

Headline	TNB Energy Services powering on energy efficiency		
MediaTitle	Malaysian Reserve		
Date	24 Jan 2014	Color	Full Color
Section	Trend	Circulation	10,500
Page No	24	Readership	42,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	434 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	SATHISH GOVIND	AdValue	RM 4,094
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 12,282



# TNB Energy Services powering on energy efficiency

*With enhanced competitiveness of the various industry players, there would be less utilisation of fuel which is used as the raw material to generate electricity*

by **SATHISH GOVIND**

ENERGY efficiency has been the cornerstone of Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB). On the surface, though, it may be deemed an oxymoron since it seemingly conflicts with TNB's business model.

But TNB has been aggressive in pursuing it. It is in line with global efforts to promote what is known as energy efficiency. Conserving energy means using the same amount of energy or less energy to accomplish the same task.

While the lesser use of electricity may be deemed to affect TNB's bottom line, the fact remains that the opposite is true. With enhanced competitiveness of the various industry players, there would be less utilisation of fuel which is used as the raw material to generate electricity.

"The lesser use of fuel would in return mean lesser costs for TNB and thus enhance TNB's profitability as less electricity generation is in tandem with reduction in the generation cost," said TNB Energy Services Sdn Bhd MD Mohd Azhar Abdul Rahman.

TNB Energy Services, a wholly owned TNB subsidiary, has its main business in green energy, with emphasis in renewable energy, energy efficiency and consultancy and services.

Energy efficiency also means reducing emissions that cause global warming. This results in less air pollution and helps preserve a cleaner environment.

Mohd Azhar said it is only when the world began emphasising ways to reduce its carbon footprint that the awareness of energy efficiency began to gradually increase. "This is especially true with the evolving trend which has also seen the majority of today's manufacturers being inclined towards more energy efficient household electrical appliances."

TNB hopes its initiatives will heighten the awareness of the public and industries to conserve the use of electricity. TNB has contributed RM1.5 million towards awareness on energy efficiency practices as well as improving energy efficient products.

TNB Energy Services' other prominent flagship project, is Peninsular Malaysia's biggest Solar Hybrid System, that is the RPS Kemar, Gerik, Perak, with the capacity of 850kW under

the Rural Electrification Programme of the Ministry of Rural & Regional Development. The project, commissioned in 2012, supplies electricity to approximately 3,000 *Orang Asli* from 15 villages in Kemar. This solar hybrid system replaces the need for diesel powered gen-sets and has managed to reduce CO2 emissions to 55% which is equal to 953,538kg/year — a clear testament that the hybrid system by TNB Energy Services produces energy efficiently.

Other energy conservation efforts include the introduction of an electric tariff structure designed to encourage energy efficiency practices by customers where more electricity an individual uses, the higher tariff rate he or she is required to pay.

On the successfully delivered projects, Mohd Azhar said it has successfully delivered projects for its high-impact clients with a total project value of more than RM200 million and continues to provide support through its efficient operation and maintenance services.

Among the projects undertaken so far include the RM98 million solar hybrid project under the Ministry of Education, solar hybrid project for POS Kemar in Gerik costing RM54 million and solar hybrid technology project for *Orang Asli* community there.

On the energy efficiency division, Mohd Azhar said it has carried out an energy efficiency audit and solutions for more than 30 commercial buildings and power quality services and consultancy for more than 100 major customers

Mohd Azhar said TNB Energy Services is actively promoting energy efficiency at industrial levels, visiting manufacturing facilities and factories to conduct energy audits aimed at assisting business owners in benefitting from the more efficient use of energy. Industrial consumers are one of the largest users of electrical energy.

TNB's efforts would result in many industries making higher capital investment to purchase more energy efficient equipment and machinery. While these may be seen as a setback, the return on investment over a specified period is supposed to translate into the lower use of energy, greater efficiency, improved productivity

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and ultimately better profit margins.

Many industries take energy efficiency into account prior to the construction of its facilities as this was the most cost-effective approach as opposed to re-investing to upgrade an existing facility.

Mohd Azhar said commercial or industrial buildings equipped with TNB Energy Services' energy-efficient equipment have massive potential in cutting costs. "Currently, an industrial building or factory can save up to 35% in energy for pumps, 25% for chillers, 20% for cooling towers and 60% for the lighting system.

"All these can potentially help the company save up to RM10,000 or more in monthly electricity bills, depending on the size of the building. Equipping the building with energy-efficient equipment may cost a considerable sum but the cost-savings as well as making the world a more livable place is priceless," Mohd Azhar said.



Pic by Hafzi Mohamed

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