQ for PSU4.0 and sample of salary slip/ notification memo in the website. For further enquiries, please contact the PERKESO Customer Service Officer at 1-300-22-8000, or hotline at +603-8091 5400 or https://eaduansip.perkeso.gov.my.

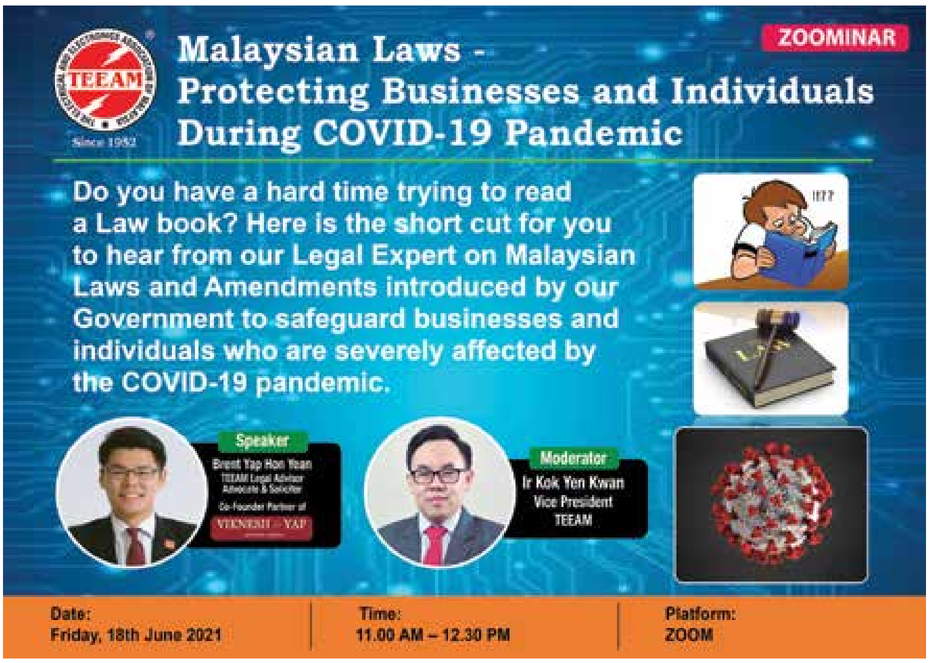
A cross-section of the Zoominar participants.

Zoominar on Malaysian Laws – Protecting Businesses and Individuals During COVID-19 Pandemic

TEEAM organised a Zoominar (Zoom Webinar) on Malaysian Laws – Protecting Businesses and Individuals During COVID-19 Pandemic, on 18 June 2021. The Speaker was Mr Brent Yap Hon Yean, Advocate & Solicitor, Co-Founder Partner of Viknesh & Yap, based in Kuala Lumpur and he was assisted by his Associate, Ms Elfira Rosellini. Brent is also currently serving as the Legal Advisor of TEEAM. The Zoominar successfully drew an eager crowd of 60 online participants.

Brent gave a brief overview on Temporary Measures to reduce the contractual and commercial impacts caused by COVID-19; Corporate Rescue Mechanism; Insolvency; and Legal Risk Management. He also highlighted existing Government relief programmes which can safeguard businesses and individuals who are severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The valuable Session was well moderated by Ir Kok Yen Kwan, TEEAM Vice President.

The fruitful Zoominar capped off with an interactive Q&A Session. It was a valuable Session for the participants as they took the opportunity to clarify their doubts with the subject matter experts on the current MCO issues and concerns related to the Malaysian Laws.



Zoominar on Malaysian Laws – Protecting Businesses and Individuals During COVID-19 Pandemic.

COVID-19 Pandemic: Malaysian Laws to Protect Businesses and Individuals

Brent Yap Hon Yean

Introduction

At the time of writing, the Malaysian Government has implemented the third Movement Control Order (MCO 3.0) on selected "red" districts to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

Below is an overview of the laws and amendments introduced by the Malaysian Government to offer protection for businesses and individuals severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Temporary Measures for Reducing the Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Act 2020 (Gazetted and published on 23 October 2020)

The Temporary Measures for Reducing the Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Act 2020 ("the COVID-19 Act") is intended to remain in operation for two years until 23 October 2022. It modifies certain laws related to the pursuance of legal action caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on both the company and the individual(s) in areas such as court processes, consumer laws, purchasers' obligations under the housing development laws, landlord-tenant matters, insolvency laws and limitation laws.

Among the highlights are:

1.1 A "cooling period" caused by the inability of contracting parties to perform contractual obligations in certain specified sectors identified in the Schedule to the Covid19 Act. The inability period covers the period running from 18 March 2020 to 31 December 2020, and was extended from 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021 by virtue of the TEMPORARY MEASURES FOR REDUCING THE IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) (EXTENSION OF OPERATION) ORDER 2020 ("the Extension Order").

1.2 The Prime Minister may extend the operation of the COVID-19 Act more than once, while the Minister charged with the responsibility of Law (i.e., the Minister of Law) in the Prime Minister's Department (Parliament and Law) may further provisions to the Schedule of the COVID-19 Act.

1.3 The COVID-19 Act also seeks to encourage the contracting parties to consider mediation processes to resolve any disputes arising from the inability to perform contractual obligations. A Mediator may be appointed to conduct the mediation and to resolve the dispute. Once a dispute is resolved, the parties shall enter into a settlement agreement to be formalised by the Mediator and binding on the contracting parties.

1.4 The Schedule contains these specified sectors:

SCHEDULE
[Section 7]
List Of Categories Of Contracts

1. Construction work contract or construction consultancy contract and any other contract related to the supply of construction material, equipment or workers in connection with a construction contract.
2. Performance bond or equivalent that is granted pursuant to a construction contract or supply contract.
3. Professional services contract.
4. Lease or tenancy of non-residential immovable property.
5. Event contract for the provision of any venue, accommodation, amenity, transport, entertainment, catering or other goods or services including, for any business meeting, incentive travel, conference, exhibition, sales event, concert, show, wedding, party or other social gathering or sporting event, for the participants, attendees, guests, patrons or spectators of such gathering or event.
6. Contract by a tourism enterprise as defined under the Tourism Industry Act 1992 (Act 482) and a contract for the promotion of tourism in Malaysia.
7. Religious pilgrimage-related contract.

1.5 The Schedule was amended by virtue of the Amendment Order which came into operation on 1 January 2021.

2. Increase of the Amount of Indebtedness Threshold from RM10,000.00 to RM50,000.00 under Section 466 Companies Act 2016

The Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs has issued a directive under Section 466 Companies Act 2016 to increase the minimum indebtedness threshold from RM10,000.00 to RM50,000.00 prior to a creditor issuing a statutory notice leading to the presentation of winding-up petitions, to help businesses to maintain their operations caused by the severe impacts of the pandemic.

On 1 April 2021, the RM50,000.00 minimum indebtedness threshold became permanent.

Further, the Minister also gazetted the Companies (Exemption)(No. 2) Order 2020 wherefore a company is granted a time period of six (6) months to respond to a statutory notice of demand before a creditor is allowed to present a winding-up petition, provided that the statutory notice of demand is served from 23 April 2020 to 31 December 2020.

The time frame will further encourage companies to seek to re-structure its debts with its creditors using existing corporate rescue mechanisms provided by virtue of Division 8 of Part III of the Companies Act 2016 which came into force on 1 March 2018, together with the Companies (Corporate Rescue Mechanism) Rules 2018 based on the Companies Act 2016.

The Corporate Rescue Mechanisms are:

i) Schemes of Arrangement,
ii) Judicial Management, and
iii) Corporate Voluntary Arrangement.

i) Schemes of Arrangement is provided under Section 366 Companies Act 2016 whereby it allows a company to apply to the court for assistance to achieve a compromise or an arrangement between the creditors (secured and unsecured) and the distressed company. The arrangement could be achieved by:

a) re-organisation of the share capital of the company by the consolidation of shares of different classes;
b) by the division of shares into different classes; or
c) by both of these methods.

- The application to court may be presented by the company, creditor or member of the company, a liquidator (if company is wound-up) or a judicial manager (if under judicial management).
- A preliminary compromise or restructuring plan is required to be submitted to the court.
- The court may also issue a restraining order to restrain legal proceedings against the company for an initial three (3) months subject to a further extension of nine (9) months, pending the restructuring of the debts of the company.
- The compromise or arrangement will only be valid and binding if it is approved by 75% majority of the total value of creditors or members present and voting, and has been approved by the Court.
- A copy of the Court order approving the scheme of arrangement must be lodged with the Registrar of Companies and shall

take effect on the date of lodgement or such earlier date as the Court may determine.

- A copy of every scheme of arrangement order made shall be annexed to every copy of the Constitution of the company issued after the order has been made.

ii) Judicial Management relates to the financially-distressed company which has a reasonable chance to be rehabilitated.

- The distressed company, its directors or its creditors may apply for an order to place the company under the management of a qualified insolvency practitioner ("Judicial Manager") whose main responsibility is to prepare and table a restructuring plan for creditor's approval within sixty (60) days from the date when the judicial management order is made.
- The court may also issue a moratorium to restrain legal proceedings against the company for an initial six (6) months subject to a further extension of six (6) months.
- The compromise or arrangement will only be valid and binding if it is approved by 75% majority of the total value of creditors or members present and voting, and has been approved by the Court. Recent case law suggests that the class of creditors apply to both secured and unsecure creditors.

iii) Corporate Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) relates to the financially-distressed company, which has not created a charge over its assets or undertakings, to achieve an amicable settlement with creditors and without any supervision from the court. An independent insolvency practitioner may be appointed by the company to oversee the settlement proceedings and to report to the Court on the viability of a proposal.

- The distressed company, its directors, judicial manager (if the company is under a judicial management order), or official receiver/liquidator (if the company is wound-up) may prepare a proposal based on statutory requirements under the Companies Act 2016, to submit to court on the viability of the CVA.
- Once the proposal is properly prepared and filed into Court, there is an automatic moratorium to restrain legal proceedings against the company for an initial twenty-eight (28) days subject to a further extension of thirty-two (32) days.
- The voluntary arrangement will only be valid and binding if it is approved by 75% majority of the total value of creditors or members present and voting, and has been approved by the Court.

3. Increase of the Minimum Debt Under the Insolvency Act 1966 (Gazetted on 22 October 2020)

The Insolvency (Amendment) Act 2020 was gazetted to allow an increment of the minimum debt prior to the presentation of a bankruptcy petition against an individual. As of time of writing, the minimum debt is now RM100,000.00, increased from RM50,000.00 previously.

The Minister may increase this bankruptcy minimum threshold in the future depending on special circumstances and in public interest.

Summary

The Government has taken pro-active measures to assist companies and individuals in Malaysia to help the continuing survival of these entities. It is pertinent to note that these laws and methods are designed to provide time and resources for the distressed companies and individuals to achieve a satisfactory resolution with their creditors.

Mr Brent Yap Hon Yean, Advocate & Solicitor, Co-Founder Partner of Viknesh & Yap, based in Kuala Lumpur. Brent is also currently serving as the Legal Advisor of TEEAM. He can be reached at brentyap@vikneshyap.com for any further legal enquiries.

Machinery & Equipment Virtual Advisory Clinic (MEVAC)

What is MEVAC?

MEVAC stands for the Machinery & Equipment Virtual Advisory Clinic sessions organised by the Machinery & Equipment Productivity Nexus (MEPN) to support businesses in the M&E industry to stay competitive and productive. MEPN, led by the Machinery & Equipment Industries Federation (MEIF), is fully supported by the Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC). MEVAC provides a:

- Channel for local enterprises to raise matters of mutual interests, especially in the M&E sector,
- One-hour dialogue with Advisors, who are the experts in the M&E industry,
- Platform to disseminate information on selected assistance available to the industry, and
- Reference for updates on various programmes available to enhance overall industry productivity and competitiveness, which are essential for business sustainability.

How MEVAC Benefits Businesses

Issues, barriers and challenges raised during MEVAC sessions are first analysed, then tackled and solved through online training, co-ordination with relevant stakeholders, and/or mentoring sessions. The Business Virtual Advisory Services are offered free-of-charge by MEPN. Get your FREE Business Advisory solutions now!

Who Should Attend?

Senior Management from the M&E Industry including Engineering Support Services, Medical Devices and Aerospace Industries.

For Registration:

Scan the QR code to register.

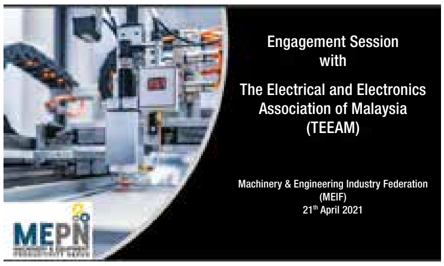
MEIF Engagement Session with TEEAM on MEPN

The Machinery & Engineering Industries Federation (MEIF) conducted an Engagement Session with TEEAM Members on MEPN (Machinery & Equipment Productivity Nexus) initiatives and programmes, and how these programmes benefit our members. These pro-active initiatives are to help Malaysian companies, especially SMEs, to move forward through Digitalisation, I4.0, Industrial IoT, etc., and to tackle the global challenges ahead. The hybrid session, conducted physically and online, was held on 21 April 2021 at TEEAM's Conference Room.

The highly informative and beneficial briefing was conducted by Mr Yong Kee Sin, Mr Chan Chee Tatt and Mr Sangaran Narayanan of MEIF. Also present were Dr Mazlina Shafi'i and Mr Abdul Rahman Kamis from the Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC).

The following interesting topics were covered:

- Malaysia Productivity Blueprint
- MEPN Initiatives & Strategy
- Industry Mapping & Clustering
- M&E Virtual Advisory Clinic (MEVAC)
- Productivity 1010 initiative – Productivity through Digitisation
- Digitalisation (FSM - Field Service Management & Industrial IoT)
- Virtual Online Mentoring & Training programmes



The Engagement Session aimed to give a better understanding of the various assistance avenues that are available through MEPN; create awareness on the need for adoption of Technology & Innovation to enhance Productivity & Competitiveness; and also collate urgent Issues & Challenges faced by the M&E sector. MEIF sincerely hopes that TEEAM members will participate actively in all the MEPN programmes to gain immense benefits from them.

A snap-shot to cap off the MEIF Engagement Session.

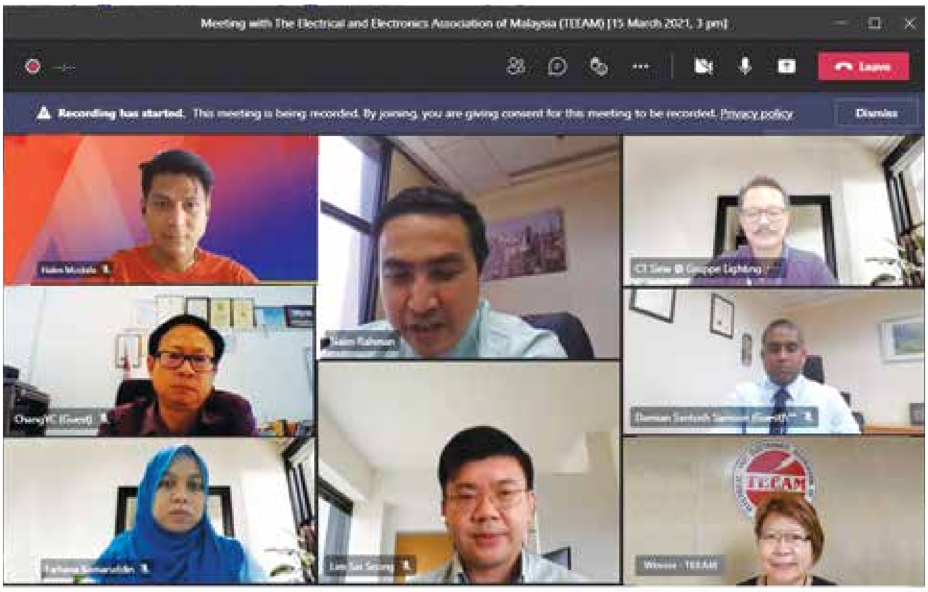
For any enquiry on MEPN, please contact:
MEPN Secretariat
Mr Abdul Rahman Kamis
Project Manager – MEPN
E-mail: arahman@mpc.gov.my
Website: www.wayup.my

TEEAM - MATRADE Virtual Meeting 2021

A fruitful virtual meeting was held with the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) on 15 March 2021. MATRADE is the National Trade Promotion Agency, under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), which assists and facilitates Malaysian exporters to effectively market their products and services abroad. Among the topics discussed during the virtual meeting were Export Acceleration Missions, E&E Trade Shows, B2B Matching, Trade Leads and Collaborations between MATRADE and TEEAM with regards to promoting exports from the E&E sector.

MATRADE's power team was led by Mr Naim Rahman, Director of the E&E Sector. Other highly esteemed MATRADE Officials were Mr Damian Santosh Samson, Mr Halim Mustafa and Ms Farhana Kamaruddin whereas the power team from TEEAM comprised Mr Siew Choon Thye (President), Ir Chang Yew Cheong (Deputy President), Mr Lim Sai Seong (Honorary Treasurer) and Ms Winnie Khong (Executive Secretary).

MATRADE urged TEEAM members to register with MATRADE as members, to enable them to be more involved in MATRADE's Export Promotion Programmes and to benefit from these programmes. The MATRADE membership is complimentary and registration can be done via www.matrade.gov.my.



TEEAM - MATRADE Virtual Meeting via the Microsoft Teams Platform on 15 March 2021.

KYODO PIPE SDN BHD
(753789-W)

KYODO PIPE Standard Galvanised Steel Conduit

BS 31 CLASS B (SCREWED) / MANUFACTURER'S STANDARD

NOMINAL SIZE	OUTSIDE DIAMETER				WALL THICKNESS				CALCULATED WEIGHT WITH COUPLER			NUMBERS OF THREADS	LENGTH OF THREADS			
	MINIMUM		MAXIMUM		MINIMUM		MAXIMUM						MINIMUM		MAXIMUM	
in	mm	in	mm	in	mm	in	mm	in	kg/m	kg/ft	lb/ft	PER INCH	mm	in	mm	in
¾	18.76	0.7387	19.05	0.7500	1.52	0.060	1.63	0.064	0.713	0.217	0.479	16	12.70	0.5000	14.29	0.5625
1	25.11	0.9887	25.40	1.0000	1.52	0.060	1.63	0.064	0.972	0.296	0.653	16	15.88	0.6250	17.46	0.6875
1¼	31.46	1.2387	31.75	1.2500	1.52	0.060	1.63	0.064	1.240	0.376	0.830	16	17.46	0.6875	19.05	0.7500
1½	37.80	1.4880	38.10	1.5000	1.73	0.068	1.83	0.072	1.680	0.511	1.130	14	19.05	0.7500	20.64	0.8125
2	50.50	1.9880	50.80	2.0000	1.93	0.076	2.03	0.080	2.510	0.765	1.690	14	22.23	0.8750	23.81	0.9375

MS 275 / BS 4568 CLASS 3 (SCREWED) / MANUFACTURER'S STANDARD

NOMINAL SIZE	OUTER DIAMETER		WALL THICKNESS	CALCULATED WEIGHT WITH COUPLER		PITCH	LENGTH OF THREADS	
	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM		MINIMUM	MAXIMUM		MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
mm	mm	mm	mm	kg/m	kg/m	mm	mm	mm
20	19.7	20.0	1.6 ± 0.15	0.643	0.783	1.5	13	15
25	24.6	25.0	1.6 ± 0.15	0.811	0.995	1.5	16	18
32	31.6	32.0	1.6 ± 0.15	1.069	1.301	1.5	18	20

MS IEC 61386-1 / MS 61386-21 Conduit Systems for Cable Management.

NOMINAL SIZE	OUTER DIAMETER		INSIDE DIAMETER	EXTERNAL THREAD LENGTHS
	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM	MINIMUM
mm	mm	mm	mm	mm
20	19.7	20.0	16.2	14.0
25	24.6	25.0	21.1	17.0

KYODO PIPE SDN BHD
(753789-W)
Plot 322, Jalan PKNK 3/2,
Kawasan Perusahaan Sungai Petani,
08000 Sungai Petani, Kedah Darul Aman, Malaysia.
Tel: +604-444 5178 Fax: 04-440 0521
E-mail: sm53james@yahoo.com

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- Made of hot-dip galvanised steel with weld zone zinc coating restored
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- Inside bead minimized to enable easy wire pulling
- Come with any colour as per your requirement

Pathway for Malaysia 2021

Pathway for Malaysia 2021: Recommendations from Trade Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Professional Bodies, and Foreign Business Associations & Business Councils in Malaysia.

Following the Virtual Dialogue held on 22 February 2021 between the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) with 46 Trade Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Professional Bodies, and Foreign Business Associations & Business Councils in Malaysia, ASEAN-BAC Malaysia has produced a new report called "Pathway for Malaysia 2021". The report comprises feedback with regards to the issues businesses are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as 137 recommendations to tackle the challenges as the economy gradually re-opens. TEEAM too attended the Virtual Dialogue and was represented by Mr Siew Choon Thye (President).

Tan Sri Dato' Dr Mohd Munir Majid, Chairman of ASEAN-BAC Malaysia stressed the importance of a fast decision-making body in order to aid the businesses in Malaysia during the recovery phase of the pandemic. He also highlighted that the ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) could provide Malaysia with early advantage in the new trade and investment opportunities, especially in the post-pandemic environment. In accordance with "A Pathway Towards Recovery and Hope for ASEAN" (Pathway 225), which was submitted by ASEAN-BAC and endorsed by the ASEAN Leaders during their 36th ASEAN Summit on 26 June 2020, ASEAN-BAC Malaysia has collaborated with CARI ASEAN Research and Advocacy (formerly known as CIMB ASEAN Research Institute) to capture these recommendations for Pathway for Malaysia 2021 to be socialised with relevant Ministries and Agencies for further consideration and action.

The report consists of feedback and policy recommendations by the private sectors based in Malaysia, namely, Trade Associations (TEEAM included), Chambers of Commerce, Professional Bodies, and Foreign Business Associations & Business Councils in Malaysia. As the country gradually re-opens its economy, this report provides clear steps to be taken by businesses to ensure that the country enters the competitive market, and at the same time expands its regional opportunities.

