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PRESS RELEASE

6TH HIGH LEVEL SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE CITIES 2015

Johor Bharu, 9 February 2015 - The 6th High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities 2015 (6HLS ESC) is officiated by The Deputy Minister of Ministry of Urban Wellbeing Housing and Local Government Malaysia and Vice Minister for Global Environment Affairs, Ministry of the Environment Japan. The seminar is co-organised by Government of Malaysia, Government of Japan, Government of Cambodia, ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities and ASEAN Secretariat takes the pulse of ASEAN's 2015 'One Community' aspiration through the advancements of ASEAN's local champions and change makers.

2. 6HLS ESC is timely with Malaysia being the ASEAN Chair in 2015. Malaysia will strive to ensure that the creation of a 'people-centered ASEAN' in 2015 will see more direct involvement of all sector and the theme chosen would be a sharper instrument for the realisation of the people's dream for more effective and responsive governance; better standards of living; strengthened environmental protection; further empowerment of women and greater opportunity for all.

3. 6HLS ESC looks back on achievements over five years since 2010, and beyond. ASEAN, East Asian countries and key stakeholders discuss the way forward for growing an emerging 'ASEAN ESC Community' post-2015, while Asia's outstanding cities present their achievements under the ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme (Year 2).

4. The seminar is featuring a Preparatory Meeting, Plenary 1 on The ASEAN ESC Community: Beyond 2015 chair by Prof Ryokichi Hirono of Seikei University Japan and Dr Datin Paduka Dr Dahlia Rosly, Director General, Federal Department of Town and Country Planning, Peninsular Malaysia with panelists from Asean Secretariats, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, Philippines, Lao PDR, Myanmar while Thematic Sessions on ASEAN ESC Cities Part 1, Capitalizing on Opportunities for Air Quality Action and Decarbonising Cities will be chaired by Hon. Gerardo P, Ms Maru Jane and Dr. Tadashi respectively; and an International Forum on Future City Initiative in Malaysia.

5. Targeting 250 participants from the government agencies, bilateral and international development agencies, city networks, NGO's, private groups, academia group, community groups, front liner experts the seminar serves as a platform to discuss current issues on urban environmental management and explore opportunities for collaborative actions.

6. Coming to its 6th HLS ESC in Johor Bharu, Malaysia, the last 5 had been held in Indonesia 2010 (Jakarta), Japan 2011, Cambodia 2012, Viet Nam 2013 and Indonesia 2014 (Surabaya). Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) was an immediate priority area as an initial step of East Asia Summit Environment Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM) inaugurated in Hanoi, Viet Nam in October 2009. It was agreed by the EAS EMM that the first High Level Seminar (HLS) on ESC would be held to formulate concrete collaborative activities on ESC.

Kementerian Kesejahteraan Bandar, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (KPKT) diterajui oleh Yang Berhormat Dato' Abdul Rahman Dahlan. Di bawah Kementerian ini terdapat 9 Jabatan iaitu Jabatan Perumahan Negara, Jabatan Kerajaan Tempatan, Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia, Jabatan Perancangan Bandar dan Desa, Jabatan Lanskap Negara, Jabatan Pengurusan Sisa Pepejal Negara, Perbadanan Sisa Pepejal dan Pembersihan Awam, Tribunal Tuntutan Pembeli Rumah dan Institut Latihan KPKT.

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