



SEBERANG PERAI CITY COUNCIL

OPENING REMARKS

YBHG. DATO' Sr HAJI ROZALI BIN HAJI MOHAMUD
MAYOR
SEBERANG PERAI CITY COUNCIL

EVENT

SOFT LAUNCH MBSP ECO CORRIDOR

BY

YBHG. DATO' SERI MAIMUNAH MOHD SHARIF
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
UN-HABITAT

DATE / TIME / VENUE

18 OCTOBER 2019 (FRIDAY)
9.30 AM

MBSP ECO CORRIDOR
JALAN PERMATANG PAUH
BUKIT MERTA JAM
(BERSEBELAHAN SIRIM)

Salutation

Her Excellency Dato' Seri Maimunah Mohd Sharif

Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Honourable Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi

Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC

Councillors of Seberang Perai City Council

Yang Berusaha Puan Ir. Hajah Rosnani Binti Haji Mahmod

City Secretary

Seberang Perai City Council

Head of Departments and Senior Officers

Seberang Perai City Council

Distinguished Guests and Participants of Seventh Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF7)

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Bismillahirrahmannirrahim

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

A very good morning and a very warm welcome to everyone present here.

Alhamdulillah, let us extend our sincere gratitude to Allah S.W.T for giving us the opportunity to be here today at the Inauguration Of MBSP's Eco Corridor. It gives me a great pleasure to speak to you this morning and to welcome you most cordially to our Eco Corridor.

We are delighted and honoured to host this field site visit today and wish to extend a warm welcome to Her Excellency Dato' Seri Maimunah Mohd Sharif, the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Habitat who was a former President of Seberang Perai Municipal Council and also a former Mayor of City Council of Penang; and Honourable Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, the Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC; as well as the participants of the Asia Pacific Urban Forum whom represents various countries. Today marks the end of the Seventh Asia Pacific Urban Forum (APUF7) and it has been a great pleasure to have connected with important guests from overseas and within Malaysia.

Ladies and Gentlemen

MBSP's Eco Corridor is a new approach to emphasize on green connectivity. Accessibility to the Eco Corridor was purposely designed to restrict the use only for pedestrian, joggers and cyclists, with no motor vehicle parking provided. The main aims are to reduce carbon footprint with the intention to promote leisure and healthier environment to the community. It is an improvement over the existing recreational facilities that serve as the green lung as well as providing recreational activities for the local community.

Originally, the concept has been derived from the place making process with local residents from the age of six (6) to 50, a diverse group with different levels of education, religious background, culture and economic level. A total of 618 people turned up to the community engagement programmes that were held in phases from March to July 2019 at the Upcycle Park. A people-centered approach that was undertaken has allowed the public space to be shaped into the heart of the community.

For MBSP Eco Corridor to be realised, collective effort was required. The concept plan was produced by the Faculty of Design and Architecture

of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) at the Green Belt (Taman Komuniti Bandar Perda – Taman Tekoma) maintained by MBSP. This smart partnership is in line with the corporate values of the Seberang Perai City Council as outlined in the MBSP Strategic Plan 2018-2022 where MBSP works collaboratively across 7Ps ie People, Public, Private, Philanthropy, Philosopher, Planet, Partnership to improve outcomes, achieve the best results for every dollar spent and improve the quality of the environment. In addition, a capital funding of US \$ 65,000 (equivalent to RM265,000) was received from United Nations Habitat via United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC).

The area is a monsoon drainage reserve maintained by the Seberang Perai City Council (MBSP). The place was formerly overgrown with bushes is a green space being wasted that MBSP then converted into a pleasant social and connective space.

MBSP Eco Corridor covers an area of approximately 1,320 square feet (0.03 acres). It is strategically located beside the trunk / main road connecting Ipoh to Butterworth and in walking distance from Seberang Perai Polytechnic. Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM MARA), SIRIM and several residential schemes.

Ladies and Gentlemen

MBSP Eco Corridor is a part of the larger Green Corridor which includes:-

- I. Community Park which covers an area of 1 acre and located along the monsoon drainage reserve. This where the 1 Baby 1 Tree Programme was initiated on 7 October 2018;
- II. The Cycle to Work Path which covers an area of 1.763 acres and equipped with 1.1 km-long cycling path along the monsoon drainage reserve linking Jalan Permatang Pauh to Jalan Perda Barat beside Seberang Perai City Council Head Quarters. The Cycle Path was launched on 27th July 2018.
- III. Upcycle Park which was launched on 10th March 2018 and is Malaysia's first Upcycle Park (has made its way into the Malaysia Book of Records). It covers an area of 1.038 acres and is developed with creative use of unwanted materials in keeping with a call by State Government to make Penang the first Green State.
- IV. Tecoma Park which is 2.393 acres in size where 700 Tecoma trees were planted along the retention pond. This park will be upgraded into a recreational area.

V. Transformation of the monsoon drain into a fish pond using the concept of low hanging community project with the aim of nurturing and promoting an healthy environment as well as appreciating the flora and fauna.

VI. Seberang Perai City Council has also install lighting in Upcycle Park to make this area cheerful and vibrant with local community recreation activities. A food truck site is also allocated here to encourage Local Economic Development (LED).

Almost 25,000 residents that comprise of B40, M40 and T20 receive benefits from the implementation of the Green Corridor. The area will become a converging point for all people, especially encouraging people to walk or cycle to work, cycle to Central Business District and cycle for leisure.

Proposed landscape design for the Green Belt in Bandar Perda, Seberang Perai Tengah is one of the core plans for realizing MBSP's vision to make Seberang Perai a 'Resilient, Inclusive, Green, Competitive and Smart City Driven by Technology'.

This programme emphasizes the role of Seberang Perai City Council as a Local Government in providing green and safe spaces to the local community and providing fresh air quality and environmental impact in line with SDG 11, “Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable”. It is also in line with SDG 13, “Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and Its Impact”. In addition, this programme also involves government agencies, private sectors, the public and local communities which is in line with SDG 17, “Strengthen The Means of Implementation and Revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development”.

The ultimate aim is to fight climate change by reducing carbon emission, and consequently reduce global warming to less than 1.5 degree Celsius while localizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and inculcating SDGs in the daily life of the local people.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Our dream is to see in the future for the monsoon drain adjoining to MBSP Eco Corridor to emulate Cheonggyecheon River, a modern public recreation space in downtown Seoul. Before I conclude, I would like to thank

the organiser in making APUF7 a success. Their efforts, is very commendable and should be continued in future. Syabas! To all participants, thank you for committing your time and energy towards this forum. I wish all of you the best until the next time we meet.

Wabillahi Taufik Wal Hidayah,

Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Thank you.