

**ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION IN SELECTED MALAYSIAN
LOCAL AUTHORITIES**



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2. Letter of Offer (Research Grant)

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Dengan hormatnya perkara di atas adalah rujuk.

2. Sukacita dimaklumkan pihak Universiti telah meluluskan cadangan penyelidikan YBhg Dato/Prof/Dr/Tuan/Puan untuk membiayai projek penyelidikan di bawah Dana Kecemerlangan UiTM.

3. Bagi pihak Universiti kami mengucapkan tahniah kepada Dato/Prof/Dr/Tuan/Puan kerana kejayaan ini dan seterusnya diharapkan berjaya menyiapkan projek ini dengan cemerlang.

4. Peruntukan kewangan akan disalurkan melalui tiga (3) peringkat berdasarkan kepada laporan kemajuan serta kewangan yang mencapai perbelanjaan lebih kurang 50% dari peruntukan yang diterima.

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Sekian, harap maklum.

"SELAMAT MENJALANKAN PENYELIDIKAN DENGAN JAYANYA"

Yang benar



PROF. DATO DR. JAMIL HJ. HAMALI
Rektor

5. Report

5.1 Proposed Executive Summary

The Government has introduced five major initiatives to transform the nation –1Malaysia, the New Economy Model (NEM), the Government Transformation Programme (GTP), the Economic Transformation Plan (ETP) and the Tenth Malaysia Plan (Anuar, 2011). The NEM lists out 8 Strategic Reform Initiatives (SRI) to drive the Malaysian economy towards a highly income, inclusive and sustainable economy. One of the initiatives is strengthening the public sector via numerous public sector reforms agenda, for example, the implementation of environmental management system (EMS). Local authority is chosen as a sample because of its importance role in advancing towards sustainable development. Moreover, only three (out of 149) local authorities in Malaysia to date have implemented EMS. The three local authorities are: Dewan Bandaraya Kuching Utara (DBKU), Majlis Perbandaran Seberang Perai (MPSP) and Majlis Perbandaran Pasir Gudang (MPPG).

This research seeks to examine the adoption of an environmental management system (EMS) in three local authorities in Malaysia and identify the key factors that contribute to successful adoption. In-depth interviews are necessary to obtain first hand information from local authorities involved in the EMS implementation. The aim of these interviews is to document the progress being made by the departments/agencies with their EMS implementation. Data will be collected through semi-structured interviews conducted with environmental coordinators / staff involved in the EMS implementation in DBKU, MPSP and MPPG.

It is expected that the findings will be used to encourage the use of EMS as a tool for implementing the sustainability agenda as in other countries, and encourage the use of EMS to address the requirement for a plan to implement the sustainable development program, such as, Local Agenda 21. It is expected that the interview findings would fill in the gaps in the literature in better understanding the EMS adoption stage.

5.3 Introduction

In recent years, it has been observed that awareness on sustainable development is increasing among the staff of local authorities in Malaysia. The Brundtland Commission defined sustainable development as the "ability to make development sustainable — to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (The Brundtland Report, 1987, p.8). In other words, the concept of sustainable development requires a change of mindset to bring about full integration of the needs for economic and social development with the need to conserve the environment for the future.

Thus, the role of local authorities as a service provider and caretaker of the welfare and quality of life of the community is closely linked to sustainable development. For example, a local authority provides services such as control of waste management, sustaining the quality of water supply, control of river pollution, enforcement of fines for indiscriminate littering and polluting waterways, placement of bins for waste and recyclable items at strategic locations. An EMS following the ISO 14001 standard is one tool available to municipal authorities to achieve the goals of Agenda 21 and ultimately fulfil the concept of sustainable development. EMS are being implemented by organizations including local authorities, in recognition of the direct need to balance quality product or service for the consumers and community as a whole, while safeguarding the environment. Through a continuous process of planning, implementing and evaluating, the EMS helps build a conducive environment for our communities to live comfortably without consuming too much of our natural resources. Resources, once depleted, may never be or take a considerably long time to be replaced. In Malaysia, a few local authorities are carrying out this sustainability agenda through the framework of an EMS: Kuching North City Council, Seberang Perai Municipal Council, and Pasir Gudang Municipal Council, Johor.

This report is organized as follows. The next section will discuss the motivation of study and the research question developed for the study. The third section focuses on the literature review on EMS: the implementation of EMS. The fourth and fifth sections discuss the theoretical framework and research methodology conducted during the study. The background of the case study is included in the findings section. The conclusions of the study are discussed in the last section.

Motivation of study

Urban citizens mostly occupy local authority administered areas (Abdullah & Kaliannan, 2008). Abdullah and Kaliannan (2008, p. 87) stated that: "as the population becomes urbanized, local government grows in direct importance to the welfare and the quality of life experienced by a majority of the citizens ...". In relation to the governance issues, the local authorities in Malaysia have been soundly criticized for poor services over the years in the press, as well as by the higher state and federal authorities (Abdullah & Kaliannan, 2008). Also, local authorities are allegedly seen by the people and media as being "bureaucratic, inefficient, wasteful, unresponsive and not citizen-friendly" (Abdullah & Kaliannan, 2008, p. 88).

It has been claimed that the local authorities have not been proactive in improving their services (Abdullah & Kaliannan, 2008). Abdullah and Kaliannan (2008) maintained that the public did not get any information from the local authorities until some problems or issues were raised and received media coverage in the press or television. As a result, the community is becoming more forceful in expressing their grievances about the services provided by their local authorities and are also demanding greater accountability on how the local authorities make decisions and use their tax money.