Pathway for Malaysia 2021 covers the three areas of:

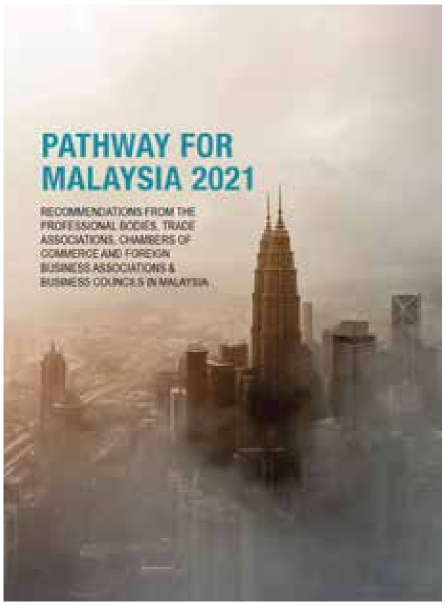
1. Analysis on Policy Issues Impacting Malaysia's Business Competitiveness in ASEAN,
2. Dealing with the Current Pandemic and COVID-19 Recovery Efforts, and
3. Malaysia as the Gateway to the ASEAN & RCEP Markets.

The objectives of this report are:

a. To inject a Malaysian drive into Pathway 225 proposals that could be pursued and curated as specific ASEAN projects – which would need a strong hand to be played by the Malaysian Government at the regional level, and

b. To introduce particular concerns at the national level to ensure strong participation not just in ASEAN economic recovery, but also in expediting the RCEP and CPTPP ratifications.

ASEAN-BAC Malaysia Virtual Dialogue on 22 February 2021.



ASEAN-BAC Malaysia's New Report – Pathway for Malaysia 2021.

The full report of Pathway for Malaysia 2021 can be downloaded from the TEEAM website at www.teeam.org.my.

ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) Malaysia Chapter is an integral participant in the regional ASEAN-BAC with regular participation at all Council Meetings and Consultations with the leaders. Over the course of the 16 years that the ASEAN-BAC Malaysia Chapter has been in operation, various recommendations, feedback and inputs have been provided during the consultation with the ASEAN Economic Ministers and ASEAN Heads of State at the regular ASEAN Consultation and Business Summits. At the same time, various studies on the national and regional economic climate have been conducted to substantiate the recommendations, some of which have already been incorporated into the guidelines of the overall ASEAN Economic Community Agenda.

Acknowledgement

Pathway for Malaysia 2021 is published by the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) Malaysia.

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E-mail: secretariat@aseanbex.com
Website: www.aseanbac.com.my

The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)

Background

1. The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) is the trade agreement that precedes the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). The TPPA is an agreement between twelve (12) Pacific Rim nations: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States (US) and Vietnam. The TPPA was signed on 4 February 2016 in Auckland, New Zealand.

2. The condition for entry into force of the TPPA was ratification by at least 6 parties accounting for 85% of the combined GDP of the twelve (12) TPP members. On 23 January 2017, the United States withdrew from the TPPA. Without the US's participation, the TPPA could not enter into force as the US accounts for 60% of the combined GDP of the twelve (12) TPP members.

3. Following the US's withdrawal, the TPP Ministers from the remaining 11-member countries (Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam) convened a meeting on 21 May 2017 at the side-lines of the APEC MRT Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam, and affirmed the economic and strategic importance of TPPA, particularly as a vehicle for regional economic integration.

4. On 9 to10 November 2017 in Da Nang, Vietnam, the Ministers reached an agreement on the core elements, the text of the agreement, and way forward to implement the TPPA, which was re-named as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

5. The CPTPP was signed by all eleven (11) participating countries, including Malaysia on 8 March 2018 in Santiago, Chile, and had entered into force on 30 December 2018 for:

   • Australia; • Canada; • Japan; • Mexico; • New Zealand;
   • and Singapore.

6. Vietnam became the seventh country to implement the CPTPP on 14 January 2019.

7. Peru recently submitted the instrument of ratification on 21 July 2021. The CPTPP will enter into force for Peru 60 days after that date, i.e., on 19 September 2021, making Peru the eighth country to implement the CPTPP.

8. Brunei Darussalam, Chile, and Malaysia remain as the only three (3) CPTPP countries that have yet to ratify the Agreement. This would mean that at this point of time, these countries are considered as Signatories and not Parties to the Agreement. Therefore, these countries do not have to comply with the obligations under the CPTPP. In the same vein, the Signatories also do not benefit from the concessions offered in the Agreement.

9. It should also be emphasised that the longer Malaysia takes to ratify and implement the CPTPP, the longer Malaysia will not be able to enjoy the preferential tariff rates and treatment accorded under this Agreement. Malaysia's competitiveness will be adversely affected as a result of increased competition in the markets of member countries that have implemented this Agreement.

The Text of the CPTPP

10. The CPTPP is a separate treaty that incorporates, by reference, the provisions of the original TPPA. Under the CPTPP, signatories will

implement the original TPPA between them, with the exception of twenty-two (22) provisions which have been suspended. The CPTPP text should be read in conjunction with the text of the original TPPA.

11. A suspended provision is a provision in the original TPPA which will not have effect under CPTPP. These suspensions will remain in place until the Parties, by consensus, agree to lift them.

12. It is important to note that the schedules and annexes specific to the US as well as any reference to the US that may appear throughout the Chapters of the original TPPA, will have no practical application as the US is not part of the CPTPP.

Status of Ratification by Signatories

13. Ratification status of the three (3) non-ratified countries are as follows:

    a) Malaysia ─ the Government is expected to obtain an appropriate mandate from the Cabinet by the end of this year to determine the way forward for the CPTPP. This is a necessary step in assisting Malaysia's economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic and enhancing the competitiveness of businesses that have been severely impacted by the pandemic.

    b) Brunei Darussalam and Chile ─ both countries are still in the process of completing the necessary domestic procedures to ratify the CPTPP. It is expected that Chile will be the next country to ratify the CPTPP.

Malaysia's Domestic Process for Entry into Force of the CPTPP

14. A new mandate and policy decision are required for Malaysia to continue and complete its domestic processes for CPTPP ratification:

    • At present, targeted stakeholder consultations are being undertaken to facilitate the understanding of all the relevant parties regarding Malaysia's rights and obligations under this Agreement. These consultations extend to State Governments, Ministries and Agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations and Civil Society Organisations.

    • The outcomes of the stakeholder consultations and the findings of the Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA)- will form the basis of MITI's recommendations to the Cabinet, including an appropriate mandate which will determine the way forward for the CPTPP.

15. Required domestic processes:
    - Amend the remaining twelve (12) legislations to be in line with the obligations and commitments under the CPTPP. In total, Malaysia needs to amend 17 legislations and to date, the amendments to five (5) legislations have been completed. Once all amendments are completed, the Cabinet's mandate for final approval needs to be obtained. This will be followed by the submission of Malaysia's ratification instrument to the CPTPP depository (New Zealand).
    - CPTPP will enter into force for Malaysia 60 days after the submission of the instrument of ratification.

The CPTPP Commission Meetings

16. Four (4) CPTPP Commission Meetings have been held thus far:
    i) 19 January 2019 in Tokyo, Japan;
    ii) 7 to 9 October 2019 in Auckland, New Zealand;
    iii) 6 August 2020 virtually, hosted by Mexico; and
    iv) 2 June 2021 virtually, hosted by Japan.
17. The Commission, composed of Government representatives of each Party at the level of Ministers or Senior Officials, is the highest decision-making body in any matter relating to the implementation or operation of the CPTPP.
18. Legally, only those countries that have ratified the Agreement are allowed to participate in the Commission Meeting. However, at the discretion of the Chair, the three (3) non-ratified countries (including Malaysia) have since been invited to participate in both CPTPP Commission Meetings as observers. The Signatories do not have the right to block any consensus made by Parties related to the CPTPP Commission, Senior Officials, Committees/Subsidiary Bodies, Accession Working Groups or Meetings.

The United Kingdom's (UK's) Accession into the CPTPP

19. On 1 February 2021, the UK became the first country to formally deposit its application to accede into the CPTPP, since the Agreement entered into force in 2018.
20. All CPTPP Parties welcomed the UK's formal initiation of the accession process. Parties have stressed that the UK must adhere and conform to the high quality and standards set by the CPTPP Agreement in totality, without resorting to any form of re-negotiations. This includes the need for the UK to make meaningful market access commitments across all sectors. The UK's accession negotiations are expected to begin in September 2021.
21. While there have been indications of interest by the likes of Thailand, Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China to accede into the CPTPP, no formal applications have been received from these countries.
22. Malaysia must identify a timeline for ratification. Given that the UK is acceding to the CPTPP soon, Malaysia must undertake and complete the necessary domestic processes for us to be able to participate effectively in the accession negotiations. Should Malaysia continue with the current approach of not having a timeline for ratification, our status will remain as a Signatory only and we will not be able to participate meaningfully in the accession negotiations with the UK. At the same time, countries such as Singapore and Vietnam that have already implemented the CPTPP will be able to negotiate terms and market access that are advantageous to them.

Source: CPTPP Brief for Associations by the Ministry of International Trade & Industry (MITI).

2021MIECF, Macao

The "2021 Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition" (2021MIECF) was hosted from 5 to 7 August 2021 by the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, and co-organised by provincial and regional Governments in the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region, as well as co-ordinated by the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) and the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA). The event was well managed by the Macao Expo Group.

Themed "Towards a Green and Low Carbon New Era" for this year's event, MIECF has remained committed to promoting green development and environment protection. In the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, it incorporated a more diverse array of online elements such as online exhibitions, online matching services, and live broadcasts, serving as a platform to encourage exchanges and co-operation between green and environmental sectors from Mainland China, especially the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and their international counterparts.

However, in view of the latest COVID-19 developments, all in-person activities including the Green Forum and physical exhibition were cancelled, to avoid crowd gatherings and reduce the risk of outbreaks. To help enterprises seize green business opportunities, the 2021MIECF retained online exhibitions and assisted enterprises to find suitable business partners through a dedicated online business-matching service platform. TEEAM participated as a Supporting Organisation and arranged members to meet exhibitors online through zoom meetings for potential business collaboration. Overall, 2021MIECF was an interesting green event for those who participated.

What's New for Services Export Fund (SEF) 2021?

What is SEF?

The Services Export Fund (SEF) is a trade support facility that assists Malaysian entities involved in the service industry, such as Companies (Malaysian Service Providers or MSPs), Trade & Industry Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Professional Bodies, Government-Linked Investment Companies (GLICs), Government-Linked Companies (GLCs) and Co-operatives, to undertake export-related activities in international markets.

Form of Incentives

100% reimbursable grant (except Activity 5 below which is 50%) and a maximum of RM4.3 million per company for the duration of 2021 to 2025. The grant works on the basis that companies and entities are expected to spend first for an eligible expense, file an application for a claim within the eligible period after the last day of the eligible activity, and if approved, they will be reimbursed on all eligible expenses. It should be noted that because SEF is a reimbursable grant, all applications for SEF are applications for claims.

The only exception where an application is filed for SEF support, but not for claims, is the application for prior or advance approval required in Activity 5. This is the application for Approval in Principle, and only applies for getting prior approval before embarking on a feasibility study. Because of the high cost involved in conducting feasibility studies (maximum grant limit of RM3 million), prior approval is needed to ensure the viability of embarking on the study. Once approved, companies can conduct the feasibility study and claims can be made on all eligible expenses according to the stages of completion of the feasibility study.

Eligibility Criteria

A. Malaysian Service Providers (MSPs), GLCs, GLICs

1. Incorporated under the Malaysian Companies Act 1965/2016 (For Companies).
2. At least 60% equity owned by Malaysians.
3. In operation for at least 1 year (For all Activities, except for Activity 5, it must be 3 years in operation).
4. Not a dormant business entity.
5. Registered with MATRADE under the Malaysia Exporters Registry (MER).
6. Entity is exporting.

B. Trade & Industry Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Professional Bodies & Co-operatives (Applicable for all Activities, except for Activity 5)

1. Incorporated under the Registrar of Society, ROS (For Associations); Recognised Professional Authorities (For Professionals Bodies); Co-operative Societies Act 1993 (For Co-operatives).
2. Registered with MATRADE under the Malaysia Exporters Registry (MER).

Eligible Sectors

All service sectors are eligible under SEF, except tourism, real estate, banking and insurance services. Focus sectors for SEF include:
• Accounting • Aerospace • Business Services • Construction and Related Professional Services • Education • Electronics Manufacturing Services (EMS) • Engineering Services • Franchising • Halal-Related Services • Healthcare & Pharmaceutical Services • Information and Communications Technology (ICT) • Legal • Logistics • Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) • Maritime • Oil and Gas • Power Generation and Distribution.

Eligible Activities & Amount

No.	Type of Activity	Maximum Amount (RM)
1.	Activity 1 Promoting Malaysian expertise as a provider of services at international events held overseas, such as a Speaker/ Panelist/Moderator at Conferences/Forums/Workshops/ Seminars; or As a participant in an international competition for the services industry held abroad.	50,000.00
2.	Activity 2 Travelling expenses to international destinations for tender bidding; or Purchasing tender documents for projects overseas.	50,000.00
3.	Activity 3 Conducting presentations to potential clients for assessing business and projects overseas.	100,000.00
4.	Activity 4 Rendering services for projects undertaken overseas.	100,000.00
5.	Activity 5 Conducting a feasibility study for a specific international project overseas.	3,000,000.00
6.	Activity 6 Initial costs for first 12 months of setting up a commercial office overseas.	200,000.00
7.	Activity 7 Procuring commercial intelligence/market reports for assessing business opportunities or projects in international markets.	50,000.00
8.	Activity 8 Preparation of prototype, system customisation /localisation to meet project requirements overseas.	50,000.00
9.	Activity 9 Participation fees in training programmes held overseas by certified bodies/institutions for exporting services.	50,000.00
10.	Activity 10 Registration fees for overseas industry certification including compliance to sustainability for exporting services.	100,000.00
11.	Activity 11 Purchasing/hire purchase/renting of software, machinery and equipment for exporting services overseas.	200,000.00
12.	Activity 12 Logistics costs involved in sending of Malaysian 3 products and/or equipment abroad (port-to-port), for overseas projects awarded to and implemented by Malaysian service companies.	50,000.00
	Maximum eligible amount (RM) per business entity	**4.3 million**

For application procedures and requirements, kindly refer to the Guidelines for Services Export Fund (SEF) which can be downloaded from the TEEAM website: www.teeam.org.my.

For more information, please contact:
SEF Secretariat
Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE)
Services Export Unit, 8th Floor, Menara MATRADE,
Jalan Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah, 50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel: +603-6207 7077 / 7593 Fax: +603-6203 7252
E-mail: sef@matrade.gov.my
Website: www.matrade.gov.my

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Electricity and progress are inseparable, so we help power growth in many significant industries. To advance Malaysia's national digital infrastructure plan known as Jalinan Digital Negara (JENDELA) - which aims to pave the foundation for comprehensive and high-quality broadband coverage - we have acquired Allo Technology (Allo) to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural areas.
As an enabler, Allo partners with multiple Retail Services Providers (RSPs) to develop smart infrastructures - providing faster, reliable, and more varied services for businesses and households at economical rates. With a successful pilot project in Jasin, Melaka, we are well on the way to building a better, brighter tomorrow, by taking bigger steps today.
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ENGINEER Power Talk on Energy Outlook for 2021

TEEAM is a proud supporting partner of ENGINEER, Malaysia's 1st Engineering Exhibition & Convention, to be held across four days in a multi-pronged hybrid exhibition platform focusing on five key technical discussions – Civil, Electrical, Electronics, Chemical & Mechanical Engineering. ENGINEER 2021 set from 1 to 4 December 2021 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, is jointly organised by The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) and CIS Network. To be held concurrently is another exciting event, MARVEX, which is the 1st Air-Conditioning, Refrigeration and Ventilation Expo 2021.

A series of Power Talks on current topics are being organised by IEM and CIS to benefit stakeholders with the latest insights and trends. A Virtual Power Talk on Energy Outlook 2021 was organised on 23 March 2021 via Facebook Live. Covering the latest Energy Outlook for 2021, the Power Talk aimed to discover new opportunities for businesses and to find out how Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EE & RE) could impact the engineering community and its stakeholders.

This Power Talk edition covered:

* The benefits of adopting EE & RE for sustainability,

* Implementation of the latest standards and guidelines for healthy environment space to reduce energy consumption, and

* Benefits of investing in Solar RE solutions for the commercial sector.

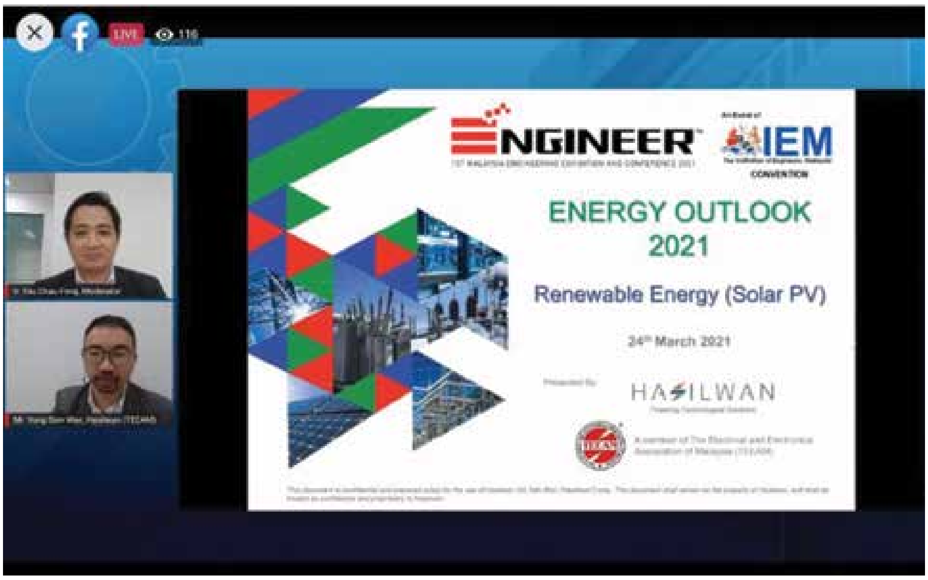
The Power Talk identified new sustainable solutions and resilient growth for businesses as the panellists shared their views on the challenges faced by the industry – not just during the pandemic times but also on the status of the industry relating to EE & RE solutions.

Distinguished Panellists:

• Mr Zulkiflee Umar, Deputy Director of Energy Efficiency & Conservation, Department of Industry Operation, Energy Commission Malaysia.

• Ir Leong Siew Meng, Past President, ASHRAE Malaysia Chapter.

ENGINEER Power Talk on Energy Outlook for 2021.



Panellist from TEEAM, Mr Yong Sien Wae of Hasilwan (M) Sdn Bhd. The session was moderated by Ir Yau Chau Fong, Organising Chairman of ENGINEER 2021.

• Mr Yong Sien Wae, Chief Executive Officer & Board of Director, Hasilwan (M) Sdn Bhd (A member of TEEAM).

The session was moderated by Ir Yau Chau Fong, Organising Chairman of ENGINEER 2021. Overall, it was a fruitful and informative Power Talk.

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CIE Position Statement on Non-Visual Effects of Light – Recommending Proper Light at the Proper Time

This CIE Position Statement published on 3 October 2019, is the 2nd edition that replaces the 2015 CIE Position Statement on the same subject.

Background

Light is defined as any electromagnetic radiation that can create a visual sensation by directly stimulating the retinal photoreceptors of the visual system. In addition to enabling vision, these photoreceptors also drive biological effects that powerfully regulate human health, performance and well-being. Light is the main synchroniser of the human biological clock. It can shift the phase of the circadian rhythm and can regulate the timing and quality of our sleep. Light in the evening and at night can disrupt sleep and can cause acute suppression of the nocturnal release of the hormone melatonin. There are also reports that light can increase heart rate, improve alertness, alleviate seasonal and non-seasonal depression, influence thermoregulation, and affect brain activity as measured with the electroencephalogram (EEG). Exposure to light elicits fast responses (in the range of milliseconds and seconds) in the pupillary reflex or in brain activity. To reflect their distinction from perceptual vision, these effects are often referred to as non-image-forming (NIF) or non-visual (NV) responses to light. In recent years various marketing terms, such as “human-centric lighting” (HCL), “circadian lighting”, and “biodynamic lighting”, have come to describe lighting solutions that target such effects. In the upcoming 2nd edition of the CIE International Lighting Vocabulary, currently available as DIS (CIE 2016), “integrative lighting” is the official term for lighting that is specifically intended to integrate visual and non-visual effects, producing physiological and psychological effects on humans that are reflected in scientific evidence.

The above-mentioned biological effects of light are elicited by stimulation of ocular photoreceptors. The classical receptors for vision, the rods and cones, are relatively well understood and characterized by existing CIE publications. Pioneering work over the last 25 years revealed that the eye has another kind of photoreceptor. These photoreceptors play an important role in non-visual effects of light and have a peak sensitivity in the shorter wavelength part of the visible spectrum. Such photoreceptors are known as intrinsically photosensitive retinal ganglion cells (ipRGCs), and their intrinsic photosensitivity is based on the photopigment melanopsin.

Based on the outcome of an independent workshop of leading scientists in the field of quantifying light for non-visual effects in Manchester in 2013 (see CIE TN 003:2015 [CIE 2015]), the CIE issued an international standard, CIE S 026:2018 (CIE 2018), that defines a system for metrology of optical radiation for light-induced responses that can be elicited by ipRGCs (ipRGC-influenced light (IIL) responses).

Lighting regulations and practice often still focus on visual and energy efficiency aspects of light, with little or no attention being paid to IIL responses. Conversely, there are many lighting products entering the market that are intended primarily to influence IIL without careful consideration of other lighting quality aspects. An improper balance between these two approaches can result in lighting conditions that compromise human well-being, health and functioning and that fail in terms of overall lighting quality. Since the first edition of this Position Statement in 2015, the CIE has issued relevant publications and engaged in collaborative activities to advance this exciting aspect of lighting fundamentals, technology and applications.

1. How to characterize light with respect to its non-visual effects: CIE S 026:2018 “CIE System for Metrology of Optical Radiation for ipRGC-Influenced Responses to Light”

The International Standard CIE S 026:2018 (CIE 2018) defines spectral sensitivity functions, quantities and metrics to describe the ability of optical radiation to stimulate each of the five (α-opic [1]) photoreceptor types that can contribute, via the melanopsin-containing intrinsically photosensitive retinal ganglion cells (ipRGCs), to retina-mediated non-visual effects of light in humans [2]. The units of these α-opic quantities are in compliance with the International System of Units (SI) (BIPM 2019a, BIPM 2019b), which is essential to enable traceable measurements and international guidelines.

