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Realization of Blueprint for LCS in Malaysia

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Malaysia, like most other rapidly urbanising ASEAN countries, though not the source of significant emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG), has taken actions to address climate change through various environmental, economic and social initiatives over the years. In 2009, Malaysia voluntarily set a target for GHG reduction of up to 40% in terms of energy intensity of GDP by 2020 compared to 2005 levels. Following that, a series of national level key policy documents aiming at guiding the nation towards addressing climate change holistically, ensuring climate-resilient development, developing a low carbon economy and promoting green technology have been formulated. These include the National Policy on Climate Change (2009), National Green Technology Policy (2009), National Renewable Energy Policy and Action Plan (2009) and the Green Neighbourhood Planning Guideline (2012), among others. These are important in providing a framework for achieving Malaysia's broader sustainable development goals and at the same time achieving a high income nation status. At the national level, the Malaysian Government is positioning the ecosystem, value system and supply chain to create a vibrant low carbon economy. Apart from national mitigation and adaption strategies for addressing the impact of climate change, there is a need to also look into regional and local resilient policies to reduce GHG emissions, especially in major cities and economic development corridors involving many urban conurbations. It is indeed at the regional and local levels that climate change policies may be operationalised and see their effects.

At local level, Low Carbon Society Blueprint Iskandar Malaysia 2025 (LCSBPIM 2025) is the first attempt of a master plan at how Iskandar Malaysia can grow into a low carbon emission region and shifting to a better quality of life. This is followed by roadmap and strategic interim plan entitled "Iskandar Malaysia's Actions for a Low Carbon Future" is the first of a series that details out 10 out of the 281 programmes of the LCSBPIM and shows how actions supported by science can be used to ensure reduction in carbon emission. In fact, before the adoption of the LCSBPIM, IRDA has already been implementing many projects and programmes recommended by its 24 adopted Blueprints. The inter-connection of the LCSBPIM and the IRDA's Blueprint, lies in the fact that the LCSBPIM further strengthens the existing blueprints through allowing for a scientific approach to measure the programmes implemented. Such implementations are envisioned to attain a low carbon green growth region, and thus achieve the Iskandar Malaysia vision of a "Strong and Sustainable Metropolis of International Standing" by 2025. In order to ensure effective implementation, we are now working with the 5 local planning authorities to formulate action plan for each local authorities.