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FT Minister: KL targets 70% reduction in city's carbon emissions by 2030

KUALA Lumpur aims to reduce carbon emissions in the city by 70% in nine years' time, with a long-term aim of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said this would be achieved through a series of 10 action plans, 82 measures and 245 programmes in the coming years.

"According to a report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Malaysia, carbon emissions in the country mainly relate to urban settings like Kuala Lumpur, of which electricity and transportation contribute up to 80% of total emissions.

"To date, Kuala Lumpur has managed to reduce carbon emissions in the city by 54%," he said during a virtual launch of the 12th International Conference on World-Class Sustainable Cities 2021 (WCSC 2021).

In his speech, Shahidan said plans towards achieving a climate neutral urban precinct had to include systematic and inter-related measures that addressed issues

of energy, transportation, waste and community involvement.

With the Covid-19 pandemic, he said it had become apparent that action plans prepared earlier would need to make room for different circumstances.

"Despite challenges brought on by the pandemic, it is crucial for us not to lose track and focus on our long-term goals for sustainability.

"Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL), for example, has produced blueprints for a sustainable city via carbon-neutral initiatives," he said.

Shahidan said this not only included development plans but also the Smart City Masterplan, Kuala Lumpur Low-Carbon Society Blueprint 2030 as well as the Pedestrian and Cycling Masterplan.

"A low-carbon society will not only nurture a collaborative socie-



Shahidan says carbon emissions in Kuala Lumpur have been reduced by 54%.

ty towards reducing carbon emissions but also promote ecosystem resilience besides helping energy security and industrial competitiveness.

"All of which will benefit the more than 2.6 million people expected to live in Kuala Lumpur by 2050.

"We must now shift our focus from planning and formulating action plans to implementing those curated plans and visible actions," added Shahidan.

This year's WCSC 2021 theme is "Low-Carbon Society: From Blueprint to Implementation".

WCSC 2021 is a collaboration between Malaysian Institute of Planners, Malaysian Institute of Architects and the Kuala Lumpur chapter of Real Estate and Housing Developers Association Malaysia.

Organising committee chairman Lee Han Rick said past WCSC conferences were instrumental in introducing efforts to educate and change public mindsets as well as perceptions on the benefits and challenges faced towards becoming a sustainable and liveable city.

He said one positive initiative implemented in Malaysia learnt from past WCSC conferences was the restoration of the Cheongyecheon River in Seoul, South Korea, which was a prelude to Kuala Lumpur's River of Life project.

Among other experiences observed were Brazil's Curitiba for its city transportation solutions, Denmark's walkable and cycling city, and Hong Kong and Singapore's pedestrianisation projects, said Lee.

This year's conference saw some 1,000 registered participants, not including those who tuned in to the live stream, he said.

Speakers at the two-day virtual event included panellists from Denmark, the United Kingdom, Indonesia and Malaysia, who shared their knowledge on international best practices and case studies.