For non-image-forming effects of light, a description of optical radiation solely according to the photopic action spectrum is not sufficient. Moreover, there is no single action spectrum or proxy that can describe all eye-mediated non-visual responses to light. All five receptor types can contribute to these responses (Lucas et al. 2014). The relative contribution of each individual photoreceptor type can vary depending on the specific response and upon light exposure properties such as intensity, spectrum, duration, timing (external and internal/circadian), prior light history and sleep deprivation state of the individual. It is worth noting that in many cases light exposure for IIL responses is better represented by using the vertical measurement plane rather than the horizontal plane to determine α-opic irradiance (or α-opic equivalent daylight [D65] illuminance [α-opic EDI]).

2. Identifying the proper light at the proper time

This remains a key question for many people. As outlined in the 2015 Position Statement, the CIE is actively engaged with the international community in attempting to provide guidance that is based on solid scientific evidence and consensus. The CIE and ISO/TC 274 are developing the first international consensus-based technical report concerning integrative lighting (ISO/CIE TR 21783, in preparation), noting both its potential beneficial effects and its possible risks that are to be avoided. Furthermore, in August 2019, a second independent workshop of leading scientists in this field, took place in Manchester to discuss how insights in this field can be translated into guidelines for a healthy daily pattern of light exposure. A consensus publication on the outcomes of the workshop is currently being prepared by the workshop participants and will be followed by a CIE Technical Note reporting on the workshop in detail.

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The CIE recognises that spending adequate time outdoors during the day is associated with better health and well-being, and that exposure to natural light is a significant causal component in these effects. CIE also recommends not to unnecessarily restrict daylight within indoor settings.

For two important, well-studied human non-visual responses to light (melatonin suppression and pupil control), evidence is accumulating that the overall light sensitivity of these responses is largely controlled by melanopsin-based photoreception (Nowozin et al. 2017, Souman et al. 2018, Prayag et al. 2019, Spitschan 2019). In order to provide some initial guidance while waiting for the participants of the August 2019 workshop in Manchester to develop further insights and consensus in this field, the CIE recommends the manipulation of melanopsin-based photoreception as a useful strategy to manipulate overall light input into non-visual responses. This means that specifications in terms of melanopic EDI are a reasonable route to provide initial guidance on how to manipulate the human (polychromatic) lighting environment in typical everyday life for non-visual responses in people with a regular, day-active schedule (as long as these specifications are not compromising visual comfort and visual performance):

- A high melanopic EDI during the day is usually supportive for alertness, the circadian rhythm and a good night's sleep.
- A low melanopic EDI in the evening and at night facilitates sleep initiation and consolidation.

Suitable light patterns for night-shift workers are more complex, as they depend on the specific schedule.

Further CIE Strategy

Delivering proper light at the proper time will require integrative approaches that meet the needs of all the people within a space. Ongoing CIE projects in this field include the joint activity with ISO/TC 274 to revise the international standard for indoor workplace lighting, ISO 8995-1:2002/CIE S 008:2001 (ISO/CIE 2002).

The CIE is committed throughout all of its work, to providing scientifically-grounded recommendations and to advancing science that will support the next generation of standards. The development of proper evidence-based recommendations continues to demand concerted research efforts, and the CIE in its Research Strategy calls upon the research community to engage in developing this knowledge base. As a support to researchers and practitioners in this field, a toolbox to facilitate the application of CIE S 026:2018 is available on the CIE website. Researchers proposing to study topics relevant to the CIE Research Strategy may apply to the CIE for a letter of support for the proposal by e-mailing a request form to ciecb@cie.co.at.

References

[1] The term α-opic represents S-cone-opic, M-cone-opic, L-cone-opic, rhodopic or melanopic.

[2] The CIE S 026 action spectra of the five human α-opic photoreceptor classes (S-cones, M-cones, Lcones, rods and ipRGCs), tabulated in steps of 1 nm, are available at http://files.cie.co.at/S026_Table2_Data.xlsx

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About the CIE and its Position Statements

The International Commission on Illumination – also known as the CIE from its French title, the Commission Internationale de l´Eclairage – is devoted to worldwide co-operation and the exchange of information on all matters relating to the science and art of light and lighting, colour and vision, photobiology and image technology.

With strong technical, scientific and cultural foundations, the CIE is an independent, non-profit organisation that serves member countries on a voluntary basis. Since its inception in 1913, CIE has been accepted as representing the best authority on the subject and as such is recognised by ISO as an international standardisation body publishing global standards on the fundamentals of light and lighting.

CIE Position Statements are approved by the CIE Board of Administration, which includes the Directors of all the CIE Divisions (the bodies that carry out the scientific work of the CIE), after first ensuring agreement with the relevant CIE Technical Committees.

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Virtual National Conference on Behavioural Insights 2021

Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali, the Chief Secretary to the Government (KSN) launched the National Conference on Behavioural Insights (BI) on 23 March 2021 via digital streaming platform. The virtual conference themed "Spearheading Efficient Public Policy Delivery", was organised by Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC). The Conference supported by TEEAM, aimed to inculcate the importance of using behavioural science and economics in public policy decision-making.

MPC has been leading the initiative to inculcate Behavioural Insights or BI in public policy since 2020. This Conference aimed to create awareness and better understanding on the significance of BI in public policy making; expose the audience to the positive impact of BI; and provide a platform for intellectual discourse on the subject matter. BI approaches public policy through the understanding of human behaviour in designing interventions for policy delivery. A total of over 2,165 delegates from various ministries, agencies, key industry leaders and academia attended this Virtual Conference. The Conference also comprised six concurrent sessions, seven virtual booths and lounge for virtual one-to-one meeting. Those who interacted a lot during the Conference won attractive prizes. The Plenary Sessions were made widely accessible by live-streaming via Facebook.

The Speakers & Panellists were:

- Prof Dr M Niaz Asadullah (UM)
- Datuk Ir Azlan Robert Abdullah (TEEAM)
- Mr Alexander Clark (BIT SG)
- Mr Wan Azrin Izani Wan Mohd Zain (MOH)
- Mr Faisal Naru (OECD)
- Mr Eddie Razak (EDEN)
- Dr Maszuraini Miswan (MOE)
- Mr Nadarashnaraj Sargunaraj (ZICO Law)
- Mr Loo Liang Yi (IPSOS Strategy 3)

From TEEAM, Datuk Ir Azlan Robert Abdullah, the Chairman of Safety & Compliance Committee, presented on Behavioural Insights for Better Regulations of Electrical Life and Asset Safety for Malaysians (Safety Inclusive of Existing Street Lighting Fixtures). Datuk Ir Azlan's presentation included the research project (Behavioural Insights Case Study on Electrical Safety Awareness inclusive of Street Light Safety) which was led by MPC's consultant and technical experts. The session was moderated by Ms Hartini Othman, MPC's Partner. Datuk Ir Azlan's presentation can be accessed at http://www.teeam.org.my/news-event/virtual-national-conference-on-behavioural-insights/.

Behavioural Insights in short.

Speaker from TEEAM, Datuk Ir Azlan Robert Abdullah (Chairman of Safety & Compliance Committee).

The virtual concurrent exhibition was also participated by TEEAM. There were lots of interesting facts to learn and overall the Virtual Conference and Exhibition were very informative and highly beneficial. Kudos to the Organisers!

Earthing and Equipotential Bonding for Lightning Protection

Phillip Tompson

Introduction

Earthing for lightning protection is often considered to be an art, not a science. Most of the lightning protection standards throughout the world recommend 10-ohms or less as a suitable earth resistance for lightning protection. The origin of this figure remains a mystery, but it is generally thought that a 10-ohms earth will limit earth potential gradients to safely reduce hazardous step potentials.

Sometimes it is not always possible to achieve a 10-ohms earth but this does not mean effective lightning protection is impossible. Mountain-top communication sites are typical examples where 10 ohms may not be achievable, yet equipment can be effectively protected.

Case study

As just one real world example, Saint Valentines Peak is a prominent mountain top in the state of Tasmania in Australia. This site houses a mobile radio base station serving the local forestry industry. Two days after the site was commissioned it was struck by lightning. The main transmitting antenna took the direct strike and was destroyed, but there was no other equipment damage. This was despite the earth resistance being 167 ohms and a strike magnitude of 70,000 amps.

Picture of St Valentines Peak

There is an earth bar inside the building. This connects to the site earthing system, to the tower, to the equipment racks and all incoming services are either directly connected to this earth bar or connected to it via Surge Protection Devices (SPDs). This technique is called equipotential bonding. By bonding all equipment and services to a common point, the site and all equipment will rise in potential together. A simple Ohms Law calculation shows that the earth potential rise was 70,000 x 167 = 11.69MV.

Separate earthing systems and equipotential bonding

Often separate earthing systems are specified for particular installations. There may be a power earth, telecommunications earth, instrument earth and lightning protection earth. If these remain separate, effective lightning protection can never be achieved. They must be bonded. This can be done by direct connection, or by the use of an equipotential bonding device such as a spark gap or a gas discharge tube shown in figure 1.

Figure 1. Equipotential bonding device.

An understanding of the principle of equipotential bonding is fundamental to the design of effective lightning protection for electrical equipment. Figure 2 shows an example of a process plant, control room and a remote sensor. Incoming services, both power and data, are protected by type 1 SPDs at the LPZ0/1 boundary. The dashed lines surrounding the control room and remote sensor indicate areas of equipotential. Every electrical service crossing the dashed line boundaries requires an SPD connected to the earth bonding bar. The remote sensor also requires an SPD and its protective earth must connect to the body of the sensor. No other earth is required. The sensor will be earthed by virtue of its mounting frame. Effective protection is achieved by equipotential bonding; the building earth resistance becomes relatively unimportant.

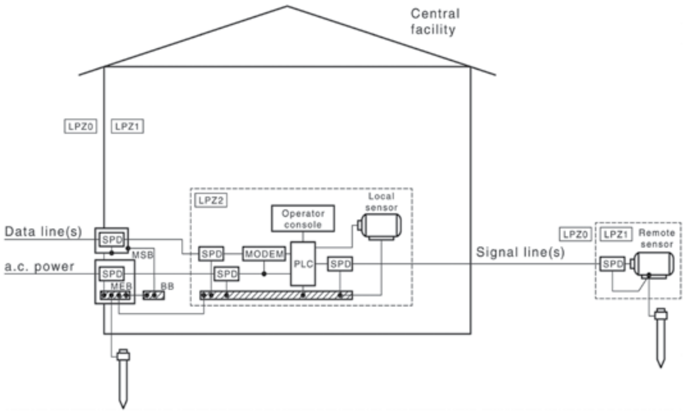

Figure 2. A PLC cabinet with external communications and remote sensor.

The remote sensor in Figure 2 could be a pressure sensor in an oil and gas plant, a CCTV camera or even an LED street light. The protection principle is the same.

Figure 3 shows the configuration of a power line surge filter and data line SPD. Both the power and signal line SPDs connect to the equipment cabinet earth bar. The signal line SPDs connect via the primary gas discharge tubes, thus under normal conditions there is zero leakage current and no introduced noise. Doing this obviates the need for separate power and instrument earths.

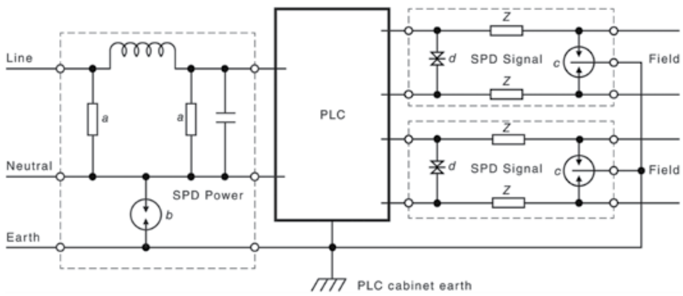

Figure 3. Earthing arrangement for power and signal SPDs.

Importance of inductance

The lightning protection standards tell us that earthing conductors must be kept short. This is because the voltage dropped across these conductors will add to effective let-through voltage of the SPD. It is not the resistance of these conductors that are important – it is their inductance, and thicker conductors make very little difference to inductance. Figure 4 shows the effect of lead length on the let-through voltage of a typical MOV-based SPD. A 10,000A impulse was applied to a 16 square millimeter cable. Even for a cable length of 0.5m, the effective let-through voltage doubles.

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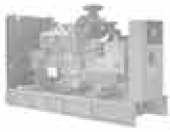

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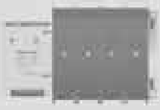
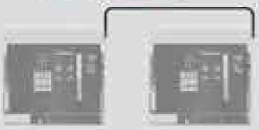
ATS Control Module

HAT 560N



HAT 700B



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eSPO Briefing Session by MPC

The Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) promotes wealth-creation and wealth-sharing through the Productivity-Linked Wage System (PLWS) which establishes links between productivity/performance with wages. In order to recognise and acknowledge organisations that have embedded PLWS in their compensation system, MPC had developed an online system called eShared Prosperity Organisation (eSPO) that issues electronic certificate to the organisation that has successfully implemented PLWS.

An informative online Briefing Session chaired by Mr Sugumar Saminathan, Director of the PLWS Unit of MPC, was organised for TEEAM members on 4 May 2021 via the Microsoft Teams platform.

eSPO

eSPO acknowledges organisations that practice mutual wealth-creation and wealth-sharing between employers and employees. It recognises organisations that implement the PLWS, which is a flexible wage system that reflects mutual benefit, in which incentives are distributed in accordance with performance or productivity of employees and employers respectively. Organisation scores are formulated based on three components, namely, the Bonus component, Productivity & Performance component and the Skill Incentive component.

eSPO enhances business visibility, competitiveness, and standing in the marketplace. All industries of different sizes in five sectors are covered, namely, Manufacturing, Services, Construction, Agriculture and Mining & Quarrying. Contractors registered with the Construction Industry Development Board, Malaysia (CIDB), get five (5) Continuous Contractor Development (CCD) points if they are eSPO registered. The eSPO Acknowledgement Certificate is recognised by the Ministry of International Trade & Industry (MITI), Ministry of Human Resources (MOHR) and MPC.

For further details and registration for eSPO, please visit www.mpc.gov.my/espo/ or e-mail to the MPC PLWS Unit at espo@mpc.gov.my.

eSPO Briefing Session by MPC via the Microsoft Teams platform on 4 May 2021.

..... Continue Earthing and Equipotential Bonding for Lightning Protection

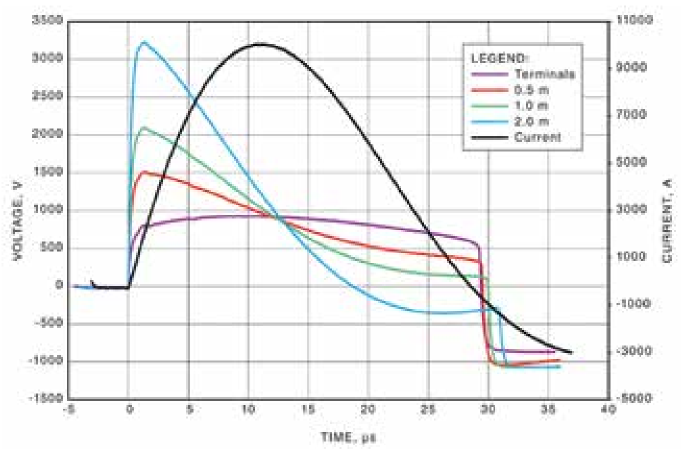

Figure 4. Effect of lead length.

Conclusion

Whilst earthing is important for effective lightning protection particularly in the protection of people, equipotential bonding is essential to protect sensitive electrical equipment. The rule is one common earth bonded together or via equipotential bonding devices. The Australian standard on lightning protection, AS1768, makes the following comment about equipotential bonding: *"For lightning protection, equipotential bonding of all equipment within a structure will ensure a uniform potential rise. It is possible to achieve effective lightning protection using this technique even though the absolute earth impedance may be greater than 10 ohms."*

***Mr Phillip Tompson** is a member of the Australian Standards EL-024 Protection against Lightning Committee and represents Australia on the IEC TC81 and, SC37A Lightning and Surge Protection Committees. He can be reached at phil@novaris.com.au.*

Guidelines for Market Development Grant (MDG) Virtual Events 2021

What is MDG?

The Market Development Grant (MDG) is a support initiative in the form of a reimbursable grant. MDG was introduced in 2002 with the objective of assisting exporters in their efforts to promote Malaysia-made products or services globally. The lifetime limit of MDG is RM300,000.00 and it is specifically formulated for Malaysian SME Companies, Professional Service Providers, Trade and Industry Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Professional Bodies and Co-operatives. [Note: MDG reimbursements are subject to the availability of the Government funds].

What are Virtual Events?

Virtual Events for the purpose of MDG is defined as an internationally-recognised trade promotion activity held on a web platform, in a virtual venue that enables business interaction between people and entities, through online interactive tools. Smart phones, tablets, laptops and computer desktops are the most common tools used for this virtual interaction.

What are the Features of Virtual Events?

1) Empower participants to engage within an online community via the virtual platform.
2) Participants interact in an online avenue that is easy to navigate.
3) Increase participant's engagement with features such as Webinars and Chat Tools.
4) Enable potential buyers to learn about products and services via images, videos and documents.
5) Produce a report of the event that includes buyer and seller profiles, visitor profiles, total sales reported, analysis of audience interests, feedback evaluation and analysis of business meetings.

Who is Eligible to Claim for MDG-Virtual Events?

Businesses and organisations must be registered with MATRADE. Log on to: http://www.matrade.gov.my/en/online-applications/register-as-matrade-member. Registration is free. Eligible groups:

1) Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

- Incorporated under the Companies Act 1965 or Companies Act 2016.
- With at least 60% equity owned by Malaysians.
- Manufactures products that are Made in Malaysia or provide services for export that originate from Malaysia, and
- Meet the following defining criteria:

  Manufacturing
  Annual sales not exceeding RM50 million OR number of full-time employees not exceeding 200.

  Trading
  Annual sales not exceeding RM20 million OR number of full-time employees not exceeding 75.

  Services
  Annual sales not exceeding RM20 million OR number of full-time employees not exceeding 75.

2) Professional Service Providers (Sole Proprietor or Partnership)

- Incorporated under the Registration of Business Act (1956) or registered under the respective statutory bodies for professional services providers.
- With at least 60% equity owned by Malaysians.
- Exporting Malaysian services and fulfill one of the following criteria: Annual sales not exceeding RM20 million OR number of full-time employees not exceeding 75.

3) Trade & Industry Associations, Chambers of Commerce or Professional Bodies

- Registered with the Registrar of Society (ROS) or Associated Professional Authority.

4) Co-Operatives

- Incorporated under Co-operative Societies Act 1993.
- At least 60% equity owned by Malaysian.
- Should prove their export capabilities/interests.
- Exporting products that are Made in Malaysia or Malaysian services.

What Activities and Expenses are Eligible for Grant Funding?

1) Participation in Virtual International Trade Fairs in Malaysia and Overseas

- Participation in Virtual International Trade Fairs in Malaysia - Maximum grant amount is RM5,000.
- Participation in Virtual International Trade Fairs Overseas - Maximum grant amount is RM25,000.

Eligible expenses

- Participation fee/Administration fee/Registration fee • Virtual booth/stand • Marketing blast • Digital marketing tools • Exhibitor passes • Booth analytics, etc.

2) Participation in Business-To-Business (B2B) Meetings related to Virtual Trade Investment Missions and Export-Accelerated Missions

a) Organised by MATRADE
- Maximum grant amount is RM10,000 (including digital marketing tools).
- Expenses covered is participation fee.

b) Joint collaboration programme with MATRADE (subject to prior approval from MATRADE). Collaborators may include:
- Ministry or Government Agency or State Government, Chambers of Commerce or Business Councils, Trade & Industry Associations, Professional Bodies and Co-operatives.
- Maximum grant amount is RM10,000 (including digital marketing tools).
- Expenses covered is participation fee (up to maximum RM2,000).

c) Organised by other entities (registered in Malaysia):
- Ministry or Government Agency or State Government, Chambers of Commerce or Business Councils, Trade & Industry Associations, Professional Bodies and Co-operatives.
- Maximum grant amount is RM2,000 (including digital marketing tools).
- Expenses covered is participation fee.

Submission of Applications

All completed applications must be submitted online through MATRADE's website at www.matrade.gov.my/mdg/ within 30 calendar days from the last date of the event.

A copy of the Guidelines for MDG Virtual Events 2021, can be downloaded from the TEEAM Website at www.teeam.org.my.

All enquiries can be sent to:
Market Development Unit (MDG)
8th Floor, East Wing, Menara MATRADE,
Jalan Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah, 50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Tel: +603-6207 7593 Fax: +603-6203 7252
Website: www.matrade.gov.my
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OSRAM

Light is networked: HubSense®

OSRAM Digital Systems brings Wireless Bluetooth Mesh Lighting Solution with Intuitive Commissioning

OSRAM, based in Munich, is a leading global high-tech photonics company with a history dating back more than 110 years. A global enterprise with presence in over 120 countries; across Europe, North & South America, Australia, Asia, Africa & Middle Eastern countries; OSRAM envisions **Light for a Better World** by using light to improve Health & Well-being, Mobility, Safety & Security and Connectivity.

With HubSense, OSRAM Digital Systems now offers the possibility of transforming existing infrastructure during modernization. How does this work? Without great effort! Because HubSense is simple and intuitive. This easily scalable retrofit solution makes the planning, configuration and commissioning of wireless lighting control easier than ever before from convenient planning with the web app to commissioning via smartphone and mobile app to simple operation of the system – for individual offices, corridors, conference rooms or open-plan offices.

HubSense® benefits at a glance

Intuitive planning and commissioning

Even comprehensive projects can be realized without special knowledge.

Fast and flexible installation

Compared to wire-based DALI systems, planning and replacement of existing lighting installations are made much easier.

Sustainable investment

Lighting control based on the open qualified Bluetooth mesh radio standard.

Profitable retrofitting

By modernizing lighting systems with efficient lighting control, you can prove your expertise.

BUILDING OWNER

- ✓ Easy to adapt to new space usage concepts (new tenant).
- ✓ Gradual updates/ refurbishment of a building/ project possible.
- ✓ Reduce downtime during refurbishment of an existing lighting infrastructure.
- ✓ Maximum savings in existing building via motion and daylight control.
- ✓ Robust and transparent security concept by design, including system user management.

