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Seda gets wind of it

Sustainable energy agency mulls over wind as renewable resource

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PETALING JAYA: The Sustainable Energy Development Authority Malaysia (Seda) is considering the inclusion of wind as another renewable resource in the renewable energy (RE) scheme.

CEO Datin Badriyah Abdul Malek said Seda has embarked on a project to produce a national wind map, due next year.

She said part of Seda's mission was to increase the renewable energy sources in the Feed-in-Tariff (FiT) portfolio.

"The wind map study which started at the end of last year will take about 24 months to be completed.

"We are expecting a comprehensive wind map for Malaysia to be ready by end 2014," she told *StarBiz*.

Badriyah said Seda was not the financial sponsor of the study.

"The study is a joint effort by Seda and Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT).

"The Malaysian Electricity Supply Industries Trust Account and the Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation provided a grant totalling about RM3mil for both Seda and UMT," Badriyah said.

Under the Renewable Energy Act

2011, there are only four technologies applicable for FiT which are biomass, biogas, solar photovoltaic and small hydro.

It is now considering to include wind under the FiT.

Therefore, a comprehensive study on the availability of wind energy in Malaysia is urgently required to determine whether wind should be included as another renewable resource in the FiT scheme.

"Currently Malaysia does not have a wind farm as there is no market to drive it.

"For this reason, if there is any technical potential, then Seda together with Energy, Green

Technology and Water Ministry will include wind under the FiT portfolio to increase the range of RE to expedite towards energy security and autonomy," Badriyah said.

Asked on the potential market for wind farm in Malaysia, Badriyah said it was "subjected to the wind map study which will reveal the technical potential in the country".

She added that there are no wind farms yet locally except for the few demonstration projects in Pulau Perhentian, Terengganu and Pulau

Banggi, Sabah.

The statutory body had in the past called for request for proposal (RFP) for the development of a wind map in Malaysia, which could serve as a reference in determining the potential of wind power generation in Malaysia and justify the inclusion of wind energy in the FiT regime, as well as provide a guide to potential siting of wind turbines.

According to the RFP, the successful tenderer for the wind map project will have to produce a GIS (geographic information systems) with a zoom-in feature through the simulation model using the available meteorological data from Meteorological Department and Global model wind and terrain data.

The tenderer also has to among others install a minimum 10 units of wind masts at a minimum height of 50 metres for micrositing activities at potentially viable sites for wind data recording for at least 12 months full data, and also need to propose a minimum of 10 sites based on the microscale study and the final site selection will be determined by Seda.

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Badriyah holding a copy of the Renewable Energy Act. Under the Act, there are only four technologies applicable for FiT, which are biomass, biogas, solar photovoltaic and small hydro. Seda is now considering to include wind under the FiT.