

Business

Malaysia: Straits Energy Resources subsidiary inks Mou for reforestation project

Multi-year reforestation project is aimed at restoring degraded forest areas in the Setiu Wetlands State Park, one of the largest natural wetlands in the East Coast region of Peninsular Malaysia.

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Malaysia-listed Straits Energy Resources (SER) on Sunday (10 December) said its subsidiary Benua Hijau has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Management Council of Terengganu State Parks (MPTN) and the Setiu Land Office, for a reforestation project.

SER is principally engaged in oil trading and fuel bunkering services, ship management, port operation and management, inland transportation and investment holding activities.

Manifold Times recently reported SER [entering](#) into a conditional shares sale and purchase agreement with its subsidiary Tumpuan Megah Development for the proposed acquisition of Straits Marine Fuels & Energy (SMF) shares, representing 33% of the equity interest in SMF.

The multi-year reforestation project is aimed at restoring degraded forest areas in the Setiu Wetlands State Park, one of the largest natural wetlands in the East Coast region of Peninsular Malaysia.

Dato' Sri Ron Ho Kam Choy, Managing Director of Straits Energy Resources Berhad, said: "Firstly, I would like to thank Yayasan DiRaja Sultan Mizan for opening the door for this ESG collaboration with MPTN, to kick-start this project. We are thrilled to sign this MoU with MPTN and the Setiu Land Office for this large-scale reforestation project that will be spearheaded by our CSR and ESG-focused subsidiary, Benua Hijau."

"This ESG initiative involves taking important action on the ground, which will give us a high level of involvement and visibility into our projects and help us ensure we make a quantifiable positive impact. In line with this, Benua Hijau will be involved in physical ground work at Setiu Wetlands, releasing MPTN's resources that can now be deployed to other important areas."

"We view this project as a critical step towards not only restoring the natural beauty of the Setiu Wetlands, but also contributing to the global fight against climate change. In addition, the reforestation of Tasik Berombak will unlock valuable economic opportunities, through the production of sustainable forest resources, ecotourism, and a local cottage industry. This, in turn, will create job opportunities for locals from the surrounding community."

"We would like to thank MPTN and the Setiu Land Office for this opportunity to make a meaningful impact, which aligns with our long-term values and commitment to building an environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable business. We look forward to making this a truly win-win collaboration."

Benua Hijau, a 51%-owned unit of Straits, is focused on the development and execution of environmental and social sustainability initiatives.

As part of this reforestation project, Benua Hijau plans to plant 100,000 Pokok Gelam (melaleuca) trees across a land area of 200 acres, the equivalent of 113 soccer fields. The reforestation activities, which will take place over five years, will be focused on a designated area surrounding Tasik Berombak within Setiu Wetlands. Tasik Berombak is one of the largest freshwater lakes and Gelam ecosystems in Malaysia's East Coast region.

Benua Hijau will coordinate activities across this designated area, including the physical planting of the trees and community engagement activities. Benua Hijau will also invest in the setting up of a dedicated nursery and research center to prepare Gelam saplings and study the Gelam ecosystem and value chain.