

EU-funded project to facilitate biomass ventures

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MALAYSIAN small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) planning to tap regional as well as international markets for biomass products but lacking skills and expertise in pursuing their ventures can now apply for training and coaching under a €1 million (RM4.1 million) European Union (EU)-funded project.

Provided under the SWITCH-Asia Programme, the EU-funded project aims to develop the biomass industry based on the principle of consumption and production via the enhancement of supply chain and uptake of biomass utilisation by local SMEs.

Speaking to Business Times in Ipoh, Perak, on Monday, Biomass-SP's technical adviser Datuk Leong Kin Mun said one of the project aims to improve biomass supply chain in the country by promoting tie-ups among the industry, research institutions and universities to address the inconsistent biomass supply in Malaysia and unlock its wealth creation potential.

"At the same time, the project will help selected SMEs implement sustainable production models to achieve economic growth, social well-being and address the issues of industrial pollution.

"Towards this end, Biomass-SP will be launching a significant four-year initiative called the EU-Malaysia Biomass Entrepreneurs Nurturing Programme which offers complimentary coaching services to 50 selected biomass SMEs from all around the country," he said.

Leong, who had coordinated several EU-funded projects in various fields in Malaysia, said the Biomass-SP secretariat will be holding briefing sessions to introduce Biomass-SP to Malaysian SMEs and outline how they can benefit from the project.

The secretariat (reachable at www.biomass-sp.net) will be holding briefing sessions in seven states, namely, Perak, Kedah, Pahang, Johor, Kuala Lumpur, Sabah and Sarawak between now and September.

The Biomass-SP is jointly organised by the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology, Association of Environmental Consultants and Companies, European Biomass Industry Association and Danish Technological Institute with the support of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, and the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water.

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