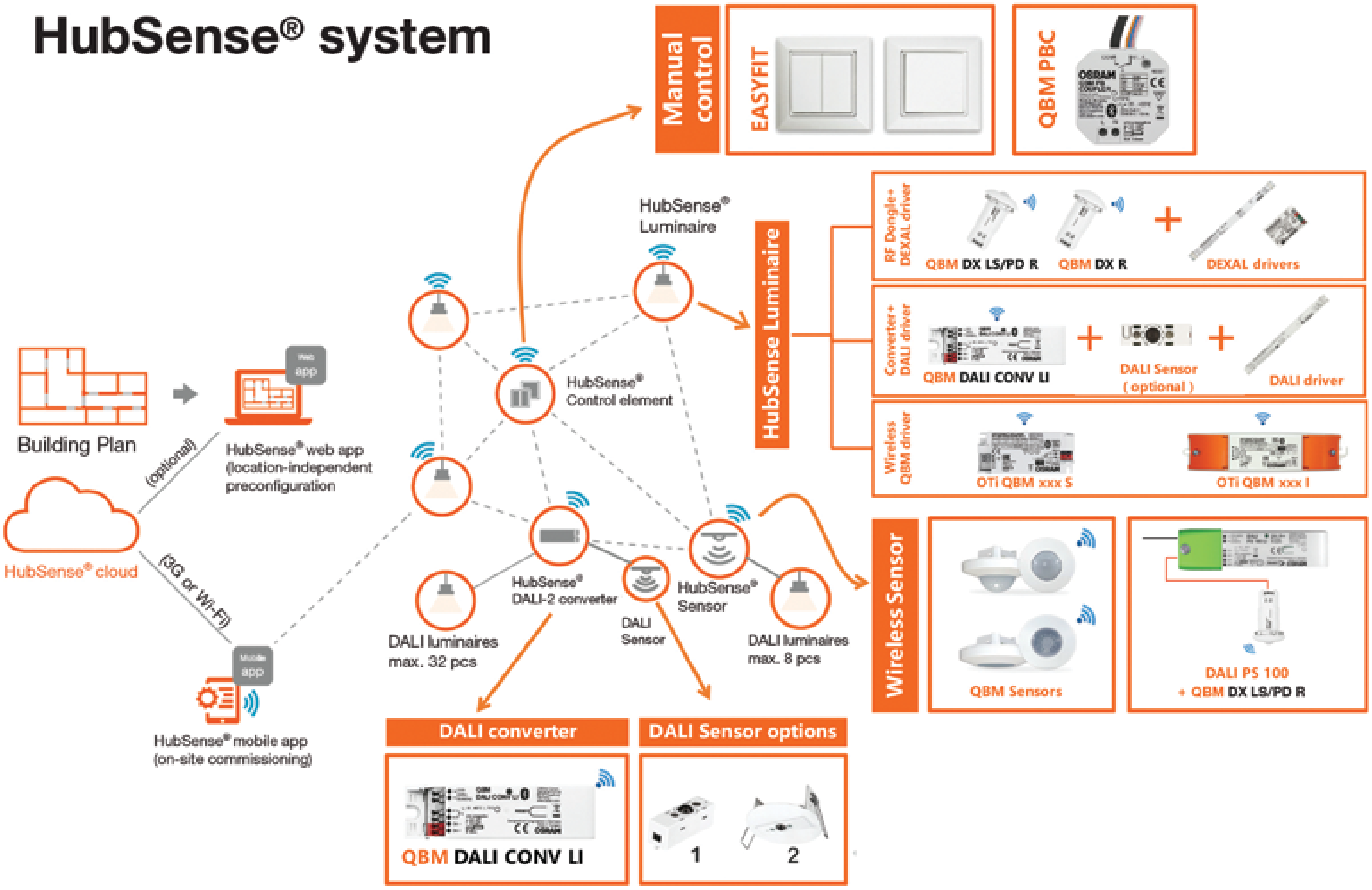
BUILDING INSTALLER

- ✓ Complete solution offering (HW+SW) out of one hand.
- ✓ Pre-commission service possible allow to divide enhanced and basic commissioning work – optimize cost.
- ✓ Simultaneous multi-installer commissioning – reduce labor time
- ✓ Real scalable solution without requiring a gateway > one tool, less training effort.
- ✓ Gateway less operation possible – reduce complexity during setting up the system, no single point of failure (# luminaire per gateways).

SOLUTION PROVIDER

- ✓ Complete solution offering (HW+SW) out of one hand.
- ✓ Remote commission service possible.
- ✓ New commissioning experience enable new project opportunities.
- ✓ Sustainable investment due to an open standard.
- ✓ Real scalable solution without requiring a gateway – one tool – less training effort.

HubSense® system



The HubSense® Commissioning Tool mobile app enables you to commission sensors, control elements and luminaires with OSRAM QBM components based on the qualified Bluetooth mesh radio standard. The system also supports battery-free wireless switches. The QBM Bluetooth-to-DALI-2 converter DALI CONV LI can connect both DALI-2 luminaires and DALI-2 sensors to the wireless network, using the advantages of radio technology. This allows an easy transition from wired lighting control to the radio-based world.

Features of the HubSense® Commissioning Tools

- ✓ Pre-defined profiles for office applications for fast commissioning and reduction of overall project costs
- ✓ Optimized commissioning concept reduces required time on site
- ✓ Wide range of lighting control profiles from manual switching to presence and absence control to daylight control
- ✓ Intelligent linking of lighting groups between zones (e.g. corridors)
- ✓ Integrated user management for the respective project
- ✓ Network quality test possible after commissioning
- ✓ Mobile app available in multiple languages (English, German, France)

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Bluetooth® HubSense® web and mobile app

Web app

HubSense® web app
(browser: Google Chrome)

Mobile app

HubSense® Commissioning Tool mobile app

Download on the App Store

Light is OSRAM

OSRAM

Webinar live-streamed via the Microsoft TEAMS platform.

Webinar on Hybrid Electrical Products Compliance

On 1 June 2021, SIRIM QAS International in collaboration with TEEAM, organised a Webinar on Hybrid Electrical Products Compliance. The event was successfully live-streamed via the Microsoft TEAMS platform. The objective of the Webinar was to enhance community awareness on the compliance of communication devices fitted in electrical and electronics products, and to share the guidelines on the compliance process in accordance to MCMC Technical Codes and Certification requirements.

A cross-section of the panellists, moderator, emcee and participants.

Initially, this entailed grant of certification and importation approvals applied for all types of products designated for communication purpose only. Over time, with the evolution of technology and lifestyle, digitalisation of various aspects of human lives led to incorporation of communication capabilities into other types of non-communication products such as electrical and electronics, medical, transportation and agriculture, whereat those non-communication products were embedded with communication capabilities, which are known as hybrid products.

The esteemed Emcee, Mr Rajasegaran (TEEAM Vice President) commenced the session with a quick introduction of the panellists and warmly welcomed the participants. Mr Wan Mohd Iidil Abdul Rahman, Head of Communication and Multimedia Certification Section, SIRIM QAS International; Ms Safidah Yusoff, Senior Auditor of Electrical & Electronics Certification and Inspection Section, SIRIM QAS International; and Ms Syaida Syarafina Sohaimi, Senior Auditor of Communication and Multimedia Certification Section of SIRIM QAS International were among the esteemed panellists. The Panellists shared MCMC's requirements towards communication product compliances and explained the benefit of getting product compliances.

In addition to Hybrid Electrical Products Compliance, the Panellists also covered interesting topics on Eco Labelling Scheme - ISO 14024 and SIRIM Trusted Mark (STM) Programme to improve brand awareness.

The Webinar successfully drew a good attendance of more than 40 online participants and capped off with an interactive Q&A session.

Economic Significance of RCEP

This article is extracted from Tricor Group — 2021 Asia-Pacific Trade Report on APAC Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) and COVID-19 Recovery. Insights and analysis are compiled by Tricor Group to inform companies on how the landmark signing of the RCEP and continued disruptions are impacting the Asia Pacific (APAC) trade and investment landscape and how to prepare to deliver business growth in 2021.

On 15 November 2020, in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic that has widely disrupted global trade flows, leaders from 15 APAC countries gathered for a virtual ceremony to sign a commitment to the RCEP, essentially connecting about 30% of the world's population as part of the largest trading bloc globally.

15 APAC Countries

Tricor has assessed the RCEP as a modern and robust free trade agreement, covering trade in goods, trade in services, investment, economic and technical co-operation. Additionally, it created new comprehensive rules for e-commerce, intellectual property, government procurement and competition. There are also special provisions for small and medium enterprises. We have observed several key benefits of the RCEP and also identified some potential limitations that businesses should take note of.

Key Benefits

Tariff Reductions
The agreement is expected to reduce tariffs on between 90% and 93% of tariff lines but will maintain carve-outs for agricultural products.

Creation of Common Rules of Origin
The creation of a common rule of origin will allow companies to ship products between RCEP countries with a single certificate of origin, lowering costs and incentivising regional supply chains.

Digital Copyright Rules & Intellectual Property
The digital copyright rules in the final draft are stronger than expected, going beyond what is included in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

(Limited) Services, Investment & Standards Provisions
Though the provisions are relatively weak, they are there, and may be expanded in the future.

Key Limitations

Environment & Labour
Notably, RCEP does not include chapters on labour or the environment, two issues which are increasingly addressed in major trade agreements.

Extent of Tariff Reductions
While tariff will be reduced, by comparison, CPTPP will reduce tariff to zero on 99% of tariff lines. Carve-outs for agriculture also reduce the potential impact of the agreement considering the nature of the member economies.

Missed Opportunity on E-Commerce
Given the rising importance of e-commerce in the region, there are no prohibitions on data localization or barriers, cross-border data flows, or custom duties on electronic transmissions.

Source: The Centre of Expertise on Trade, Investment and Public Policy (https://asiahouse.org).

Apart from the benefits explicitly outlined in the RCEP, Tricor also anticipate the colossal trade agreement to ignite key trends in international and intra-Asia trade.

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A Remarkable, Transformative Response to Protectionism

Arguably, the signing of the RCEP marks one of the most remarkable, transformative responses of global leaders to the protectionist trends we have witnessed around the globe since 2015. To give some context to its importance, the RCEP, according to projections from economists at the Brookings Institution, could add US$209 billion annually to world incomes and US$500 billion to world trade by 2030.

First broached nearly a decade ago, the RCEP is expected to account for more commercial activity than both the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement and the European Union. But most importantly, the signing of the RCEP provides a clear, unambiguous signal to investors that the APAC region is still committed to multi-lateral trade integration and foreign direct investment.

Expansion of Pan-Asian Trade Networks & Supply Chains

When it comes to free trade agreements, the RCEP deal is almost unrivalled in its complexity. Its extensive 20 chapters plus 17 annexes and 54 schedules of commitments outline comprehensive coverage and establish parameters for market access, rules, disciplines, economic support and technical co-operation between what have historically been 15 very different nations with varying approaches to global trade.

Effectively, the agreement creates the framework for a Pan-Asian basic standard for trade that surpasses even the terms provided by the World Trade Organisation (WTO). By covering vast, growing segments of the global population, this framework supports regional integration and engages both emerging markets and developed economies. Not only are the developed, powerhouse economies of China, Japan and South Korea brought together by one trade agreement for the first time ever, they're also joined by key emerging economies in ASEAN, such as Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

The product of more than eight years of intense negotiations, the RCEP passage comes at a particularly fortuitous moment for APAC – a period marked by a pandemic-induced economic slump and on-going trade disputes between even some of the countries in the zone.

While all may not be rosy in the zone currently, the general sentiment appears to be one of optimism for the future. While global trade continues to face waves of uncertainty amid the pandemic and geo-political tensions, the RCEP serves as a symbol for a Pan-Asian trade network and embraces the belief that enhanced market openness will lead to greater economic prosperity. The RCEP almost makes certain that Intra-Asian trade, which is already larger than Asia's trade with North America and Europe combined, will continue to be the growth engine for the global economy – pulling economic gravity east toward APAC.

The biggest victory for the RCEP lies in the creation of a common rule of origin certificate, which unifies the information requirements and local content standards for businesses within the RCEP member countries. Effectively, this means that parts originating from any member nation would be treated equally, which could boost merchandise exports among the signatories by approximately

US$90 billion a year on average. This boost offers global companies a distinct incentive to relocate and shift their supply chains within the Asia-Pacific trade region, likely leading to a further amplification of intra-regional trade between the signatories. Intra-regional trade between signatories already accounts for nearly three-fifths of total trade activity throughout the APAC region. The RCEP ensures this number will continue to rise as global companies explore options of keeping supply chains within the zone.

Potential to Trigger a Renewed Trade Relationship with the U.S.

The RCEP's signing marks the second monumental trade deal that noticeably excludes the US, after President Trump withdrew the US from CPTPP, formerly the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), in 2017. With the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasting that the economies of APAC will boast an average growth rate of over 5% through 2025, US exporters will need access to the region's lucrative markets – especially developing economies – if they are to share in post-pandemic economic growth. Change could be on the horizon for the US as President Biden steps into power in January 2021.

In a public statement, Myron Brilliant, who leads International Affairs at the US Chamber of Commerce, said, "The US Chamber welcomes the trade-liberalising benefits of the newly signed regional comprehensive partnership agreement but is concerned that the United States is being left behind as economic integration accelerates across the vital Asia-Pacific region. China has become the most important trading partner for most of the Asia-Pacific, and its central role in the RCEP will only cement this position. While the Trump Administration has moved to confront unfair trade practices by China, it has secured only limited new opportunities for US exporters in other parts of Asia."

Additionally, like many other business groups have done, the US Chamber of Commerce calls on officials in the US to embrace a more "forward-looking, strategic effort" to uphold its economic presence in the region or risk "being on the outside looking in as one of the world's primary engines of growth hums along without us."

The plans President Biden has for trade with China and APAC are yet to be released but hopes are high among US exporters and global investors that, at the very least, the new administration may consider a return to the CPTPP circle. Such a move would renew the trade relationship that the US has with China and APAC countries, while opening up new doors for multi-national companies that want to invest or expand into the region.

A Boon for SMES

Of note, the RCEP maintains special provisions for small and medium-sized enterprises. Despite an oft-held perception that the deal will only impact the large players in major industries, a closer look at the agreement by Tricor shows that RCEP could also be a boon for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) which comprise more than 90% of business entities across the 15 participating economies.

The greatest vantage point by far for SMEs, if the trade agreement follows through in its current format, lies in the promise for greater market access. Accounting for nearly 30% of the world population and 30% of global income and global trade, the RCEP is an ideal opportunity for fast-growth SMEs to spread their wings and exploit the immense Pan-Asia market potential.

The RCEP has the potential to change the game for SMEs, opening access to trade financing to enable SMEs to easily export their products throughout the zone as well as fund the development of better, more competitive products.

For the population, RCEP could also have a cumulative, snowball effect on the region's labour market. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) estimates that a 10% increase in trade finance globally could boost employment in Asia-Pacific by a full percent. With SMEs accounting for between 88.8% and 99.9% of total establishments in AMS and between 51.7% and 97.2% of total employment, the effects RCEP has on financing could be colossal. As SMEs grow and expand their businesses, thanks to incentives from the RCEP, they can create more job opportunities that would drive unemployment rates down and strengthen the consumer class.

Comparing RCEP to CPTPP

When RCEP negotiations were initially launched in 2012, negotiations for a separate TPP agreement were in discussion. At the time, this deal included RCEP participants Australia, Brunei, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam, as well as the United States. However, China and India were not included.

The original rendering of TPP was part of a larger American strategy under President Barack Obama for an "Asian pivot", which was to be a combination of ramping up multi-lateral trade with Asian countries (other than China) and increased military presence in the region. However, support for TPP in the U.S. was lukewarm at best and, in early

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E-mail: stantric68@gmail.com

2018, President Donald Trump announced that the U.S. would pull out of the agreement in favour of bi-lateral trade agreements. Effectively, the RCEP became the centrepiece multi-lateral trade agreement in Asia.

However, TPP negotiations did continue and, in the end, it evolved to become the CPTPP, an agreement led by Japan that includes 11 countries. It should be noted that many of the areas covered by RCEP are also encompassed by CPTPP. In addition, many countries engaged in both agreements maintain separate bi-lateral free trade treaties with each other.

The three key areas where RCEP and CPTPP differ are in the elimination of tariffs, labour and environmental standards. When compared to the RCEP, the CPTPP, which also engages Canada, Mexico and Chile, mandates a greater elimination of tariffs (calling for up to 99%) and higher-level standards in labour and sustainability. It also attempts to place restrictions on state-owned enterprises. This differentiator exists because, during the negotiations, the smaller, less economically developed ASEAN states were unable or unwilling to commit to the higher CPTPP-level standards.

Comparing RCEP to CPTPP

	RCEP 15	CPTPP 11
Australia		
Brunei		
Cambodia		
Canada		
Chile		
China		Announced interest, 2020
Indonesia		Announced interest, 2018
Japan		
Laos		
Malaysia		
Mexico		
Myanmar		
New Zealand		
Peru		
Philippines		Announced interest, 2020
Singapore		
South Korea		Announced interest, 2018
Thailand		Announced interest, 2018
Vietnam		
India	Dropped out, 2019	
Taiwan		Announced interest, 2016
United States		Dropped out, 2017, Announced interest, 2018
United Kingdom		Announced interest, 2018
Columbia		Announced interest, 2018

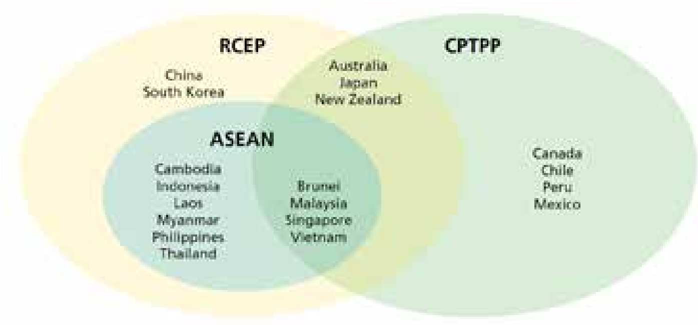
Source: The Centre of Expertise on Trade, Investment and Public Policy (https://asiahouse.org).

Trade Deals in Force Amongst Original RCEP Countries

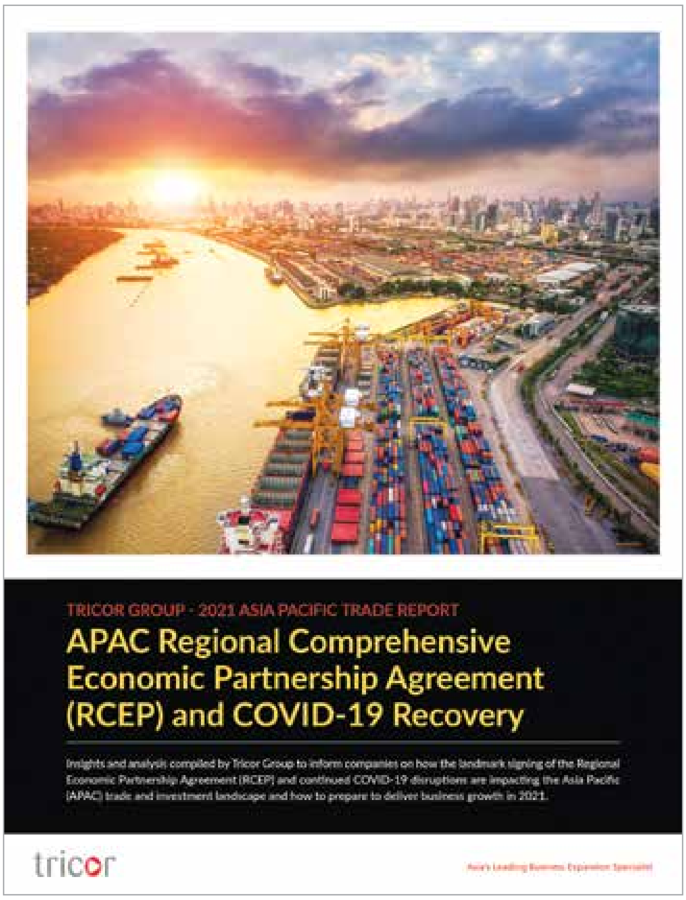
	ASEAN	Australia	China	Japan	New Zealand	South Korea
ASEAN	N/A	With New Zealand	Yes	Yes	With Australia	Yes
Australia	With New Zealand	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
China	Yes	Yes	N/A	No	Yes	Yes
Japan	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	No	No
New Zealand	With Australia	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	Yes
South Korea	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	N/A

Source: The Centre of Expertise on Trade, Investment and Public Policy (https://asiahouse.org).

Asia Pacific Trade Groups



Source: The Economic Intelligence Unit



Tricor Group - 2021 Asia-Pacific Trade Report.

Implications for APAC Economies Not Engaged in RCEP

While the RCEP connects a vast segment of the APAC economy, there are key regional economies that are markedly absent from the landmark agreement. Notably, India, who was engaged in the deal's early negotiations, ultimately backed out before the November 2020 signatory ceremony after expressing goals throughout 2020 to safeguard the interests of some of its industries (such as agriculture and dairy) and to also retain a domestic competitive advantage for the country's growing services sector. Member states have stated there is still room for India to join the RCEP. Any country can join RCEP 18 months after it comes into force. However, India, as one of the original negotiating partners, can join at any time once the deal comes into effect.

Other key regional APAC economies not included in the RCEP currently are Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. Hong Kong has expressed interest in joining the RCEP after it goes into effect and it is possible that Macau may also consider coming on board at some point in the future.

Despite there being some key regional players not engaged in the RCEP, it is conceivable that these economies will still be able to reap some of the benefits of the Pan-Asian supply chains that the deal is expected to spur. Even without being directly involved in the RCEP, these economies maintain free trade agreements with many regional neighbours, which will remain in effect once RCEP is fully installed. Furthermore, it is possible that the RCEP will raise the bar for free trade, and more agreements will be formed as a result, or current trade agreements, such as the CPTPP, will be bolstered.

Acknowledgement

TEEAM is deeply grateful to Tricor Group for sharing their insights and analysis, and granting permission to publish this article. The full report of Tricor Group — 2021 Asia-Pacific Trade Report on APAC Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) and COVID-19 Recovery can be downloaded from this link: https://hubs.li/H0TLQT30. Tricor is Asia's leading business expansion specialist and is headquartered out of Hong Kong SAR, and operates across a network of offices in 21 countries/territories including Malaysia.

