



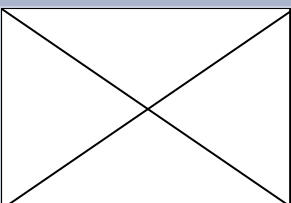
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General

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National Sewage Treatment Project To Benefit More Than 2.8 Million Residents

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- The National Sewage Treatment Plant Project will benefit more than 2.8 million residents with a reduction in pollution discharged when all 13 treatment plants under the project are completed.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in a statement here Monday said the Malaysian government would hold a completion ceremony tomorrow at the Pantai Sewage Treatment Plant for the recently completed First Phase of the project.

According to JICA, the sewage treatment facilities, including regional sludge treatment plants, are based on modern mechanised treatment processes with a small land area but with the ability to produce high quality effluents.

"A total of 13 facilities are being constructed in urban areas with high population density along the west coast of Peninsula Malaysia," said the statement.

It said tomorrow's completion ceremony was being held in conjunction with the completion of sewage treatment plants at four sites - Bonus, Pantai, Bandar Tun Razak and Puchong- in the Klang Valley and one regional sludge treatment plant in Klang.

"The remaining eight facilities are scheduled to be completed by next March," JICA said, adding that the existing sewage treatment facilities in Malaysia, particularly in urban areas were increasingly unable to cope with the rapid population expansion and the resulting deteriorating in receiving water quality and adverse environmental impact posed a growing problem in these areas.

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"In order to tackle the problems resulting from the rapid rate of urbanization, as well as the rapid population increase in the urban areas, the construction and expansion of the sewage treatment facilities was identified as an essential and urgent component of improving the environmental quality," JICA added.

The Malaysian government had requested the Japanese government to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) Yen Loan in July 1998 for the purpose.

Japan through JICA decided to finance the sewage treatment plant project through a loan agreement amounting to JPY48.5 billion (approx RM2 billion) signed between the Malaysian government and JICA in March 2000.

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