MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

PRESS STATEMENT

MALAYSIA HOST 36th ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS ON THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING (ASOEN)

Malaysia, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES), will host the 36th ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment Meeting (ASOEN-36), scheduled to take place from 28 to 31 July in Langkawi, Kedah, in conjunction with Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2025.

The highest-level technical meeting on the environment brought together seniors from all 10 ASEAN Member States. This meeting plays a significant role in coordinating the collective actions of ASEAN countries to strengthen regional policies, strategies and cooperation. Key focus areas of the meeting include environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable natural resource management in response to climate change.

The four-day meeting commenced with the presentation of the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP30). Through this Joint Statement, ASEAN aims to ensure a more unified, stronger and influential regional voice in international climate negotiations.

This was followed by ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) Governing Board which focused on discussing strategies, policy frameworks, program implementation, and key management matters related to ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity's role in preserving regional biodiversity.

The second day will feature the Opening Ceremony of the 36th ASOEN Meeting, with a welcome speech delivered by the Chair of the 36th ASOEN, the Philippines. The third day will see the convening of the 19th ASEAN-Japan Dialogue on Environmental Cooperation (AJDEC), co-chaired by Singapore and Malaysia. Also scheduled are the 5th ASEAN-ROK Dialogue, 7th ASEAN-European Union (EU) High-Level Dialogue (HLD), and 4th ASEAN-United States (US) High-Level Dialogue (HLD) on Environmental and Climate Change.

The dialogue session not only strengthens the collaboration on various aspects of sustainability between ASEAN and its strategic partners such as Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United States and the European Union but also enhances the region's capability to address environmental and climate change issues. Furthermore, the platform provides opportunities for technology sharing, the exchange of best practices, and the alignment of efforts towards achieving sustainable development and environmental sustainability across the ASEAN region.

ASOEN also encompasses seven (7) technical working group meetings, namely: ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNCB), ASEAN Working Group for Climate Change (AWGCC), ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME), ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC), ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education (AWGEE), ASEAN Working Group for Water Resources and Management (AWGWRM), and ASEAN Working Group for Mutual Recognition of Professional Engineers (AWGMRPE). In addition, a joint meeting with dialogue partners such as China, Japan, and Korea (ASEAN Plus Three) was also held. Each of these meetings focuses on specific aspects of regional environmental management.

ASOEN-36 builds upon the mandate and outcomes of the 35th ASOEN Meeting, previously held in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Through ASOEN, environmental mandates are elevated for further deliberation at the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME).

As the host of ASOEN-36, Malaysia not only had the opportunity to showcase its environmental initiatives and achievements, but also to strengthen regional environmental diplomacy and cooperation.

This year's meeting placed strong emphasis on sustainability, in line with the Guidelines for the Implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Initiative (GPPIAL) issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES). The focus included reducing the carbon footprint, promoting efficient resource use, and encouraging responsible waste management.

Throughout the week, a dedicated exhibition highlighted services and products under NRES, alongside site visits to sustainable projects and the local handicraft complex. These activities underscored Malaysia's commitment to sustainability through cultural heritage preservation and green economic development.

NRES is optimistic that the successful hosting of ASOEN-36 will further enhance regional collaboration and accelerate collective action towards holistic and sustainable environmental protection across the ASEAN region. Malaysia's leadership in organising this meeting reflects its strong commitment to advancing regional environmental diplomacy, in line with the principles of Malaysia MADANI.

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (NRES)
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MALAYSIA MADANI

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