Malaysian Economic Statistics Review Volume 7/2021

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has recently released the Malaysian Economic Statistics Review (MESR) Volume 7/2021 on 30 July 2021. The Review provides an in-depth analysis on the economic performance based on the recent statistics released by DOSM of which the focus is given to the economic scenario for May 2021 and highlights of some statistics for June 2021. The MESR will assist users to have the latest information on the economic performance in greater detail.

Key Reviews

- The global economy is now expected to expand by 5.4 per cent in 2021, following a steep loss of 3.6 per cent in 2020, according to the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) mid-2021 report. Economic output in many countries is only expected to recover to pre-pandemic levels in 2022 or 2023.
- As a measure to contain the sharp rise in COVID-19 cases, the implementation of the nationwide MCO 3.0 was announced (which started on 12th May 2021). During this phase, most of the economic sectors were allowed to operate but employers had to adapt the Work From Home (WFM) policies with the presence of not more than 20 per cent of management-level staff in their premises. Further to this, inter-state and inter-district travels in MCO areas for non-essential purposes still remain prohibited. Despite that, the most recent key economic indicators seem to see encouraging performance largely due to the low base effects.
- The production of natural rubber increased 22.4 per cent month-on-month to 28,164 tonnes in May 2021 as compared to the previous month (23,013 tonnes). Year-on-year comparison also recorded an increase of 33.8 per cent in rubber production. Similarly, the production of oil palm fresh fruit bunches in June 2021 increased marginally by 0.4 per cent month-on-month to 7,979,880 tonnes as compared to May 2021 (7,945,898 tonnes). However, year-on-year comparison showed a decrease of 18.5 per cent as compared to June 2020 (9,796,624 tonnes).
- In May 2021, the Index of Industrial Production (IPI) grew 26.0 per cent as compared to the same month of the previous year. The growth of IPI was under-pinned by the expansion in all indices, namely the Manufacturing index with a growth of 29.8 per cent followed by Mining index (20.7%) and Electricity index (7.9%).
- Concurrently, Malaysia's Manufacturing sales in May 2021 retained a double-digit growth of 37.2 per cent by registering RM122.7 billion as compared to the previous year. The growth in sales value was driven by the favourable performance in Transport equipment & other Manufacturing products (59.5%), Petroleum, Chemical, Rubber & Plastics Products (48.7%) and Electrical & Electronics products (31.0%).
- An upward trend was also observed in Wholesale & Retail Trade sales value, which registered RM108.3 billion in May 2021, an increase of 28.3 per cent year-on-year. This was mainly backed by the Wholesale Trade sub-sector that soared 31.2 per cent year-on-year to RM53.4 billion, followed by Retail Trade with an expansion of 17.3 per cent at RM43.3 billion. Motor Vehicles also showed a significant increase of RM4.8 billion or 71.1 per cent to RM11.6 billion.
- During the month of May this year (2021), Malaysia's Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased 4.4 per cent to 123.1 as against 117.9 in the corresponding month of the preceding year. The increase in the overall index was attributed to the rise in Transport (26.0%); Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (3.2%); Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance (2.1%) and Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (1.5%), which contributed 72.0 per cent to the overall weight.

- The Producer Price Index (PPI) of local production stood at a new high of 111.6 index points and grew by 11.9 per cent as compared to the same period last year. The growth was contributed by a substantial increase in primary industry products, leading to the spike in Mining (68.5%) and Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (60.0%) indices. Additionally, the Manufacturing index also showed a significant increase of 5.0 per cent followed by Water Supply (1.5%) and Electricity & Gas Supply (0.1%).
- Malaysia's trade performance in May 2021 continued to surge year-on-year, recording an increase of 48.7 per cent, and maintained its double-digit growth for four consecutive months. Exports grew 47.3 per cent to record RM92.3 billion, from RM62.6 billion in May 2020. Similarly, imports also grew by 50.3 per cent to RM78.6 billion compared to RM52.3 billion in the same month last year. This has resulted in the trade balance remaining in a surplus of RM13.7 billion.
- In May 2021, the labour force increased by 384.9 thousand persons (2.4%), bringing the total to 16.10 million persons (May 2020: 15.71 million persons). At the same time, the number of employed persons increased by 3.2 per cent to 15.37 million persons as compared to 14.89 million persons a year ago. This has resulted in the increase of the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) with 0.5 percentage points year-on-year to 68.5 per cent (May 2020: 68.0 %) while the unemployment rate was 4.5 per cent (May 2020: 5.3%).
- The annual performance of Leading Index (LI) for May 2021 posted slower growth of 6.9 per cent from 15.7 per cent in April 2021. Moreover, the growth rate of smoothed LI is moving downwards despite being persistently above the trend. In view of monthly performance, the LI is observed to continue recording a negative momentum of 2.9 per cent in May 2021 as against a contraction of 1.2 per cent in the previous month. Hence, the current situation amid the pandemic indicates that Malaysia's economy is expected to face challenges in maintaining the recovery momentum.

Overview of the Global Economy

A year after the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economy still remains gloomy. New virus mutations (comprising Variants Of Concern (VOCs) and Variants Of Interest (VOIs)) and the increase in numbers of patients are of grave concern despite rising vaccine coverage. Economic recovery varies by country and industry, owing to differences in pandemic-related disruptions and initiatives taken aimed at mitigating the impact of COVID-19. The future depends not only on the success of the virus-vaccine struggle but also on how well economic measures are implemented in the face of significant uncertainty as it can limit the long-term consequences of this unprecedented worldwide disaster.

Besides, it will most likely stay unequal on the efficacy of vaccination programmes and public health policies by certain countries recovering far more quickly than others. After 18 months, South Korea and the United States have reached a pre-pandemic per capita level income, while it will take over three years for Europe to recover and between three and five years for both Mexico and South Africa.

Following a steep loss of 3.6 per cent in 2020, the global economy is now expected to expand by 5.4 per cent in 2021, according to the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) mid-2021 report, reflecting an upward adjustment from the United Nations (UN) predictions given in January. China and the United States, the world's two largest economies, are driven by rapid economic growth and continued fiscal and monetary stimulus. Several countries in South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, on the other hand, have unstable growth. Economic outputs in many countries are expected to only recover to pre-pandemic levels in 2022 or 2023.

In the first quarter of 2021, Canada's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased by 1.4 per cent, following rises of 9.1 per cent in the third quarter and 2.2 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2020. These gains more than compensated for the vast fall in the second quarter of 2020 (-11.3%). In comparison to the first quarter of 2020, GDP increased by 0.3 per cent. The enduring economic growth, impacted by favourable mortgage rates, continued Government transfers to households and businesses, and improving labour market, have contributed to the increase in GDP in the first quarter of 2021. These factors have enhanced home investment demand, whereas growing input costs increased construction expenses. However, the United Kingdom's GDP decreased by 1.6 per cent in the first quarter of 2021 (January to March) due to the COVID-19 lockdown which was executed across the country.

Overview of the Malaysian Economy

The prolonged outbreak of COVID-19 in Malaysia since early March 2020 had triggered economic uncertainty and impacted economic growth. In this regard, the Government had introduced the National Recovery Plan (NRP) to ensure that the Government can implement a more structured plan to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and at the same time, drive the economic recovery by allowing more economic sectors to resume operations. Malaysia's economic growth is anticipated to be encouraging following an expansion on fiscal and monetary strategies in the second quarter of this year.

Looking at the upward performance in several key indicators, the economic situation has improved in May 2021. The production of Natural Rubber in May 2021 increased by 22.4 per cent to 28,164 tonnes (April 2021: 23,013 tonnes). Meanwhile, the production of Crude Palm Oil in April 2021 recorded an increase of 7.0 per cent to 1,522,865 tonnes as compared to 1,423,483 tonnes in the previous month.

Furthermore, the Industrial Production Index (IPI) recorded an increase of 26.0 per cent in May 2021 as compared to the same month of the previous year, driven by increases in all indices especially the Manufacturing index (29.8%), Mining index (20.7%) and Electricity index (7.9%). The output of the Mining sector recorded a positive growth of 20.7 per cent this month as compared to the same period of the previous year. The increase was attributed to the Natural Gas index (30.9%) and the Crude Oil & Condensate index (8.6%).

During the same period, the output of the Manufacturing sector on a year-on-year basis rose by 29.8 per cent after registering a growth of 68.0 per cent in April 2021. The sales value of the Manufacturing sector grew by 37.2 per cent as compared to the previous year, with the amount of RM122.7 billion. This growth was driven by an increase in Transport Equipment & Other Manufacturing Products (59.5%), Petroleum Products, Chemicals, Rubber & Plastics (48.7%) and Electrical & Electronics Products (31.0%). However, on a month-on-month basis, sales value declined by 6.1 per cent.

Malaysia's Wholesale & Retail Trade recorded a positive growth of 28.3 per cent year-on-year in May 2021, with a sales value of RM108.3 billion. As for the volume index, Wholesale & Retail Trade recorded a growth of 27.2 per cent year-on-year, supported by Motor Vehicles, which increased 66.0 per cent. This was followed by Wholesale Trade and Retail Trade which rose 27.9 per cent and 20.1 per cent respectively. In addition, Malaysia's trade in May 2021 recorded an increase of 48.7 per cent, reaching RM170.9 billion from RM114.9 billion in May 2020. The exports recorded a growth of 47.3 per cent to RM92.3 billion in May 2021 compared to the previous year. Meanwhile, imports increased by 50.3 per cent while the trade balance remained surplus with a value of RM13.7 billion, an increase of 32.3 per cent.

Economic Stimulus Packages

Malaysia's economic outlook seems to be gradually recovering for the first half of 2021. However, it is expected that prevailing challenges will continue to persist until the COVID-19 pandemic is brought under control. Malaysia has recorded an increasing number of death cases and infections from COVID-19 in recent days which led the Government to reinstate the Movement Control Order (MCO 3.0) nationwide and also the Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO) in most parts of Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and other affected areas. This situation has impacted not only the B40 household groups but also M40 and T20 as well, since most of the businesses were not permitted to operate in full capacity, and some needed to be closed down. Many people are still struggling to make ends meet and coping with the continuing loss of income as a result of the indefinite lockdowns.

With the implementation of the National Recovery Plan (NRP), economic and social activities can only resume in the third phase, which is scheduled to begin in September 2021. A formidable stimulus package known as the Pakej Perlindungan Rakyat dan Pemulihan Ekonomi (PEMULIH) which amounted to RM380 billion was announced by the Government to help the economy to recover and assist the country to overcome the problems associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, the programme has benefited over 20 million people and 2.4 million enterprises. In addition, RM1 billion has been allocated to increase the vaccination efforts under PEMULIH which can lead to the success of the COVID-19 National Immunisation Programme in the near future. By reaching herd immunity (80% of population vaccinated), it will enable social and economic activities to resume, which is essential for long-term economic recovery. Among the major programmes under PEMULIH are the following as listed in Table 1.

Table 1a: Coverage and Weight by Strata

Population	Urban	Rural	Malaysia
	The whole household	The whole household	The whole household
No. of items	550	506	552
Weight	100.0	100.0	100.0
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	28.4	35.6	29.5
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco	2.3	3.0	2.4
Clothing & Footwear	3.2	3.6	3.2
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	24.5	19.9	23.8
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance	4.2	3.7	4.1
Health	1.8	2.0	1.9
Transport	14.6	14.6	14.6
Communication	4.9	4.4	4.8
Recreation Services & Culture	5.0	3.6	4.8
Education	1.4	0.9	1.3
Restaurants & Hotels	3.0	2.4	2.9
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	6.8	6.3	6.7

Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia

The full publication of MESR Volume 7/2021 can be downloaded from the TEEAM Website at www.teeam.org.my.

Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia

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Digitalisation & COVID-19: A Year's Reflection – Part 3

Alex Looi Tink Huey & Ir Dr Siow Chun Lim

Part 2 of this article was written back in December 2020. To be frank, this article was being written rather reluctantly at first, as the COVID-19 situation is still severely affecting us. We have again gone into a total lockdown (PKP 3.0) for all social and economic sectors starting 1 to 28 June 2021 amid worsening COVID-19 outbreaks [1]. Within a span of 15 months, we have experienced Movement Control Order (MCO), Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO), Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO) and now Full Movement Control Order (FMCO). As of 11 June 2021, Malaysia reported 9,020 as the highest daily new coronavirus cases since the beginning of the pandemic. Triple digit death cases were reported on several occasions. These are a far cry from the far lower single-double-digit toll during the first lockdown in 2020.

However, essential economic sectors and services are allowed to operate, such as energy; water; healthcare; food and beverage; solid waste and sewage management; land, air and water transportation; communications; banking and insurance; oil and gas; hotels and lodgings but restricted for quarantine and not for tourism purposes; construction for critical facilities; logistics limited to delivery of essential services; and forestry [2].

As of 11 June 2021, Malaysia has administered 3,944,987 doses of COVID-19 vaccines. Assuming every person requires 2 doses, this figure totalled up to 6.2% of Malaysians who have been inoculated [3]. This figure is still well below the global average of 12.11% as of 9 June 2021 [4]. According to Malaysia's Science, Technology and Innovation Minister, The Honourable Haji Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar (Co-ordinating Minister of the COVID-19 National Immunisation Programme), 150,000 doses are targeted to be administered daily by June 2021 [5]. The figure will be ramped up to 200,000 doses by July 2021 and 300,000 doses by August 2021. Ultimately, every Malaysian will be vaccinated by the end of 2021.

The sudden lockdown imposed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and to flatten the curve of COVID-19 cases, has caused many construction sites, buildings, and plants to quickly close down. This has also resulted in not following proper shutdown procedures which puts the buildings' safety and security at risk too. Mothballing of buildings is a term for carrying out technical and non-technical planning processes to ensure that the building is safe and secure while it is unoccupied, and allowing re-occupation to be fast, safe, and efficient [6]. The Building Engineering Services Association (BESA) has published a guideline, SFG30: Guide to Good Practice - Mothballing and Re-Commissioning of Buildings, which combines a methodical approach and best practices for shutdown procedures of building services plants, covering the safety and security of the property, interim maintenance, and re-commissioning of the building to full function.

There are 4 aspects of technical requirements, namely, water, ventilation, heating and cooling, and critical services. Stagnant water provides a breeding ground for harmful bacteria and carries water-borne infections. On the other hand, it can also cause corrosions to the pipelines leading to additional costs for repairs and delaying building re-occupation. Hence, it is critical to conduct periodical cleaning, refilling, and disinfecting hot and cold water systems to rule out harmful bacteria and corrosions.

Additionally, Mechanical Extract Ventilation (MEV) if left unattended, may become hazardous in areas such as kitchens, utility rooms, and bathrooms. The MEVs can harbour harmful bacteria as well as developing fire risk from grease build up. Deep cleaning of the ventilation systems is recommended. Cooling towers are required to be thoroughly drained, cleaned, and chlorinated. Meanwhile, chilled water systems and heating systems should be dosed with corrosion inhibitors and biocides. Water in these systems should also be circulated monthly.

Continuous maintenance and monitoring of buildings and construction sites are required for security and safety purposes, even in a lockdown. Remote Monitoring and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems can be considered for the afore-mentioned purposes. Services such as security, fire-fighting systems, Building Management Systems (BMS), servers and computers, should be kept fully operational to safeguard the security and safety of the buildings and construction sites, as well as their assets.

On the other hand, non-technical requirements should also be observed. Firstly, security checks could be done by reviewing staffing levels and systems operation, security patrols and guarding. Next, grounds maintenance should be performed via thorough sanitising and cleaning of building and construction sites, including pest control. Thirdly, removal of temporary structures should be done by taking into consideration waste disposal and management, minimising the number of combustibles on-site, and reducing the potential for electrical faults through means of isolations. Furthermore, odour monitoring can be done by observing burning and sewage smells as these are potential indicators of building services and drainage systems faults. Last but not least, the insurance provider of your buildings or sites has to be engaged as the buildings are going to be unoccupied for a certain period of time and this could impact the coverage offered in your policy.

Source: Public Health Image Library of the Centres for Disease and Prevention.

The mandatory MCO lockdown back in 2020 had 70% of SMEs reporting a sharp decline of 50% in business [7]. However, e-commerce platforms such as online non-food shopping, online grocery shopping and online food delivery enjoyed significant growth to their businesses, accounting to 53%, 144%, and 61%, respectively. Trade associations and institutions such as The Electrical and Electronics Association of Malaysia (TEEAM) and the Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) have continued to faithfully serve their highly esteemed members on digital platforms. The question here is, can everyone take their businesses and economic activities online to survive and succeed in the post-COVID world?

Malaysian Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are quick to adopt digitalisation of front-end business processes such as website development and e-commerce. The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) highlighted a 26.3% year-on-year growth of online retail sales index in relation to e-commerce activities in December 2020 [8]. However, SMEs still lack behind in terms of digitalisation of back-end processes such as human resources management (payroll system), communication, procurement and inventory, document handling, and cloud accounting. A survey conducted by Ernst & Young in June 2020 showed that 84% of SMEs in Malaysia require additional support for better Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure.

Now that we've highlighted the various challenges, the next pro-active step is to provide fast-track enablers such as enhancing Government policies and ensuring timely and beneficial incentives to bridge the digital

gap. Encouraging the adoption of digitalising back-end processes by creating awareness, workers' upskilling, and business-matching with Digital Service Providers (DSPs) is highly needed. Affordable and high-quality digital infrastructure has to be made available so that the public has access to reliable Internet and digital services. SMEs should be engaged more on available digitalisation initiatives and incentives by implementing regular outreach programmes.

With regards to the afore-mentioned points, it is to be duly acknowledged that the Government has been ramping up the National Digitalisation Plan. In March 2021, the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint (MyDigital) was launched to propel the nation towards achieving high-income status [9]. RM21 billion will be pumped into the National Digital Network (Jendela) to further strengthen our telecommunications infrastructure, which is the key fuel for the acceleration of the afore-mentioned digitalisation plan. An ambitious target of providing Internet access for all households is being set. This will also enable all students to have access to online learning. This digital economy is expected to contribute up to 22.6% towards Malaysia's GDP and to boost the productivity across all business sectors by 30%, by the year 2030 [10]. Half a million new jobs are targeted to be created under MyDigital. Even the payments for all Government services are expected to be fully digitalised into cashless basis by the year 2022 [11].

We know that change is not easy as it involves people-related issues. Leaders often under-estimate or disregard people's resistance and emotions to change. Digitalisation and digital transformation require proper strategies set in place to implement the organisation's digital ecosystem, governance, cybersecurity, organisational change, and most importantly, digital talent development [12]. This is why Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education plays an important role by way of infusing digital inclusion and, sparking creativity and innovation in students.

It is crucial for Governments globally to find the elusive balance between protecting the lives of their people and ensuring economic survival. A swift decision has to be made when contingencies such as the increasing number of new COVID-19 cases arise. The decision should be coupled with a well-coordinated plan to ensure minimal impact on both the economy and the healthcare system of our country. Inspiration can be drawn from several countries deemed to be relatively successful in maintaining their resilience towards COVID-19, such as New Zealand, Singapore, Finland, and China [13].

Now that the rollout of the National Vaccination Plan is steadily gaining momentum, we sincerely hope that this will be the final piece of our current series of articles centering around the COVID-19 situation in our country and that we will not be having another novel form of lockdown after FMCO. With all of us playing our roles responsibly by strictly conforming to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) set forth by the Ministry of Health, the days of physical meetings, networking dinners and business travels could soon be staging a strong comeback! Stay safe and we look forward to the day when we can once again live our lives by embracing the yearned for "old norm".

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Embracing the New Norm During the Pandemic

During these very challenging times, many organisations are grappling with different challenges to stay afloat. We at EITA would like to take this opportunity to share our successful pro-active experiences during the current worldwide pandemic. We are fully aware that the game is not over yet, and in fact, it is getting to be even more difficult now!

However, in order to survive during this current pandemic period, we needed to adapt constantly. For more than a year and a half since the COVID-19 virus first emerged, we have been forced to adapt to the New Normal: Work-From-Home (WFM), accept repeated lockdowns, get used to virtual meetings, attend online learning classes, and wear the mandatory face mask in public, plus adhere to the SOPs, amongst others.

COVID-19 has clearly taught us that it is up to us, both individually and collectively, to adapt to the steep challenges of the current pandemic, and similar crises, which may crop up in the future, and also whether we respond positively or negatively can drastically affect our personal, social and business lives.

The COVID-19 threat became very real to many with the 1st lockdown in March 2020. Therefore, EITA took immediate counter-measures and actions to ensure business continuity and sustainability. At EITA, we had to very quickly learn to ADAPT, ADOPT and EMBRACE the New Norm.

Embracing New Norms in Safety & Health

The EITA Group recognises the significance of maintaining high standards of occupational safety and health management practices. Hence, safeguarding our employees, our customers and the public, was of paramount importance.

In response to the emergence of the devastating COVID-19 virus, EITA immediately set up a dedicated COVID-19 Safety & Health (S&H) Task Force. It is chaired by our Executive Director, Mr Lee Peng Sian, backed by the Human Resources Department, and has a dedicated representative from each one of its subsidiaries.

The various Task Force efforts include:

- Ensure strict compliance with our Government's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and the various Movement Control Orders' (MCOs') guidelines.
- Prepare a Group-wide internal S&H SOP such as Office-Zoning, Team work-shift arrangement, Work-From-Home guidelines, Visitors' Safety guidelines, Travel restrictions and Quarantine Enforcement and Recovery room.

- Weekly S&H Task Force meeting for updates and refinement of S&H SOPs.
- Weekly Group-wide S&H briefings with practical demonstrations during the early months of the pandemic.
- Set-up of Sanitising Team at each subsidiary with specific duties and responsibilities.
- Implement Face and Thermal Recognition System at office entrances.
- Latest initiative - To fast-track vaccination for staff under the Government's PIKAS Scheme and to pay for their vaccinations.

