

Up to 10,000MW of hydro power can be exported via S'wak-Johor cable



MIRI: Sarawak can export up to 10,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity when its hydroelectric power (HEP) is fully developed following the cabinet's nod for the Sarawak-Johor submarine cable project to proceed.

It would enable the state, with the RM6 billion Bakun hydro-electric dam project in central Sarawak, to take the first step in supplying power to the peninsula to meet its domestic and industrial needs.

Bakun can generate 2,400 MW and is expected to be operational by 2011, providing power to Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia through the first undersea cable link in 2013, which passes through Indonesian waters, followed by the second cable in 2015.

Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Peter Chin Fah Kui said the Cabinet, during its recent meeting, agreed that it would be better to undertake the undersea power cable project than continue building new power plants in peninsula states.

The undersea power transmission cable project between the southern tip of Sarawak and Johor must proceed so that energy from Bakun can be channelled via the bed of the South China Sea to Johor, and from there to the rest of the peninsula, he said in a press conference at SUPP Miri office yesterday.

This move means better economics in the long term.

“The costs of having to build more power plants in peninsula states will be much more compared to the costs of the undersea cable project,” he pointed out.

“This project will ensure peninsula Malaysia gets constant and adequate supply of electricity at

Undersea cable project more economical

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a much cheaper rate compared to if more power plants were built in the states.

Chin said the 10,000 MW from Sarawak should be enough to meet the needs of the whole peninsula, but stressed that the amount could be increased as and when the need arose.

Sarawak has positioned itself as a regional powerhouse under it's proposed Sarawak Regional Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) in central Sarawak, where Bakun HEP and other future dams would be located.

Sarawak can generate electricity reserve of up to 28,000 MW from SCORE, with the Murum Dam already underway.

The HEP potential capacity means an abundant source of hydropower which can expand beyond her shores to meet the energy needs of Sabah and other countries in the region including Kalimantan and Southern Philippines.

According to Chin, a joint-venture would be undertaken by Tenaga Nasional Bhd and Sarawak Energy Berhad to undertake the undersea cable project but the cost has yet to be finalised.

“The rates at which power would be sold to the peninsula is also being worked out.

“Bakun is expected to be operational by 2011,” he said.

Earlier Chin presented RM133,000 in Minor Rural Projects grants to the recipients at SUPP Miri office.