Science-Based Climate Policy Making at the Local Level in Malaysia
- Lessons Learnt from Collaborative Work among Universities and Research Institutions

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Abstract:

This paper outlines the lessons learnt from collaborative work among universities, research institutes and policy-makers through the multidisciplinary 'Science-to-Action' approach to formulating, mainstreaming and implementing Climate Action Plans for Malaysian cities. Malaysia, as an upper middle-income nation with steady economic growth towards becoming a developed, high-income nation, is conscious of its global responsibility in environmental protection and global climate change mitigation. The country's commitment is to reduce its carbon emission intensity of GDP by 45 % by 2030 based on the 2005 emission level. Many cities, notably Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, Muar, Pengerang and five local authorities in the Iskandar Malaysia (IM) region have prepared Low Carbon Society (LCS) blueprints which set higher emission reduction targets than the national pledge of 45% by 2030. Kuala Lumpur in particular is preparing the Kuala Lumpur City Plan 2040 and is also aiming to become a Carbon-Neutral City 2050. The Low Carbon Society Blueprint for Iskandar Malaysia 2025 (LCSBP-IM) is the pioneer work of Science-based Climate Policy-making at the sub-national level in Malaysia. IM, located at the southern end of Peninsular Malaysia, is a rapidly developing urban region institutionalised in 2006 with a view to spurring Malaysia's economic growth. The LCSBP-IM is the outcome of an internationally funded joint research under the SATREPS programme that brings together Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Kyoto University, Japan's National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Okayama University and the Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA), in a unique 'academia-policymaker' partnership, towards crafting a LCS pathway to guide and sustainably manage the projected rapid development in IM up to 2025. The project offers valuable lessons to many other Malaysian cities as well as Asian cities namely Haiphong, Danang, Vientiane and Phnom Penh within LoCARNet communities especially in advancing scientific research on LCS into policy-making and, importantly, into real actions.

Keywords:
Climate Action Plan, Low Carbon Society Blueprint, • Science to Action (S2A), Malaysian cities.