Embracing New Norms in Customer Support

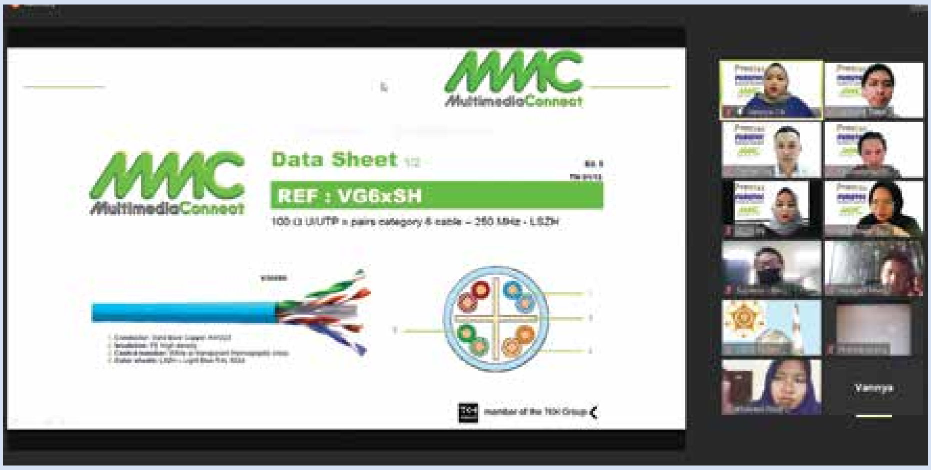
The Group quickly applied to the relevant Authorities to ensure certain essential services can continue to be rendered to its customers and to explore new methods of customer engagements.

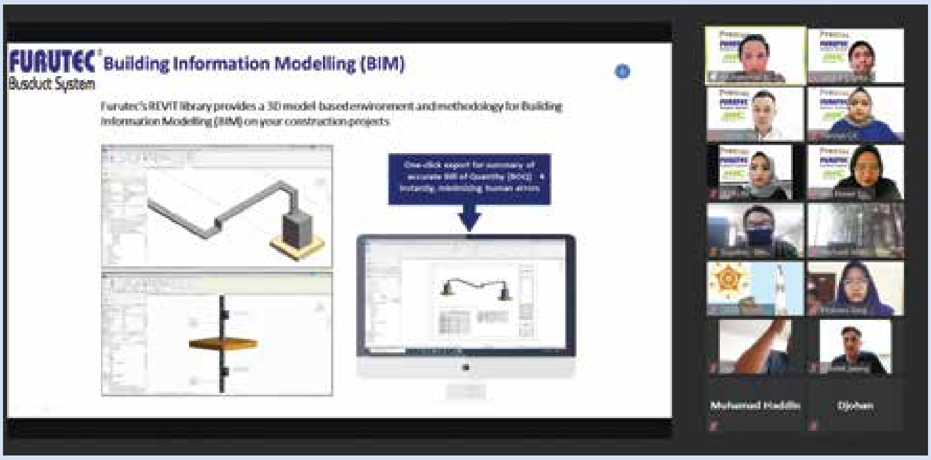
- EITA Elevator (Service Department) continues to provide its essential services in terms of maintenance and repairs to premises and businesses which were allowed to operate during the lockdown periods.
- Likewise, we ensured our manufacturing operations were able to carry on unhindered to support certain key projects in meeting stringent timelines, such as the on-going Mass Rapid Transit (MRT 2) and the Light Rail Transit (LRT 3) Projects.
- Our Marketing and Distribution Business Segment started to explore an E-Commerce (B2B) marketing platform for its Electrical & Electronics (E&E) equipment and components.
- Our Sales & Marketing Department quickly utilised the virtual and social media platforms to be in constant touch with our customers, suppliers and business associates.
- The pandemic forced the closure of international borders. Furutec Electrical (a subsidiary of EITA) quickly improved with hosted Webinars, organised Virtual Factory Tours, and even successfully conducted Remote Acceptance Tests at its manufacturing plant for its highly esteemed international clients.

Embracing New Norms in Business Operations

With the numerous lockdowns and MCO restrictions that were imposed, EITA had to pro-actively explore new norms in its various business operations to maintain its productivity – effectively and efficiently.

- To ensure business operations' continuity and at the same time to comply with MCO SOPs, EITA implemented the following noteworthy measures:
  - Provide Notebooks and secure IT access for Work-From-Home (WFM) staff, and
  - Office work rotation through Team A and Team B.
- With a staff force of over 600, it is all the more important to up-keep and up-skill our staff with on-going Training and Development during this pandemic period. Regular internal Virtual Classes are currently being conducted and openly embraced by our staff.
- Consequently, we proceeded to incorporate the prestigious EITA Training Centre (ETC) in early 2021; Part of EITA's Charter, as approved by JKKP (Jabatan Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan – Department of Occupational Safety and Health) and MALEA (The Malaysian Lift and Escalator Association), is to offer Competent Person Training for the elevator industry. ETC is also looking to set up an online E-Learning platform.
- Where possible, the Finance & Accounts Department has progressively transitioned certain workflow and approval processes to be performed electronically via e-documents and e-signature.





- Human Resources Department proceeded to upgrade the current Group's Performance Management System to new E-PMS, a cloud-based solution to allow performance appraisal to be carried out remotely.
- IT infrastructure set-up to support remote and secure access – anytime and anywhere. This is on top of our IT Backup and Disaster Recovery System which had already been put in place a while back.
- Furutec's Busduct Manufacturing Plant improved the manufacturing processes by implementing Automated Busduct Assembly Processes to minimise physical contact among the allowable number of production workers. Lastly, despite repeated interruptions due to the MCOs, EITA Elevator Group of Companies still managed to successfully complete its new Headquarters at Bukit Raja (Klang, Selangor), moved in, and officially began its centralised business operations in October 2020.

Advertorial

Embracing New Norms in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

At EITA, we are ever-conscious of the importance of our CSR role. We strive to do our best to inculcate humanistic values within our staff and also build meaningful relationships with the communities.

- Annually, EITA organises the EITA Excellence Award specifically for our staff's children to recognise and reward their outstanding achievements in their Academic, Sports and Creative pursuits. Instead of our traditional in-house event, we switched to a virtual fun-filled family event with parents and kids joyfully sharing their well-wishes directly from their homes.
- Since we were unable to hold our Annual Dinner at a prestigious hotel, we created a virtual event which allowed our Top Management to give their respective official address speeches, present Long Service Awards to deserving staff, and even held an online Lucky Draw.
- To promote healthy living and balanced lifestyle concepts, we continue to hold our 'Meat-less' luncheons for those who are able to return to the office environments. Additionally, we have employed a professional Personal Trainer to conduct Virtual Exercise Classes for the benefit of our staff members.
- It most certainly has become increasingly stressful for many as this ravaging pandemic stretches on – with no end in sight. Hence, EITA started a weekly 'Good Feel/Aphorism' Sharing Session to encourage staff members to share their positive experiences based on the 'Good Feel/Aphorism' message. It also provides an opportunity for them to improve their Public Speaking presentation skills and for us all to know our fellow colleagues better.
- EITA also cheerfully extended CSR assistance to the communities. In support of the Tzu Chi Foundation charitable initiatives, we launched the Bamboo Bank Donation Drive whereby staff members can just simply drop their spare coins into the Bamboo Bank placed around our offices. On the first day of this Charity Launch on 26 July 2021, EITA committed a 10x (ten-fold) contribution in return for each Ringgit donated by the staff and management. The total contribution was a whopping RM61,369.00!

- EITA's subsidiary, TransSystem Continental, as part of its project commitment initiatives, managed to carry out several CSR activities in Bintulu, Sarawak despite the many lockdowns. It helped build classrooms and shelters for a rural school and also provided much-needed welfare contributions to OKU (Orang Kurang Upaya - Persons with Disabilities) and Old Folks' Homes.
- Honest-to-goodness efforts are equally as important as monetary donations. Thus, the Management and staff working together with Tzu Chi Foundation, cheerfully lent their hands to distribute urgently-needed medical equipment, supplies and care packages to various hospitals around the Klang Valley. EITA also provided support vehicles to transport those top priority items. Other EITA staff also worked with various NGOs to source donations and food contributions to help out those who had been badly affected by this COVID-19 pandemic, especially the B40 group, foreign workers, and those who had lost unfortunately their jobs.

Moving forward, EITA strongly believes that it is well-positioned to readily adapt to future challenges and uncertainties, willingly adopt a flexible mind-set, and to pro-actively embrace new and different norms (in line with its noble ADAPT, ADOPT and EMBRACE Philosophy) to ensure business continuity and sustainability, despite any disruptions in the global marketplace!

We at EITA are here to serve all our highly esteemed customers and clients (both locally and internationally) with genuine care and utmost concern plus high professionalism! Here's to everyone's success!

Challenges and Opportunities in the Electrical Industry – Part 38

Ir Chew Shee Fuee KMN, TEEAM Past President

A) Protection Relay Calibration Interval

The Electricity Regulations specify an interval of two (2) years. There is a need to discuss whether this is adequate and also, whether change can be made to reflect the most appropriate interval.

Historically, relays began with mechanical operation and hence the need for calibration. However, relays over the years have evolved and modern relays are micro-processor-based. Therefore, the need for calibration and the relevant interval may have to be reviewed.

Basically, the Time-Based Maintenance method specifies the interval in months or years, whereas the concept of the Condition-Based Maintenance method will depend on the risk assessment on component integrity and reliability. In the current context, we will not focus on the Conditioned-Based Maintenance perspective with regards to requirements on relay maintenance.

We need to bear in mind that when relays are tested or calibrated, we are also assessing the total protection scheme. The exercise will normally involve the tripping of breakers as a complete verification process.

As far as mechanical relays are concerned, we believe that there is no proposal to change the current interval of two (2) years. This is a long-established practice and has proven to be satisfactory.

Electronic and micro-processor-based relays are however much more reliable in terms of accuracy and require no calibration. The maintenance test is meant to verify satisfactory accuracy limits. Some high-end relays have self-monitoring elements too. Hence, the need to consider the lengthening of the interval of tests as far as maintenance is concerned arises.

The motion to increase the calibration interval from two (2) years will have to be decided by the relevant Authority. The clear implication is that it will reduce the burden to owners of installation in terms of maintenance costs. It will also alter the necessity of outage interval. On the other hand, those involved in the business of such type of work will have to face diminishing job opportunities.

The changes to the above will also involve insurance parties in terms of risk management issues.

B) Malaysian Low Voltage Standards

Nominal Voltage

Effective 1 Jan 2008, the Nominal Voltage for low voltage supply in Malaysia had been set at 230/400V (+10%, -6%), in accordance with MS IEC 60038 standards.

Although we have aligned our Nominal Voltage to 230/400V since 2008, there is very little effort to narrow the limits of the Nominal Voltage.

The adoption of the 230/400V limits were made with minimal changes from our previous 240/433V.

Although equipment or apparatus are tested up to +10 and -10% of the Nominal Voltage, we should ideally keep our Distribution Voltage to +6 and -6%, thus providing a safe margin of 4%.

The cost to provide the distribution Nominal Voltage to +6 and -6% will be quite enormous for Supply Utility. Lowering of the limits will require the increase of the current capacity of conductors, thus this will also increase the cost of distribution. However, it is a good start to first plan for such requirements. Equipment and apparatus life-spans can be prolonged if limits of voltage are within a smaller margin.

In fact, as far as installations taking in supply from Utilities at high voltage are concerned, they can certainly design their system to work with the 6% margin. Unfortunately, there is no such attempt to do so by any Consultants thus far.

It is actually quite common to notice the high failure rates of lighting equipment due to slightly elevated voltage.

The power factor correction equipment life-span can be easily prolonged if voltage is maintained at the Nominal Voltage.

Keeping the voltage at nominal values is beneficial to the safety and long life of the equipment and apparatus.

Let us not unnecessarily get ourselves into the provision of higher than Nominal Voltage in our distribution system. Instead, we should first begin with a good design through the proper selection of the transformer voltage-rating.

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

Ir Chew was President of The Electrical and Electronics Association of Malaysia (TEEAM) for 2001-2005 and 2013-2017. He was the President of the ASEAN Federation of Electrical Engineering Contractors (AFEEC) for 2016-2018. He is the Immendiate Past Chairman of The Institution of Engineering & Technology (IET) Malaysia Local Network. Ir Chew is the Managing Director of G H Liew Engineering (1990) Sdn Bhd and Chris Chew Electrical Consultant. 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 the 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 more than 30 years of industry 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 switchgears and relays. His work also includes electrical supervision of sub-stations and electrical audit. He also presents lectures on electrical apparatus and the protection system. He was Vice-Chairman of MyENC (Malaysian Electro-Technical National Committee) and is a Member of Technical Committees (TCs) and Working Groups (WGs) in Standards Development. He can be reached at E-mail: sfchew@ghliew1990.com.

NU6-IIG/F

LV Surge Protection Device (SPD)

Poles	: 1PN / 3PN
Protection Class	: Type 2
Compliance	: IEC 62305 - 4 (Lightning Protection)
	: IEC 61643 - 11 (LV SPD)
	: ST Guidelines for Electrical Wiring in Residential Buildings

Uc / Up	(1P)	: 275V / 1.5kV	In / Imax (8/20μs)	: 20kA / 40kA
	(3P)	: 440V / 2.0kV		: 30kA / 65kA
	(NPE)	: 255V / 1.5kV	(NPE)	: 30kA / 65kA

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ALPHACHINT

What Malaysian Engineers Need to Know About RCEP

Lim Tau Wee

The signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) between the 10 ASEAN economies and China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and Australia on 15 November 2020 marked a global milestone for trade agreement. It all started during the 19th ASEAN Summit held from 14 to 19 November 2011 in Bali, Indonesia where the concept was mooted. The third round of RCEP negotiation was held in 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

RCEP will impact the engineering fraternity in areas of manufacturing, standards and technical regulations and the exportation of consultancy services among members of the agreement.

It is thus pertinent for practising engineers to understand what RCEP entails as matters such as trade in services involving consultancy services are a double-edged sword.

About RCEP

RCEP is an agreement to broaden and deepen ASEAN's engagement with Australia, China, Japan, Korea and New Zealand. Together, these participating countries account for about 30% of the global GDP and 30% of the world population. The objective of RCEP is to establish a modern, comprehensive, high-quality and mutually beneficial economic partnership that will facilitate the expansion of regional trade and investment and contribute to global economic growth and development. Accordingly, it will bring about market and employment opportunities to businesses and people in the region. RCEP will work alongside and support an open, inclusive and rules-based multilateral trading system.

Key Features of RCEP

RCEP is an agreement that takes into consideration changing and emerging trade realities, including the age of electronic commerce, the potential of micro, small and medium enterprises, the deepening regional value chain, and the complexity of market competition. RCEP will complement the World Trade Organisation (WTO), building on the WTO Agreement in areas where the Parties have agreed to update or go beyond its provisions.

RCEP addresses the issues required to support the Parties' engagement in global and regional supply chains and complements market access commitments with trade and investment enabling rules that are business-facilitating while at the same time preserving legitimate public policy objectives. It strives to boost competition in a way that drives productivity which is sustainable, responsible, and constructive. In addition, RCEP has the added value of bringing together a single rule book to help facilitate the development and expansion of regional supply chains among Parties.

Summary of Salient Chapters

Initial Provisions and General Definitions

This chapter sets out the objectives of RCEP, which are to establish a modern, comprehensive, high-quality, and mutually beneficial economic partnership that aims to facilitate the expansion of regional trade and investment and contribute to global economic growth and development, taking into account the stage of development and economic needs of the Parties especially for least developed Parties.

Trade in Goods

Chapter 2, Trade in Goods, contains key elements that govern the implementation of goods-related commitments to achieve a high level of trade liberalisation among the Parties. These include:

The virtual signing by Ministers took place following the conclusion of the 4th RCEP Summit on 15 November 2020. Picture sourced from the RCEP website rcepsec.org.

- ranting national treatment to the goods of the other Parties;
- reduction or elimination of customs duties and duty-free temporary admission of goods; and
- reaffirmation of commitments in the WTO Ministerial Decision on Export Competition, including elimination of scheduled export subsidy entitlements for agricultural goods.

The chapter also sets out rules for determining the applicable tariff treatment in cases of different tariff preferences applied by a Party. In addition, it contains provisions on non-tariff measures that complement tariff liberalisation outcomes. These include:

- the general elimination of quantitative restrictions;
- greater transparency on the application of non-tariff measures;
- administration of impor t licensing procedures; and
- application of fees and formalities connected with importation and exportation.

Finally, it also sets out a process for Parties to conduct technical consultations on non-tariff measures that adversely affect trade between them and also provides for the possibility of future work to be undertaken on sector-specific initiatives to facilitate greater trade.

Rules of Origin (ROO)

The ROO Chapter determines which goods are originating under RCEP and therefore eligible for preferential tariff treatment. It has two Sections, viz., Section A: Rules of Origin and Section B: Operational Certification Procedures. Articles on Originating Goods and Goods Wholly-Obtained or Produced and the Annex on Product-Specific Rules (PSR) set out the requirements for determining the originating status of goods.

The chapter lists the minimal operations and processes considered insufficient to confer originating status on goods using non-originating materials. Given the geographic configuration of countries in RCEP, the Parties ensured that the ROO Chapter includes clear direct consignment rules so that originating goods do not inappropriately lose their originating status. If a good does not satisfy a change in tariff classification rule in the PSR, this chapter lays down certain de minimis rules whereby the good could still acquire originating status. Other elements covered under Section A: Rules of Origin include the treatment applied to packing and packaging materials, containers for transportation and shipment, and the treatment of accessories, spare parts and tools.

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Section B: Operational Certification Procedures provides detailed procedures for applying the RCEP proof of origin, claiming preferential tariff treatment, and verifying the originating status of a good. An enhancement relative to the ASEAN Plus One FTAs is the inclusion in the Section of the declaration of origin by approved exporters and the declaration of origin by all exporters or producers, the latter of which will be implemented within a certain period of time after the dates of the entry into force of RCEP for each of Party, in addition to the traditional certificate of origin.

The ROO Chapter has two annexes:

(i) the Product-Specific Rules, which cover all tariff lines at the HS 6-digit level; and

(ii) Minimum Information Requirements, listing the required information for a Certificate of Origin or a Declaration of Origin.

Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation (CPTF)

The CPTF Chapter aims to ensure predictability, consistency, and transparency in the application of customs laws and regulations, and promote efficient administration of customs procedures and expeditious clearance of goods.

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)

The SPS in Chapter 5 sets out the basic framework for developing, adopting and applying SPS measures for the purpose of protecting human, animal or plant life or health as well as for facilitating trade by minimising the negative effects of SPS measures on trade.

Standards, Technical Regulations, and Conformity Assessment Procedures (STRACAP)

STRACAP in Chapter 6 seeks not only to enhance the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) but also to recognise and accept mutual understanding of each Party's standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures, and strengthen information exchange and co-operation in this field. These objectives will be achieved through provisions that:

(i) recognise the impor tant role that international standards, guides and recommendations can play in reducing unnecessary technical barriers to trade;

(ii) ensure that standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures are consistent with the relevant provisions of the TBT Agreement;

(iii) recognise the importance of mutual acceptance of result of conformity assessment procedures;

(iv) strengthen transparency process; and

(v) acknowledge possible bilateral or plurilateral co-operation of mutual interest.

Trade Remedies

The Trade Remedies in Chapter 7 consists of two Sections:

(i) RCEP Safeguard Measures; and

(ii) Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties. The Safeguard Measures Section provides the Parties with a transitional mechanism to address serious injury or threat of serious injury to the domestic industry caused by Parties' commitments under RCEP, subject to welldefined conditions and requirements, including carrying out a proper investigation as well as early and full notifications to Parties concerned with opportunities for consultations.

Trade in Services

Chapter 8 on Trade in Services aims to open up avenues for greater services trade among the Parties through substantial removal of restrictive and discriminatory measures affecting trade in services. It contains modern and comprehensive provisions including rules on market access, national treatment, most-favoured-nation treatment and local presence, which are subject to Parties' Schedules of Specific Commitments or Schedules of Reservations and Non-Conforming Measures, as well as additional commitments. Parties are to schedule their services commitments using the negative list approach, either on the date of entry into force of RCEP, or within a defined time period after the date of entry into force. The negative list approach to services commitments provides greater certainty for service suppliers of other Parties through providing information on the existing measures and regulations of each Party. The chapter also includes provisions on the reasonability, objectivity, and impartiality of domestic regulations affecting trade in services, which go beyond equivalent rules in the existing ASEAN Plus One FTAs.

Annex on Professional Services

The Annex on Professional Services provides an avenue for the Parties to facilitate engagement on the supply of professional services in the region. This includes the prospect of increased dialogue between two or more interested Parties related to the recognition of professional qualifications, and encouragement to relevant bodies to negotiate arrangements for mutual recognition of professional qualifications, licensing or registration in the professional services' sectors of mutual interest. This Annex also encourages the Parties or relevant bodies to work towards the development of mutually acceptable professional standards and criteria in mutually accepted areas, which may include education, examination, experience, conduct and ethics, professional development and re-certification, scope of practice, local knowledge, and consumer protection.

Temporary Movement of Natural Persons (MNP)

MNP in Chapter 9 sets out commitments that facilitate the temporary entry and temporary stay of natural persons engaged in trade in goods, supply of services or conduct of investment. The chapter and the attached schedules set out those commitments (such as length of stay), and any conditions and limitations governing those commitments. Commitments on business visitors, intra-corporate transferees and other categories as specified in each Party's Schedule of Specific Commitments are also included.

Investment

Chapter 10 aims to create an enabling investment environment in the region. This Chapter contains provisions covering the four pillars of investments: protection, liberalisation, promotion, and facilitation. These provisions upgrade and enhance existing ASEAN Plus One FTAs and include a most-favoured-nation treatment clause, plus commitments on the prohibition of performance requirements that go beyond their multilateral obligations under the WTO Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMS) Agreement.

Intellectual Property

Chapter 11 provides a balanced and inclusive approach to the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights in the region. Aside from featuring provisions relating to harmonising the protections for the standard suite of intellectual property rights, it provides for the protection of intellectual property rights beyond the level of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), including provisions relating to technological protection measures and enforcement in the digital environment, as well as appropriate criminal procedures and penalties against unauthorised copying of a cinematographic work on a commercial scale.

Electronic Commerce

Recognising the increasing digitalisation of trade, the Parties included a chapter on Electronic Commerce (e-Commerce), which aims to promote e-Commerce among the Parties and the wider use of e-Commerce globally and enhance co-operation among the Parties. It sets out provisions that encourage the Parties to improve trade administration and processes by using electronic means.

