Headline	MAPPING GREEN TECHNOLOGIES		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	16 Nov 2013	Color	Full Color
Section	Supplement	Circulation	136,530
Page No	A4	Readership	330,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	377 cm²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 12,252
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 36,756

MAPPING GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

WHEN it comes to researching and applying green technologies, SIRIM Berhad is no novice.

The nation's industrial research and development agency has chalked up many years of experience in the field, and along the way, accumulated knowledge and know-how on the technologies.

However, underlying all of its projects is the element of practicality: they are all capable of real-world application.

More importantly, SIRIM focuses on projects that benefit local communities and address pressing needs in environmentally-friendly and sustainable ways.

Mapping renewable energy resources

Malaysia is a resource-rich nation, though some would beg to differ as to them, the only natural resource the country has in relative abundance is oil and gas.

But there is so much more that is ripe for the picking. Malaysia has an abundance of renewable energy resources.

Renewable energy resources are certainly of interest, due in no small part to the growing urgency of energy security.

In fact, part of the nation's philosophy on green technology — as defined by the Energy, Green Technology and Water ministry — is to maximise the use of renewable resources, says SIRIM Environmental Technology Research Centre senior general manager Dr Chen Sau Soon.

Her project, the Renewable Energy Resource Map of Malaysia (REMap), aims to do just that.

Funded in part by the ministry, with collaborations from other agencies and institutes, REMap is what its name implies: a map of the country's renewable energy resources.

"Everyone knows our oil fields, but where are the wind or the solar energy fields, and biomass should we tap on? REMap is a database of this information," says Chen.

This one-stop reference for remote assessment on the renewable energy applications viability focuses on the major sources of renewable energy in Malaysia.

They are chicken manure, solar, wind, tidal, rivers (pico to micro-hydropower), rice husks and straws, palm oil biomass and biogas, forest and mill residues and municipal waste.

Each of these resources is capable of producing renewable energy. Sawmills, for example, produce wood residue that can be used as feedstock for energy production, as can rice husks from padi fields.

Manure from chicken farms and solid waste from municipal landfill sites can produce biogas, which is a natural gas-like fuel.

Chen and her team, in collaboration with the Malaysia Palm Oil Board, Forest Research Institute of Malaysia, Malaysian Nuclear Agency, Solar Energy Research Institute and Malaysian Remote Sensing Agency, spent about 1½ years gathering information not only on renewable energy resources but also roads, railways, rivers and grid lines.

All kinds of avenues were employed, trawling through and checking and re-checking voluminous data sets to establish REMap.

REMap can integrate all these resources into one map and link them to strategic information, such as the transport network and transmission lines.

All this information — the availability and accessibility to these renewable energy resources — will enable industries, investors or researchers to determine the feasibility of using certain resources.

REMap can accelerate the green technology landscape of the nation by allowing easy, efficient, access to accurate and up-to-date information of Malaysia's renewable energy resources to researchers, investors and the public.

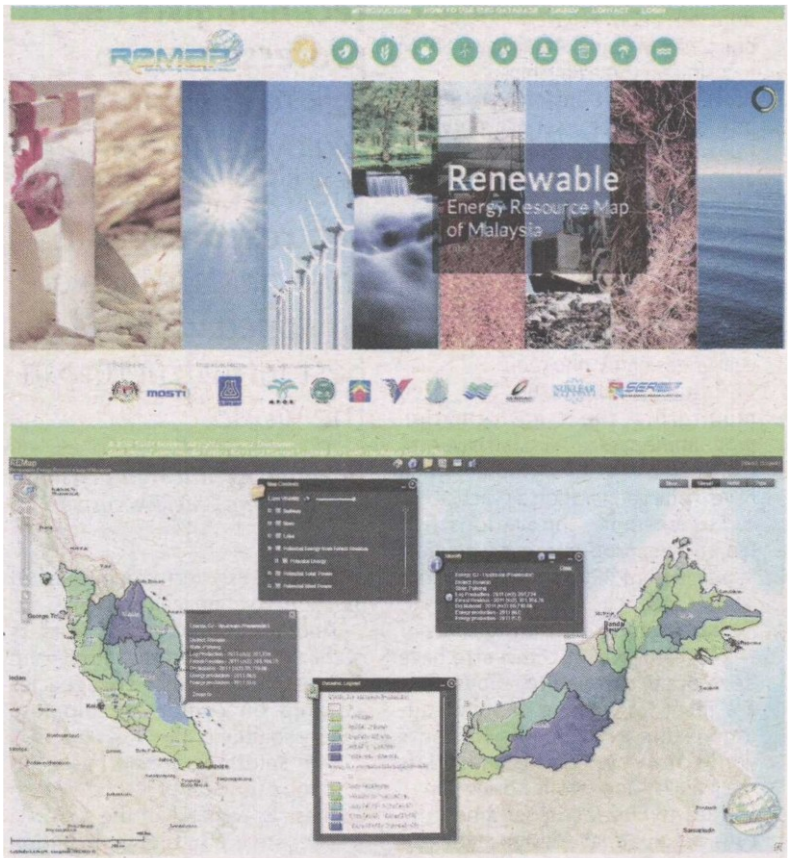
It will be made available to the public via an interactive website that contains information about Malaysia's renewable energy resources.

The website with its multiple data sets can provide information from a perspective of spatial distribution as well as estimation of the amount of resources available in a site.

Those in need of further information can obtain a comprehensive report made available as part of the services offered by the Environmental Technology Research Centre in SIRIM, which can map out the resources and provide details on available accesses, infrastructure and utilities.

MYREMap has garnered several awards: a gold medal at Malaysia Technology Expo (MTE) 2013; another gold medal at the 24th International Innovation & Technology Exhibition 2013; and special award (Best Green Award) also at the 24th International Innovation & Technology Exhibition 2013.

Headline	MAPPING GREEN TECHNOLOGIES		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	16 Nov 2013	Color	Full Color
Section	Supplement	Circulation	136,530
Page No	A4	Readership	330,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	377 cm²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 12,252
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 36,756



*The **Renewable Energy Resource Map of Malaysia** (REMap) is an interactive website that aims to **maximise the use of renewable energy resources** in the country.*