



THE MEF ROUNDTABLE SERIES ON SUSTAINABILITY 2011

Building Communities Through Dialogue
Since 2007
www.malaysia-europeforum.com

BACKGROUND

Malaysia and Europe already connect with each other in bilateral and multilateral fora. However, enhanced Malaysia–Europe cooperation requires stronger mutual understanding and a deeper knowledge of each other. In addition, as Europe seeks accelerated growth, Malaysia’s dynamic economy offers a large, lucrative market for European technology, services and goods. Conversely, access to European technology and know-how is critical to help Malaysia’s move towards low-carbon development¹. It is therefore important to bear in mind that although a buoyant economic and trade relationship has been built², both Malaysia and Europe must work harder to foster mutual trust and confidence and strike a true, strategic conversation about the shared challenges of living in a globalized world.

To energise relations, the Malaysia-Europe Forum [MEF] is continuing its efforts, via The MEF Roundtable Series on Sustainability, to stimulate thinking by providing a platform for the exchange of ideas, simultaneously facilitating intellectual discourse, with the ultimate aim being to step up cooperation and provide a conducive and productive

setting for bilateral collaboration programmes between Malaysia and Europe.

Signal your commitment to a greener and more sustainable future by participating in these roundtables. By being involved, you will have a genuine opportunity to provide input and participate in a series of initiatives which are committed to moving from talk to action. In addition, your participation will allow you the opportunity to engage strongly with other stakeholders to tackle mutual challenges through the sharing of experiences and ideas.

The MEF’s channel of communications is cast wide and reaches out to the Malaysian government, EU officials and European missions based in Kuala Lumpur, business organisations, academics, students, the media and civil society organisations.

As part of the Malaysian government’s commitment in ensuring sustainable economic development, the Malaysia-Europe Forum (MEF) continues to organise and host The MEF Roundtable Series on Sustainability as a high-level platform for the exchange of ideas, debate and discussion between Malaysian and European stakeholders. Representatives from private, public and academic institutions will be invited to participate in these roundtables to propose suggestions, conceive collaborations and also seek solutions on the way forward for Malaysia

¹ At COP15, Malaysia voluntarily committed to reducing its CO2 emissions by 40%, by the year 2020, based on 2005 levels.

² Malaysia is the EU’s second largest trading partner in ASEAN, after Singapore and the EU is Malaysia’s 4th largest trading partner.

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November 2011

'Future Cities: Urban Mobility'

THE BRIEF

More than half the world's population now lives in urban areas; that proportion is forecast to reach 70% by 2050, so building more sustainable cities is critical to the future of every country in the world. Many cities are dysfunctional already – traffic gridlock, uncoordinated services, outdated infrastructure, and planning silos are just some of the challenges they face. Finding solutions in the face of a more populous future is an urgent requirement.

A smart, sustainable economy promotes efficient use of resources to create and maintain growth. In a national context, it is successful and vibrant cities that form the primary pillar of a strong, sustainable economy. They provide a focal point for businesses and talent, and fuel continuing economic and social progress.

Following the successful hosting of a roundtable focusing on renewable energy in Vienna in May 2011, the Malaysia-Europe Forum will now be embarking on a roundtable series, in 3 different European cities (Madrid, Paris and London), in November 2011.

DATE	CITY
Monday, 21st November 2011	Madrid
Wednesday, 23rd November 2011	Paris
Friday, 25th November 2011	London

These roundtables will focus on the role an integrated and efficient transportation infrastructure system plays, in the planning and integration of smart cities.

PROPOSED DISCUSSION POINTS

Smart Cities with Special Focus on Public Mobility

An integrated and efficient transportation infrastructure that supports public mobility is a requirement of a modern city. However, rapidly expanding population, urbanisation and globalisation are driving outdated transport systems past their intended capacity and operational life span.

- How can we develop smarter, more customer-centric transport solutions? What does a smart transportation network look like?
- How do we encourage behavioural change towards greater use of public transport?
- How can green field site planning ensure efficient public mobility? What does the concept of new and sustainable urbanism mean? Are there successful examples of Transit Oriented Developments?
- Do developed urban areas need to rebuild their transport networks? How can existing networks be optimised to support smarter services and passenger growth while reducing emissions?
- And perhaps most challenging of all, who will fund such developments?

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