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## PRESS RELEASE

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### “Announcement of the 44 Selected SMEs under the EU-Malaysia Biomass Entrepreneurs Nurturing Programme (EUM-BENP)”

**KUALA LUMPUR** - On Tuesday, 19 April 2011, **EU-Malaysia Biomass Sustainable Production Initiative (Biomass-SP)**, a development cooperation project funded by the **European Union (EU)** under the **SWITCH-Asia** programme, announced the 44 selected SMEs under the **EU-Malaysia Biomass Entrepreneurs Nurturing Programme (EUM-BENP)**, a special initiative to develop the environmental and business performance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the biomass industry in Malaysia.

**H.E Vincent Piket**, *the Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Malaysia*, announced the selected 44 SMEs at the launching ceremony held in PNB Darby Park, Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

According to **Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Ahmad Zaharudin Idrus**, *Biomass-SP Chairman*, following the road show seminars held in 7 states last year, Biomass-SP received a total of 126 applications from SMEs to participate in the EUM-BENP, of which only 44 companies were selected. They include award-winning biotechnology and new green products companies, producers of biomass solid fuel and biomass energy project developers, established manufacturers in the pulp and paper industry, biocomposite and eco-products, as well as high potential start-up companies and commercialisation entrepreneurs.

In the next three years (2011-2013), the selected SMEs will receive complimentary environmental and business coaching in selected areas relevant to biomass supply and utilisation activities. They include:

- Assistance in grant/soft loans applications with government or funding agencies
- Facilitation of business partnership with investors, venture capitalist, technology providers, etc.
- Commercialisation of high potential biomass-related technologies from research institutions and universities (RIUs).
- Coaching in EU green procurement standards and market opportunities
- Implementation of ISO 14001 Environmental Management System (EMS)
- Eco-labeling certification and carbon footprint measurement for selected green products
- Facilitation of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and renewable energy (RE) development projects

The launching of EUM-BENP yesterday also kick-started a series of nine Capacity Building Programmes (CBPs) which will be organised by Biomass-SP throughout 2011/12 on subjects relevant to biomass commercialisation i.e.

- Government grant/soft loans application opportunities
- Biomass technology for uptaking by SMEs

- Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
- Best practices in carbon footprinting and eco-labeling
- Success stories of biomass conversion / sustainable consumption and production (SCP) activities
- Economic benchmarking of biomass and biomass products,
- EU market access opportunities for biomass products in/green procurement opportunities
- Policy intervention via economic instruments for enhancement of local biomass industry
- Pelleting/briquetting technologies and market opportunities.

Two CBPs are being held consecutively from 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2011. The 1<sup>st</sup> CBP covers “Biomass and Green Technology Financing Opportunities by Government Agencies and Financial Institutions”, where it highlights possible avenues for access to government grants, green project financing, and funding cooperation between SMEs, government agencies and financial institutions.

Among notable speakers presenting at the 1<sup>st</sup> CBP are Mr. Razwin Sulairee Hasnan Termizi, *Senior Vice President, Business Development & Investment – Industrial*, Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation (BiotechCorp), Mr. Amin Abdullah, *Director, Business Advisory & Support*, SME Corporation Malaysia (SME Corp), Mr. Fazlur Rahman Ebrahim, *Director & Principal Officer*, Syarikat Jaminan Pembiayaan Perniagaan Berhad (SJPP), Mr. Ahmad Zairin Ismail, *Senior Vice President – Energy*, Malaysian Green Technology Corporation (GreenTech Malaysia), Mr. Jamaludin Bujang, *Director – Investment*, Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC), and Mr. Rashidah Shah Abdul Rahim, *Director*, Malaysian Life Sciences Capital Fund (MLSCF).

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> CBP, “Biomass Technologies for Uptaking by Research Institutions and Universities”, researchers from the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN), Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), and Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) will conduct information sessions aimed at disseminating latest updates on R&D projects and technologies with potentials for commercialisation.

In parallel to such coaching and training programmes, the selected SMEs will also have the opportunities to gain network access to explore various kinds of partnerships such as export-import, joint venture, technology collaboration, financial collaboration, etc. with EU companies in business matching facilities provided throughout the programme.

The project is timely with the Malaysian Government’s continuous effort to encourage more uptake on projects utilising green technology and renewable resources. The Renewable Energy Act 2010 will allocate a large quota for renewable energy resources from biomass under the feed-in-tariff (FiT) system. By 2015, biomass is expected to contribute towards 33.5% of all RE sources. Meanwhile, the Green Technology Financing Scheme is expected to spur the utilization of green technology among SMEs in Malaysia.

Biomass-SP is jointly promoted by the **Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT)**, the **Association of Environmental Consultants and Companies of Malaysia (AECCOM)**, the **European Biomass Industry Association (EUBIA)**, and **Danish Technological Institute (DTI)**.

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