Competition

Chapter 13 aims to promote competition in markets and enhance economic efficiency and consumer welfare. It includes obligations for the Parties to adopt or maintain competition laws and regulations that proscribe anti-competitive activities, and to establish or maintain authorities to implement its competition laws while recognising the sovereign rights of each Party to develop and enforce its own competition laws and policies, and allowing for exclusion or exemptions based on grounds of public policy or public interest.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

The Parties recognise that SMEs, including micro-enterprises, contribute significantly to economic growth, employment and innovation, and therefore seek to promote information sharing and cooperation in increasing SMEs' ability to utilise and benefit from the opportunities created by RCEP.

The member countries of RCEP.
Source: Tiger 7253 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=57964894

Economic and Technical Co-operation (ECOTECH)

ECOTECH in Chapter 15 provides a framework for realising the development dimension of RCEP. The Parties agreed that the economic and technical co-operation in the RCEP context aims to narrow the development gaps and maximise mutual benefits among the Parties.

Dispute Settlement

Chapter 19 on Dispute Settlement aims to provide effective, efficient, and transparent rules and procedures for settlement of disputes arising under RCEP. Salient features of the RCEP dispute settlement process include:

(i) choice of forum: provisions allow the Complaining Party to select the forum within which to address a dispute that concerns substantially equivalent rights and obligations under RCEP and another international trade or investment agreement to which the Parties to the dispute are party, to the exclusion of other possible fora;

(ii) consultations: provisions require a Responding Party to first enter into consultation with a Complaining Party, if requested;

(iii) good offices, conciliation, or mediation: provisions allow Parties that are party to the dispute to voluntarily undertake alternative methods to settle their disputes;

(iv) establishment of a panel: provisions allow a Complaining Party to request for the establishment of a panel to resolve a dispute in circumstances where the Responding Party does not reply to a request for consultations or does not enter into consultations within the stipulated time line, or where consultations have failed to resolve the dispute within the stipulated time line; and

(v) rights for interested third par ties: provisions enable interested third parties to participate in disputes and for their views to be taken into account during the panel process.

Final Provisions

The Final Provisions Chapter sets out the relationship between the RCEP Agreement and other international agreements, a general review mechanism, procedures to amend the Agreement, and an accession provision.

Conclusion

With the Malaysian economy recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and projecting a stronger economic growth in 2021 and beyond, RCEP will be an important platform to ride on for higher economic growth. In this context, there will likely be more engineering-related economic activities along the supply chain for the engineering fraternity.

Acknowledgement

TEEAM is deeply grateful to the Board of Engineers Malaysia for granting permission to reprint this article from their publication, THE INGENIEUR Vol 85 Jan – Mar 2021 Edition. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the esteemed Author, Mr Lim Tau Wee for sharing his valuable insights.

BNM's SME Automation and Digitalisation Facility (ADF)

SME Automation and Digitalisation Facility (ADF) is Bank Negara Malaysia (Central Bank of Malaysia - BNM's) funds for the Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The funds aim to incentivise SMEs to automate processes and digitalise operations with a view to increase productivity and efficiency.

Maximum Financing Amount
- RM3 million.

Financing Rate
- Up to 4% p.a. (inclusive of any guarantee fee).

Maximum Tenure
- Up to 10 years.

Purpose of Financing
- Purchase of equipment, machinery, computer hardware and software, IT solutions and services, technology support services, and other intangible assets to enhance productivity and efficiency. (Not for re-financing of existing financing facilities).

Eligibility criteria
Malaysian SMEs* that fulfil the following criteria:
- Registered with the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM), or Authorities/District Offices in Sabah and Sarawak, or Statutory Bodies for Professional Service Providers.
- Shareholding by Public-Listed Companies and Government-Linked Companies (if any) in the SMEs, shall not exceed 20%.
- Malaysians residing in Malaysia that hold a minimum of 51% shareholding in the business.

Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs)
- Commercial Banks.
- Islamic Banks.
- Development Financial Institutions regulated by BNM.

Availability
Until 31 December 2021 or full utilisation, whichever is earlier.

Application Procedure
Eligible SMEs are advised to contact the respective PFIs to ascertain their eligibility under the ADF. Submit your ADF application directly to the respective PFIs and approval will be subjected to the credit assessment of the PFIs.

**Based on the definition of SMEs, as approved by the National Entrepreneur and SME Development Council (NESDC).*

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TEEAM Academic Excellence Awards 2020

Our hearty congratulations to all the recipients of the prestigious TEEAM Academic Excellence Award 2020! The TEEAM Academic Excellence Award is held annually to acknowledge the achievements of TEEAM members' children and their employees' children who are in primary and secondary (middle and senior) schools. They are given due recognition for academic excellence in their 2020 public Examinations, namely, UPSR, PT3, SPM, UEC Junior Middle Level, IGCSE O-Level, STPM, UEC Senior Middle Level and Cambridge A-Level.

For the year 2020, TEEAM Academic Excellence Awards were extended to fourteen successful recipients. Each award comprised a Recognition Certificate and Cash value ranging from RM200.00 to RM1,000.00. Unfortunately, the usual Awards Ceremony could not be organised due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and also for the safety of everyone. TEEAM wishes all award recipients to keep up their stellar academic performances and to work harder to further excel in their studies. Stay safe everyone!

Awards Recipients

UPSR (RM200.00)

Chang Zhi Yan
(Conway Terminals Mfr. Sdn Bhd)
Ambition:
Pharmacist
Interest/Hobby: Travel

Lam Ei Rin
(CTCI Systems Sdn Bhd)
Ambition:
Lawyer
Interest/Hobby:
Reading, Writing & Painting

Lok Jia Quan
(Swift Automation Sdn Bhd)
Ambition:
Accountant
Interest/Hobby:
Reading

Sam Zhi Thong
(New Maluri Letrik (Sel) Sdn Bhd)
Ambition:
Designer
Interest/Hobby:
Ballet & Dancing

Woon Dongson
(Autovation Sdn Bhd)
Ambition:
Engineer
Interest/Hobby: Swimming & Read Story Books

SPM (RM800.00)

Charmaine Chin Min Ying
(Sandakan Electrical Engineering Association)
Ambition:
Lawyer
Interest/Hobby:
Reading

Lai Li Jun
(Prime Project & Engineering Services)
Ambition:
Engineer
Interest/Hobby:
Reading Novels

Lai Li Xuan
(Prime Project & Engineering Services)
Ambition:
Engineer
Interest/Hobby:
Reading Books & Travelling

Loke Guan Yan
(CPL Lighting Sdn Bhd)
Ambition:
Electronics Engineer
Interest/Hobby:
Playing Video Games

Ooi Siew Ern
(Y2K Electric (M) Sdn Bhd)
Ambition:
Financial Advisor
Interest/Hobby:
Playing Piano

IGCSE O-Level (RM800.00)

Lai Yu Er
(Cable Line Electrical & Engineering Sdn Bhd)
Ambition:
Data Scientist
Interest/Hobby:
Swimming & Designing Objects

CAMBRIDGE A-LEVEL (RM1,000.00)

Lai Xinn Hang
(Cable Line Electrical & Engineering Sdn Bhd)
Ambition:
Chiropractor
Interest/Hobby:
Basketball

Ngo Jin Ren
(SJEE Engineering Sdn Bhd)
Ambition:
Engineer
Interest/Hobby:
Engineering & Sports

STPM (RM1,000.00)

Teoh Sin Yee
(Syarikat Pembaiki Letrik Leong Hing)
Ambition:
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E-mail: sales@terasaki.com.my / ykkoh@terasaki.com.my

New Members

The following new members have been approved and accepted by the TEEAM Council from January - August 2021. A warm welcome to all the new members and special appreciation is extended to those who introduced these new members. Please join us and find out how our Association can offer our value-added services to you and your highly esteemed Companies!

Isolation Technology (M) Sdn Bhd No. 9, Jalan Taming II, Taman Perindustrian Taming Jaya, Seri Kembangan, 43300 Selangor Darul Ehsan. Tel: +603-9548 0173 Fax: +603-9543 9815 E-mail: isotechmalaysia@gmail.com Website: www.isotech.my Contact Person: Mr Adam Thong Chee Hung *Business: Manufacturer of electrical isolator & metal enclosure.*	**ISEP (M) Sdn Bhd** Lot 3, Jalan P/15, Kawasan Perindustrian MIEL FASA 4, Section 10, 43650 Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Tel: +603-8210 8685 Fax: +603-8920 8699 E-mail: norhayati@ise-p.com.my Website: www.ex.ise-p.com Contact Person: Ms Norhayati Binti Abd Ghaffar *Business: Ex specialist for system integration, design, manufacturing, assembly, wiring, testing, inspection & commissioning.*
Ancom Components Sdn Bhd No. 7, Jalan Empat Off Jalan Chan Sow Lin, 55200 Kuala Lumpur. Tel: +603-9223 0288 Fax: +603-9223 7388 E-mail: ashleyyim@ancomcomponents.com.my Website: www.ancomcomponents.com.my Contact Person: Ms Ashley Yim Suet Lai *Business: Manufacturing distribution boards, RCCD, MCB, SPD, EV chargers, DC 800V fuse box for solar and combiner boxes.*	**Penguin Industrial Supplies** No. 441, Tkt 1, Persiaran Setia 20, Setia Residen, Kampung Selamat, 32000 Sitiawan, Perak. Tel: +6010-566 5988 E-mail: js.lu@penguingroup.com.my Website: www.penguingroup.com.my Contact Person: Mr Jason Lu *Business: Industrial supply and M&E installation, service & repair works.*
Shinz Global Sdn Bhd No. 5, Jalan BPU 8, Bandar Puchong Utama, 47100 Puchong, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Tel: +603-5879 0388 Fax: +603-5879 0688 E-mail: ng.colin7770@gmail.com Contact Person: Mr Colin Ng *Business: Manufacturing emergency luminaires.*	**Centonia Industries Sdn Bhd** No. 25, Jalan Seruling 58, Taman Klang Jaya, 41200 Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Tel: +603-3324 7605 Fax: +603-3324 7608 E-mail: jfleom@centonia.com Website: www.centonia.com Contact Person: Mr Leom Jiew Fook *Business: Manufacturer of electric water heater.*
ENETOU Solutions Sdn Bhd No. 10, Jalan KP 1/8, Taman Kajang Prima, 43000 Kajang, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Tel: +603-8740 2288 Fax: +603-87403388 E-mail: ts.lim@ene2u.com Website: www.ene2u.com Contact Person: Mr Lim Tze Sheng *Business: Electrical and industrial supplies.*	**Mass Intelligent Provider Sdn Bhd** No. 22, Jalan MJ 15, Lake 6 Enterpreneurs Park, Taman Perindustrian Meranti Jaya, 47120 Puchong, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Tel: +603-8060 1322 Fax: +603-8069 1722 E-mail: yenling@mymip.com.my Website: www.mymip.com.my Contact Person: Ms Tan Yen Ling *Business: System integrated provider and trading in all kind of security system.*
Showertec Industries Sdn Bhd No. 27, Jalan Seruling 58, Taman Klang Jaya, 41200 Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Tel: +603-3326 2186 Fax: +603-3326 2187 E-mail: wschoo@showertec.my Website: www.showertec.my Contact Person: Mr Choo Wei Seng *Business: Manufacturer of electric water heater.*	**ALB Supply & Services (M) Sdn Bhd** Lot 2297, 2nd Floor, Jalan Datuk Muip, Bulatan Commercial Centre, 98000 Miri, Sarawak. Tel: +608-564 772 Fax: +608-564 773 Email: info@albgroup.com.my Website: www.albgroup.com.my Contact Person: Mr Anthony Bala *Business: Supply of M&E, instrumentation & telecommunication products & services - lightning protection system, explosive proof CCTV system, industrial enclosures & cabinets, etc.*
Cybernet Systems Malaysia Sdn Bhd SO-32-3A, Menara 1, KL Eco City, Jalan Bangsar, 59200 Kuala Lumpur. Tel: +603-2201 1221 Email: information@cybernet.asia Website: https://my.cybernet.asia/ Contact Person: Mr Ng Jim Pong *Business: Distribution of engineering CAE & IT solutions and consultancy services.*	**PME Power Engineering Sdn Bhd** No. 10-1, Jalan 10/5B, Sutera Square, Sutera Damansara, 47830 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Tel & Fax: +603-6148 9225 Email: puanglw@pmepowereng.com Contact Person: Mr Puang Loon Wong *Business: Electrical contractor.*


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Tel: (603) 6142 8177
Fax: (603) 6141 8177
Website: www.arcpower.com.my

State Associations News

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: pes233sabah@gmail.
Wedsite: www.pes-sabah.org

PES's Courtesy Visit to the State Ministry of Works, Sabah

A delegation from the Sabah Electrical Association (PES) paid a courtesy visit to the State Minister of Works of Sabah, the Honourable (Yang Berhormat) Dato' Sri Bung Mokhtar Radin on 10 March 2021, at his office in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

The courtesy visit was led by PES President, Mr Leslie Jong. His delegation members comprised the Vice President, Mr Aldrin Wong; and Committee Members, Mr Clarence Chong, Mr Shah Freed and Mr Ahmad Azuwaniza.

The courtesy visit aimed to foster a better working relationship between the Ministry of Works (KKR) Sabah and PES, especially in the Electrical, Technical and Mechanical infrastructure-related expertise.

PES also took the opportunity to put forward some arising issues faced by electrical contractors upon implementing some electrical projects. Both parties also discussed a possible plan of strategic collaboration to help achieve the noble objectives of the Government Development Programmes.

The meeting ended with an exchange of souvenirs and a group photography session.

Souvenirs Exchange to mark the end of a fruitful courtesy visit.

Other State Association Members' contacts:

Electrical Association of Sarawak & Sabah

No. 2A/F, 2nd Floor, Hardin Road, 96000 Sibu, Sarawak.
Tel: +6084-319 949   Fax: +6084-325 112, 346 114
E-mail: sibuccci@gmail.com

Johor Bahru Electrical & Electronics Association

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Tel: +607 - 333 8174   Fax: +607 - 224 1923
E-mail: info@jbeea.com.my
Website: www.jbeea.com.my

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,
Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus.
Tel: +606-647 1105   Fax: +606-647 4728

Penang Electrical Merchants' Association

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

Persatuan Kekompetenan Penjaga Jentera & Pendawai Elektrik Perak (PKPPE)

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Email: pkppe.2001@gmail.com

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Sarawak Electrical Association

Lot 412, (2nd Floor), Lorong 11D,
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Tel: +6082 - 346 188   Fax: +6082 - 345 118
E-mail: sea.kchsarawak@gmail.com

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: multipower99@gmail.com / peaipoh@gmail.com

BMW Group Corporate Fleet Discount for TEEAM Members

We are pleased to announce that TEEAM has signed up for the BMW Group Corporate Programme 2021/2023 – Fleet Discount, for the benefit of TEEAM Ordinary Company and Individual Members. The programme is designed to enhance TEEAM members' benefits when purchasing one unit of new BMW or new MINI car from BMW/MINI authorised dealers within a period of 24 months, starting from the invoice date of the first new BMW or MINI car to be purchased in 2021.

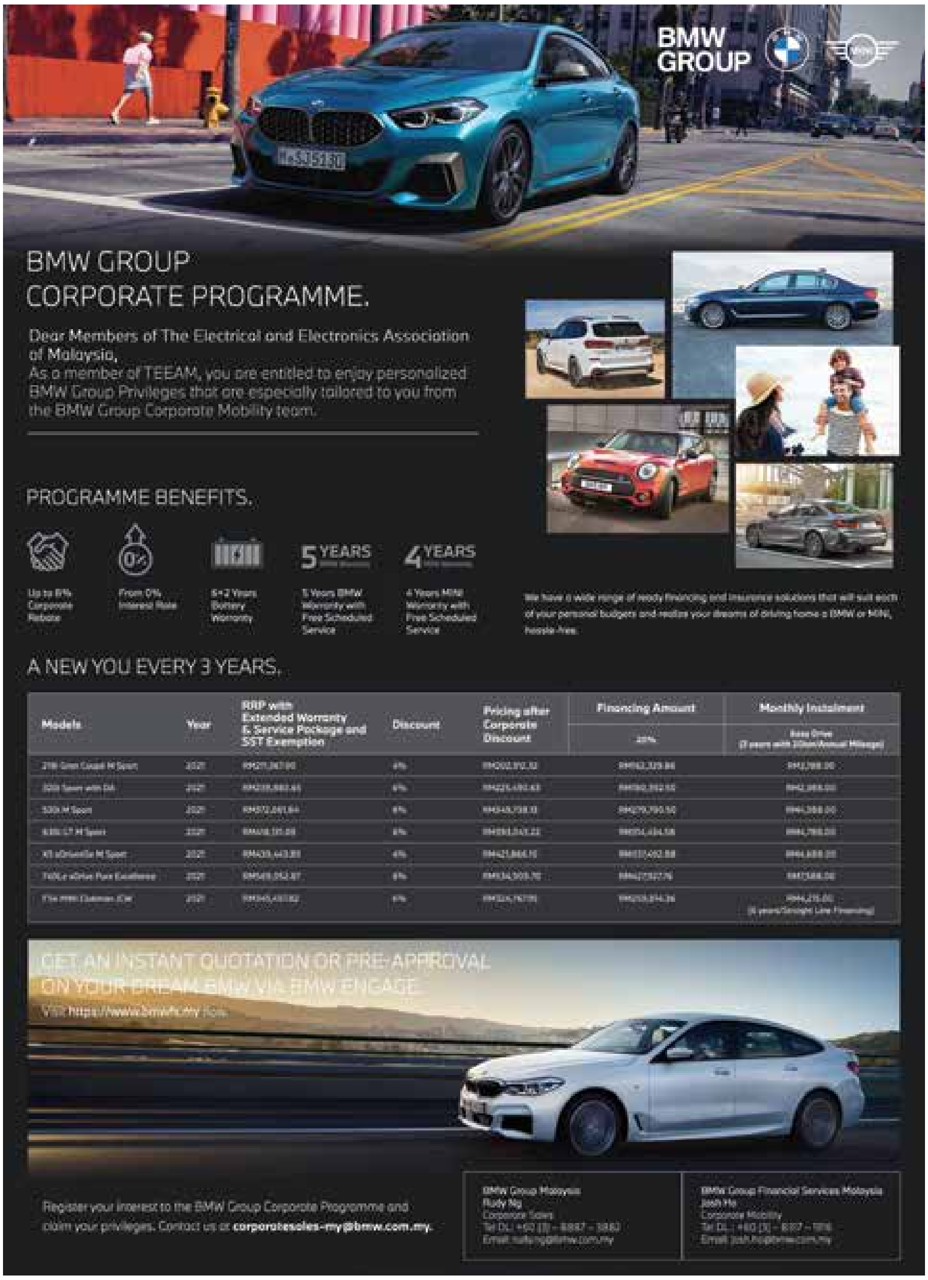
BMW & MINI Fleet Discount Structure*:-

Purchased Units/ Models	Fleet Discount Recommended Retail Price Off The Road
1 – 4 units	6%
5 units & above	7%
BMW Completely-Built-Up (CBU) Models, M340i xDrive, MINI 3-Door, 5-Door, & Countryman Pure	Fleet discount is not applicable for these models

** New model launch within the licence period is subject to BMW Malaysia Sdn Bhd's approval to be included in the fleet discount structure.*

The fleet discount is eligible to Ordinary Company Members (Directors/Owners) and Individual Members, as well as their Spouses, with a minimum of six (6) months membership prior to purchasing the new BMW/MINI. The car can also be registered under the Company. TEEAM will validate the membership and issue a confirmation letter to the authorised dealer.

For enquiries on terms & conditions of purchase and membership confirmation letter, please e-mail to TEEAM at: teeam52@gmail.com



Personalised BMW Group Privileges tailored for TEEAM members.

MPC's Productivity Report 2021

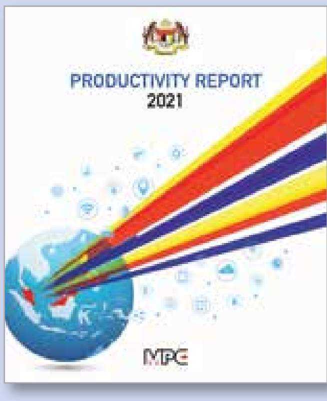
The Productivity Report 2021 is published by the Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC), an agency under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), which is mandated to facilitate productivity growth of the nation across various sectors – both in the public and private establishments. The focus of this Productivity Report 2021 is on the near future and beyond, and on the steps to be taken collaboratively by various parties to rise from the impacts of the pandemic, after productivity had drastically contracted by 5.5% in 2020.

The Report assesses the current state of productivity from various angles, identifies the tribulations within the economic sphere, and proposes solutions to manage them.

It is hoped that the successful implementation of the recommendations may boost Malaysia's economic revival.

Alongside the recommendations from this Report, is a mobilisation of the Government's resources in various stimulus packages, towards the end goal of heightened economic growth. The on-going nationwide vaccination is a crucial catalyst towards this goal too, and efficient execution of the plan is expected to further accelerate the pace of Malaysia's economic recovery. This is not the only list, but the Report provides what it takes to be done in concerted efforts to move from lockdown to rebound. A concerted effort by all parties, namely, the public and private sectors, individuals and enterprises, young and old, are all needed to rise above the challenges and to successfully bring Malaysia to new heights of excellence.

Source: Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC)
MPC's Productivity Report 2021 can be downloaded from MPC's website at www.mpc.gov.my.



National Policy on Good Regulatory Practice (NPGRP)

Boosting Productivity Through Quality Regulation

July 2021

1. Introduction

The launching of the National Policy on the Development and Implementation of Regulations (NPDIR) in 2013 was an important milestone in Malaysia's regulatory reform journey. The NPDIR's key goal was to improve regulatory quality so as to eliminate or minimise the impact of less friendly regulations towards businesses. The NPDIR formalised the development processes of quality regulations and emphasises on the use of the Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) for informed rule-making decisions.

As Malaysia seeks to sustain the dynamism of its economy and to re-calibrate its strategy towards transforming into a developed country, there is a greater need to strengthen public sector delivery so as to ensure that the milestones towards this goal are achieved effectively and efficiently as well as being guided by good governance principles. Governmental intervention in the economy, even though necessary, must be done judiciously in order to avoid stifling economic dynamism.

Burdensome and ineffective regulations must be avoided and existing regulations must be reviewed to ensure they remain relevant and effective in an increasingly competitive global economy. Rapid technological changes are disrupting businesses in unprecedented ways. Traditional business models governed by existing rules and regulations are facing competition from new businesses which take advantage of opportunities offered by new disruptive technologies. Rules and regulations have to be in synchronisation with marketplace dynamics so as not to adversely affect business competitiveness.

