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European Biomass
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of Malaysia**PRESS RELEASE****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:****1 October 2010****“Launching of the EU-Malaysia Biomass Entrepreneurs Nurturing Programme: an EU initiative to develop SMEs in the biomass industry”**

KUALA LUMPUR - On Thursday, September 30, **Sustainable Production of the Biomass Industries in Malaysia (Biomass-SP): Optimising Economic Potential and Moving towards Higher Value Chain**, a non-profit project funded by the **European Union (EU)** under the **SWITCH-Asia** programme, launched a special initiative for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the biomass industry in Malaysia.

Biomass-SP Chairman, Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Ahmad Zaharudin Idrus revealed the initiative at the Biomass-SP Awareness Roadshow Seminar held in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, graced by **H.E. Vincent Piket**, the *Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Malaysia*.

Under the SWITCH-Asia initiative, EU had granted Biomass-SP €1.8 million to assist Malaysian SMEs in the biomass industry to implement sustainable production models to achieve economic growth as well as reduce industrial pollution. The project will run from 2010 through 2013 by way of promotional road tours, capacity building programmes for technical and business development, multi-stakeholder forum and consultation sessions, as well as international business partnering conference

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)**. The project is also supported by the **Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI)** and the **Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water (KeTTHA)**.

The initiative, **EU-Malaysia Biomass Entrepreneurs Nurturing Programme (EUM-BENP)**, provides complimentary coaching services to 50 selected biomass SMEs who are involved in the biomass supply chain i.e. the oil palm industry, wood and fibre-based products manufacturing, eco-products manufacturing, pulp and paper industry, solid waste management solutions/service providers, renewable energy (RE) entrepreneurs, traders and suppliers of biomass, technology licensors and licensees for biomass, environmental engineers, commercialisation entrepreneurs, etc.

Following a competitive call for expression of interest from biomass SMEs from all over Malaysia, 50 SMEs will be selected based on several criteria such as company competency and business track records, government accreditation and awards, as well as business and environmental strategic plans. Up to now, the project has received more than 60 expressions of interests from Malaysian biomass SMEs to be part of EUM-BENP.

Upon selection, the SMEs will enjoy a one-on-one coaching facility with a panel of Biomass-SP experts comprising of local and international experts. The coaching services will cover the following subjects:

- ✓ Access to government grants/soft loans/investment incentives/venture capital
- ✓ Business partnerships and collaborations with EU companies
- ✓ Commercialisation of local biomass technologies/R&D projects
- ✓ EU green procurement standards and specification/EU market access opportunities
- ✓ Clean development mechanism (CDM)
- ✓ Carbon footprint measurement
- ✓ ISO 14001 Environmental Management system (EMS)

So far, Biomass-SP had received overwhelming response from Malaysian biomass stakeholders with attendance of more than 450 SMEs during the road shows held in Pahang, Kedah, Perak, Johor, Sabah and Sarawak. Meanwhile, the Awareness Road Show Seminar held in Kuala Lumpur was attended by more than 400 biomass stakeholders. In total, Biomass-SP have reached out to more than 800 SMEs from the entire biomass supply chain in Malaysia

Apart from EUM-BENP, Biomass-SP will be organising a series of **Capacity Building Programmes (CBPs)** for biomass stakeholders inclusive of SMEs, industry groups and associations, public research institutions and universities, and government agencies to enhance their knowledge on subjects relevant to the biomass industry. By 2012, the project aims to host an **International Biomass Best Practices and Business Partnering Conference** to facilitate business and technology partnership between biomass entrepreneurs in Malaysia, Asia and the EU.

Within the framework of the project, Biomass-SP aims by championing the implementation of sustainable consumption and production principles (SCP) in the biomass industry, the project will spur the growth of green technology inclusive of renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives, as well value-added eco-products manufacturing in Malaysia. In the long term, Biomass-SP seeks to enhance environmental and business performance of biomass SMEs by linking them to the global biomass supply chain in light of the growing interest on climate change mitigation efforts at the international level.

For more information, please contact Ms. Lee Jia Jing, Biomass-SP Project Manager at 03-8884 8882