It is imperative that Regulators recognise the impact of the regulatory ecosystem on business environment. A more comprehensive regulatory reform approach is needed to give equal emphasis on promoting the entrepreneurial spirit, encouraging orderly transformation and protecting the welfare of the community. Towards this end, the reformation must address the quality of both new and existing regulations. A new National Policy on Good Regulatory Practice (NPGRP), benchmarked against international practices, is introduced.

A nation's regulatory ecosystem is a vital catalyst in building a progressive, participative and dynamic economy. Towards this end, and following through on the initiatives and advances made under the NPDIR, the new NPGRP subscribes to the following principles in its rule-making process:

1) Governmental Intervention is necessary and justifiable;

2) Accountability;

3) Transparency, Accessibility and Effective Stakeholders' Consultation;

4) Benefits Outweigh Costs; and

5) Proportionality.

The Government requires its regulatory agencies to adopt and implement good regulatory practices by:

i) Embracing the NPGRP and the underlying principles of Good Regulatory Practice;
ii) Ensuring a ready capacity to undertake the responsibility of delivering a high-quality regulatory environment; and
iii) Establishing systems and procedures to ensure regulatory quality.

2. National Policy on Good Regulatory Practice

2.1 Policy Objectives

The objective of the National Policy on Good Regulatory Practice (NPGRP) is to promote an effective, efficient and accountable regulatory system and a rule-making process that support efforts to realise the nation's economic development goals.

2.2 Scope

NPGRP applies to all regulatory activities affecting economic, social and the environment domains. The preparation of the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) is not required for:

- Regulations that are implemented for reasons of national security and sovereignty;
- Regulations relating to criminal law, such as the Penal Code; and
- Administrative circulars that are intended for public service administration.

NPGRP is not intended to apply to formulation of policy documents (plans and blueprints) which set out broad goals, objectives and strategies. Where specific regulatory measures are envisaged in these documents, RIS should be prepared at the time when these measures are being considered for implementation. Nonetheless, NPGRP contains tools which policy makers may find useful and appropriate at policy formulation as well. In addition, the Regulators may proceed to implement regulations without RIS in exceptional circumstances when dealing with urgent matters which require immediate action. In such cases, the Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) must be informed by the Regulators and be provided with reasons for the decision. A post-implementation review is however required for all such regulations.

2.3 Principles of Good Regulatory Practice

1) Government Intervention is Necessary and Justifiable

Governmental intervention in the economy should be based on clear evidence that such action is necessary and justifiable. Implementing regulations should not be the default option as non-regulatory options should be considered first. Regulators should avoid imposing unnecessary regulatory burden which may stifle economic activities.

2) Accountability

Regulators must be answerable/responsible for their decisions which should be able to withstand public scrutiny. Regulators must also ensure regulatory actions are backed by legal provisions and inter-agency co-ordination to avoid conflict of policies.

3) Transparency, Accessibility and Effective Stakeholders' Consultation

Transparency is of utmost importance for a credible regulatory process. Regulator has to disclose information on the regulatory process, issues, decisions and their bases unless there is justification for non-disclosure. Regulator must ensure that parties which will be directly or indirectly affected by any proposed regulatory action are duly informed and their views are sought after and considered. Affected parties should have access to the regulations affecting them.

4) Benefits Outweigh Costs

Ex-ante assessment of costs, benefits and risks is an essential component of regulatory analysis. The costs and benefits to all affected parties must be taken into account. Such analysis should be based on quantitative data whenever possible and qualitative analysis is to be used when necessary. A regulation should be imposed only when it can be shown to offer a net benefit to the community as a whole and that any adverse impact is minimised.

5) Proportionality

Proportionality ensures that the Regulators' actions do not 'over-reach' or unnecessarily extend beyond addressing the specific problem(s). The scope or nature of governmental action should be commensurate with the magnitude of the problem, its impacts, and the level of risk involved. The principle of proportionality is applicable to the analysis, design and implementation of regulations including the use of appropriate risk assessment and management approaches.

2.4 Implementation

2.4.1 National Development Planning Committee (NDPC)

For monitoring purposes, MPC will undertake assessment on the effectiveness of the implementation of the policy and report to NDPC.

2.4.2 Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC)

MPC will be responsible to promote and support the implementation of the NPGRP which includes undertaking outreach and promotion, and providing advisory and training to assist Regulators in complying with the national policy. In performing this function, MPC will:

i) Develop guidelines and programmes for the implementation of national policy;
ii) Examine the adequacy of Regulatory Impact Statements (RIS) and provide appropriate recommendations;
iii) Provide guidance and assistance to regulators on RIA and RIS preparations;
iv) Conduct periodic reviews of the progress made and to submit reports to Government; and
v) Promote the transparency in RIS.

2.4.3 National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN)

INTAN, the nation's premier public sector training institute, will assist in providing training on NPGRP.

2.4.4 Regulators

Regulators consists of Government agencies such as Ministries, Departments, Statutory Bodies, Regulatory Commissions, etc., that are responsible for developing, maintaining and enforcing regulatory programmes. Regulators are to adhere to the NPGRP and comply with the requirements of the Regulatory Process Management System (RPMS).

Regulators are responsible to appoint Regulatory Co-ordinators to facilitate the implementation of Good Regulatory Practices (GRP) in their respective agencies.

2.4.5 Stakeholders

Stakeholders consist of members of the public who are affected either directly or indirectly by, or have interest in, a proposed new regulation or any amendment to existing regulations. They may include groups such as business entities, employees, consumer rights groups, special interest groups, professional organisations and individuals.

2.4.6 Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC)

In the context of NPGRP, the AGC is responsible to advise the Cabinet or any Minister upon such legal matters, and to perform such other duties of a legal character, as may from time to time be referred or assigned by the Cabinet, and to discharge the functions conferred by or under the Constitution or any other written law.

2.5 Periodic Review of NPGRP

MPC shall initiate and conduct a review of the NPGRP five (5) years after its implementation or earlier if the need arises. The policy review should be undertaken with active participation from stakeholders. The review will take into account, amongst other factors, the successes achieved, constraints encountered, changes in the national priorities and in the international business environment, as well as the impact of any other national policies that are related to the NPGRP.

3. Regulatory Process Management System (RPMS)

3.1 Application

All Federal Government Regulators are required to adopt the RPMS for regulations that are related to economic, social and the environment domains. This requirement does not apply to matters concerning national security and sovereignty. In addition, State Governments and Local Authorities are also encouraged to adopt RPMS in their operations.

3.2 Definition of Regulation

Regulations are measures of general application in various forms that are undertaken by Regulators at various levels for which compliance is mandatory. Regulations include primary and subsidiary legislations. Primary legislations include Acts of Parliament, Enactments and Ordinances. Subsidiary legislations include Regulations, Rules, By-laws, Orders and Guidelines. Regulations are used by Governments as an instrument, in combination with other instruments, to achieve public policy objectives. Regulations set out principles, rules, and conditions that govern the behaviour of citizens, businesses, and organisations towards achieving the desired public policy objectives.

3.3 Requirements

3.3.1 General Responsibility

In adopting and meeting the requirements of the RPMS as set out in this section, Regulators should be pro-active and collaborative in order to achieve policy coherence and the whole-of-government approach. The Regulators' responsibilities include:

i) To appoint Regulatory Co-ordinators (RCs) to champion the implementation of NPGRP and to liaise with MPC (Terms of reference of RCs are as set out in Annex 1);
ii) To ensure that the development of regulations is in compliance with the requirements of the RPMS;
iii) To monitor, review and improve on the existing regulatory system; and
iv) To maintain a system to document RPMS compliance for each regulation introduced or amended.

3.4 Regulatory Process

Under the RPMS, the formulation of new regulations or review of regulations must observe the procedure set out below:

i) Digital Regulatory Notification (DRN) Assessment: Regulators must first notify MPC through DRN on any proposals to create or amend regulations (Refer to Annex 2: DRN Assessment);
ii) Initial Assessment: If RIS is required (this process is defined in Annex 3 - Initial and Final Assessment Process), Regulators need to provide first 4 elements which covers problem statement, objectives, listing of options and preferred method for impact analysis. MPC's initial assessment note will be issued after reviewing the first 4 elements; and
iii) Final Assessment: Regulators provide RIS covering all 7 elements. MPC's final assessment note will be issued after reviewing the 7 elements of RIS.

Guidance for implementing the RPMS and for the preparation of RIS is provided in the GRP Handbook published by MPC.

3.5 Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA)

Regulators proposing new regulations or amendments to regulations must undertake RIA. The purpose of RIA is to improve the quality of regulations through a robust and thorough analysis of regulatory proposals. RIA is intended to provide assurance that problems are

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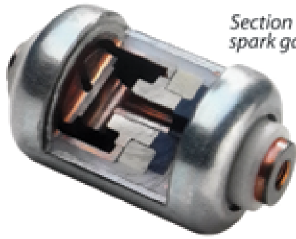

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adequately identified and addressed through regulatory or non-regulatory measures and ensure that specific policy solutions have been drafted to enhance public interest.

RIA involves the following elements:

3.5.1 Problem Identification

Regulators must clearly establish the issue or the problem that the regulators seek to address, evidence that a problem has arisen, the magnitude of the problem and why governmental intervention is required. Where public risks, such as public health and safety, and environment protection are involved, the Regulators must ensure that the risks are significant enough to justify Government intervention.

This process is applicable to regulations and other legally-binding instruments which are issued by Regulators.

3.5.2 Objectives

The intended objectives of the proposal to address the problem must be identified, described, analysed and documented clearly and concisely. Intended objectives refer to the outcomes, goals or targets sought after.

3.5.3 Instrument Options

Instrument options refer to a range of feasible solutions (regulatory, non-regulatory or any other alternative mechanisms) that must be identified to ensure that the decision-maker is presented with alternatives to choose from to address the identified problem.

3.5.4 Impact Analysis

An assessment of the possible impact of the options (cost, benefits and, where relevant, level of risks) on consumers, businesses, the Government and the community must be carried out. It must be demonstrated that the benefits are greater than the costs and all efforts will have been undertaken to minimise costs.

The impact of additional regulatory burden on small businesses, in particular, must be considered, and the least burdensome yet effective alternative should be chosen.

3.5.5 Consultation

Regulator proposing new regulations or amendments must carry out timely and thorough consultations with the affected parties. Stakeholders must be given a minimum period of 30 days to provide feedback. The consultation initiative should be proportionate to the significance of the impact of the proposed regulations or amendments and should begin as early as possible. Other Regulators having an interest in the matter must also be consulted. Wherever possible, regulators must adopt online consultation to promote transparency, inclusiveness and expediency. Regulators should publish a consultation report providing a summary of the consultations held and their outcomes.

3.5.6 Conclusion and Recommendation

The RIS must provide a recommendation on the preferred option with accompanying reasons. The recommendation should demonstrate that the preferred option will give the greatest net benefit for the community, taking into account the impact on all parties.

3.5.7 Strategy for Implementation

The implementation strategy should include plans on communications, enforcement, monitoring and evaluation. The inclusion of these plans will ensure that decision-makers are fully informed of the implementation and resource requirements.

3.6 Behavioural Insights (BI)

Behavioural Insights (BI) derives from the behavioural and social sciences, including decision-making, psychology, cognitive science and social science which has been tested empirically to discover how humans actually make choices. Behavioural insights can be used as a tool to support the development, evaluation and iteration of policy options. As a starting point, it is important to understand the drivers of the behaviour the Regulator/policy-maker hopes to change, particularly when the regulation is aimed at individuals.

3.7 Ex-post Evaluation

All regulations must be subject to regulatory review once every five (5) years. The objective of the review is to determine whether a regulation has achieved its purpose or whether it remains relevant. Regulators may seek the assistance of MPC through its Reducing Unnecessary Regulatory Burden (RURB) to undertake such reviews.

3.8 International Obligations and International Standards and Practices

Regulators must ensure that domestic regulations have taken into account Malaysia's obligations arising from its commitments under international treaties and agreements. Wherever possible, regulatory measures or standards should be compatible with relevant international or internationally-accepted standards or practices.

3.9 Risk Assessment

An integral part of the RIA is determining the nature and the level of risks involved, and the necessary action to reduce or eliminate risks. Risk refers to potential harmful or hazardous impact, particularly pertaining to health, safety and the environment. Risk assessment is also applied to economic and financial policy initiatives. More accurate policy intervention can be determined by comparing the status quo risk with the risk after governmental intervention.

3.10 Business Compliance

Cost Compliance costs are costs borne by regulated businesses when undertaking actions to comply with regulatory requirements such as costs of administrative burden and enforcement costs. The Standard Cost Model (SCM) is a widely-used framework to measure compliance costs and to quantify administrative burdens for businesses. Analysis of business compliance costs is particularly pertinent when undertaking ex-post review of regulations.

3.11 Competition Consideration

If the regulatory proposal is likely to restrict competition, the RIA must demonstrate that the benefits of the restriction outweigh the costs and there is absence of alternative means of achieving the same objective. Regulators should consult with the Malaysia Competition Commission (MyCC) on the possible impact of the proposed regulation on competition.

3.12 Post Implementation Review (PIR)

Post-Implementation Review is required when a regulation has been introduced or significantly amended or repealed without a RIS. The PIR must be completed within two (2) years from the implementation of the regulation.

3.13 Publication of Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS)

An RIS is to be published on the GRP Portal as soon as practicable from the date of the official announcement of the decision to proceed with the development of a proposed regulation or a proposed regulatory amendment. The regulator will consult with MPC prior to the publication.

3.14 Record and Documentation

Regulators must document their regulatory policy analysis and processes. The documentation should include, but not limited to, a description of the problem, alternative solutions, risks involved, reasons for regulating, consultation methods, consultation outcomes, cost-benefit analysis and the conclusion and recommended option(s). A comprehensive set of these documents must be retained to be the reference in the 5-year review process.

3.15 Communication

Regulators creating new regulations or amending regulations must inform stakeholders about the proposal in simple, clear and concise language that even the general public can easily understand. New regulations and amendments as well as the material incorporated by reference must be publicised and made easily accessible to affected parties. The RIS should include a communications plan for implementation.

3.16 Competency

Regulators must ensure their personnel are competent to implement the RPMS.

Annex 1

Terms of Reference Regulatory for Co-ordinators

1. Introduction

The National Policy on Good Regulatory Practice (NPGRP) requires that every Ministry and Regulator should appoint a senior officer as their Regulatory Co-ordinator and notify the appointment to MPC. The NPGRP requires that systems and processes have to be put in place to implement the Regulatory Process Management System (RPMS). It is the responsibility of each regulator to develop and maintain a Regulatory Management System as defined in the NPDIR guidelines.

2. Duties and Roles

The Regulatory Co-ordinator acts as the focal point for his Ministry or Regulator in connection with the development and implementation of regulations, and facilitates the implementation of NPGRP in the related Ministry or Agency. The Regulatory Co-ordinator also acts as the main contact point for communication with MPC.

The Regulatory Co-ordinator is responsible for:

a) Facilitating the implementation of regulatory policies in his Ministry/Agency by:

- Serving as the champion to raise awareness of the importance of quality Regulatory Management Systems;
- Sharing and promoting best practices on Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA);
- Ensuring good co-ordination across Ministries and regulators;
- Identifying training and advisory services, seeking feedback on regulatory changes and recommending follow-up action;
- Disseminating guidance and information on the requirements under the national policy; and
- Providing information and guidance to officials in the Ministry/Agency on matters relating to NPGRP and good regulatory practices.

b) Monitoring and Governance by:

- Notifying MPC of all proposals for the development of or amendment to regulations;
- Ensuring the quality of Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs) and Regulatory Impact Statements (RISs);
- Identifying areas for improvement in the Regulatory Management System and reporting to the senior management; and
- Representing the Ministry/Agency on proposals to strengthen the Regulatory Management System.

3. Annual Reporting to MPC on:

- A review of a schedule of regulatory changes and amendments;
- A report on the fulfilment and compliance with the requirements of NPGRP; and
- A list of the regulations and amendments implemented in the previous year.

Annex 2

Digital Regulatory Notification (DRN) Assessment Process

1. Regulator fills up Digital Regulatory Notification (DRN)

2. System generates Regulatory Notification feedback

RIA is required → 3(a). Full RIA or Light RIA

RIA is not required → 3(b). Public Consultation

Annex 3

Initial and Final RIS Assessment Process

1. Initial Assessment: Regulator submits RIS that consists of first 4 elements (Problem statement, objectives, listing of options and preferred method for impact analysis)

2. MPC assesses the first 4 elements, then provides and submits initial assessment note together with cover letter

3. Final Assessment: Regulators

4. MPC assesses the adequacy of all the 7 elements, then provides final assessment note together with cover letter

Acknowledgement

This document is published by the Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC). A full version can be downloaded from https://www.mpc.gov.my/npgrp/

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Soft Financing Scheme for Digital & Technology (SFDT) by MIDF

The Malaysian Industrial Development Finance Berhad (MIDF), an agency of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), is assisting industries (in all sectors) in adopting digitalisation and technology. MIDF has established the Soft Financing Scheme for Digital & Technology (SFDT), primarily to encourage and increase the utilisation of digital technologies among local SMEs as a means to escalate competitiveness, efficiency and marketability.

Objectives

- To accelerate local SMEs in the adoption of e-Commerce.
- To increase marketability of the local SMEs' products into the national and global markets.
- To encourage and increase utilisation of digital technologies among local SMEs as a means to escalate competitiveness, efficiency and marketability.

Eligibility

- SMEs incorporated under the Companies Act 1965/2016 or Registration of Business Ordinance 1956.
- At least 60% equity held by Malaysians.
- Company must be currently active in business and in operation for at least 6 months.
- Possess a valid business licence issued by the local authority (local PBT).

Sectors & Financing Amount

- All sectors.
- Minimum RM30,000.
- Maximum RM1 million.

Items Eligible for Financing

- IT Hardware & Software/Motor Vehicle/Machinery/Equipment.
- Working Capital Term Financing for
  a) Operational Expenses of up to 6 month's costs.
  b) Product Listing in e-Commerce Market Place or into Retail Hypermarket.
  c) Advertising & Promotional expenses of up to 1 year costs.
  d) Certification/Licensing costs.
- Purchase/Sales Revolving Credit Facility for the purchase of raw materials and stock.
- Contract Financing *(Eligible for financing Purchases/Receivables from Ministries/Government Agencies/Government-Linked Companies (GLCs) related to the Digital Economy platform).*

Percentage Financing

- Up to 90% of the total costs (as per eligible items) including legal fees related to MIDF's financing.

Repayment

- IT Hardware & Software/Motor Vehicle/Machinery/Equipment:
  Up to 5 years (including a grace period of up to 1 year).
- Working Capital Term Financing:
  Up to 5 years (including a grace period of up to 6 months).
- Purchase Revolving Credit/Sales Revolving Credit Facility for the purchase of raw materials and stock:
  Up to 150 days for each drawdown including an option to roll-over for a period not exceeding 60 days for eligible borrowers.
- Contract Financing:
  a) Pre-financing of up to 180 days for each drawdown.
  b) Post-financing (Factoring) of up to 120 days for each drawdown.

Interest/Profit Rate

- As low as 4% per annum on yearly rest.

SMEs who are keen to explore SFDT and wish to grow your business/businesses, please e-mail to GrowYourBusiness@midf.com.my or speak to the MIDF Business Advisory Consultant at 1-300-88-6433.

Reimbursement of Vaccination and/or PPV Cost by HRD Corp

As announced by the Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp) through the Corporation's Employers' Circular No. 7/2021, Ref No (20) PSMB/20/8 Kulit 8 dated 30 July 2021, Employers registered with HRD Corp are allowed to claim COVID-19 Vaccination and/or PPV Cost from their Human Resources Development Levy Contribution.

Request for Reimbursement

1) Employers may request for reimbursement of the vaccination and/or PPV cost that they have incurred, on or after 29 June 2021, subject to the Employers' eligibility.
2) Employers may submit the claim to HRD Corp starting from 15 August 2021. All claims must be submitted within three (3) months from the date of the second dose completed.
3) Employers are to authorise HRD Corp to deduct the cost of vaccination and/or PPV from their levy.
4) The reimbursement amount is subjected to four percent (4%) Service Fee on the total amount approved. The approved Claim amount will be reimbursed to the Employers, and the Service Fee will be deducted as an additional amount from the levy.
5) Employers are required to submit the following documents during their claim submission:
   a) Invoice and payment receipt/proof of payment of the vaccination.
   b) HRD Corp Claim Form which is duly signed by the authorised signatory (Manager and above) with company rubber stamp.
   c) HRD Corp may request for additional documents for verification and/or confirmation purposes, if required.

Vaccination under PROTEK

HRD Corp has implemented the "Program Vaksinasi Tenaga Kerja Nasional "(PROTEK), an initiative to encourage registered Employers to vaccinate all of their employees. The cost of vaccination is RM125 per employee, for two (2) doses. Employers can authorise HRD Corp to deduct the cost of vaccination from their levy, based on their eligibility. Employers can register their interest for vaccination at https://protek.hrdcorp.gov.my. More details and information can also be obtained from the HRD Corp website at https://hrdcorp.gov.my/protek/.

For further clarification and assistance, kindly contact the HRD Corp Call Centre at Tel: 603 - 8602 9280, or E-mail to proteksupport@hrdcorp.gov.my

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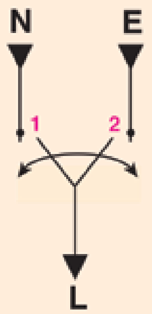
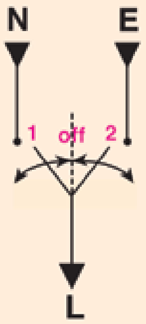
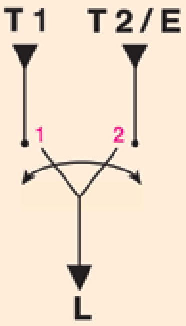
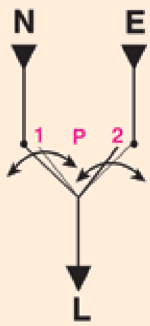
ATS 2 pole, 3 pole, and 4 pole	 Open Transition Without "OFF" position	 Open Transition With or Without "OFF" position	 HIGH SPEED Open Transition With "Sync Check" feature	 Close Transition With "Sync check" feature
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