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Malaysia / Johor Bahru

Area: 220 km² / Population: 1.5 million /
Population density: 6,909 / km²



Current status of the city

Located at the southern end of Peninsular Malaysia, Johor Bahru is the second largest city in Malaysia. With the bridge connecting Singapore and Johor Bahru, travel between the two countries is enhanced. In 2006, a large-scale development plan, known as Iskandar Malaysia was launched. With the strong economic growth of neighboring Singapore, the city achieved a rapid development and further aims to develop into an international metropolis. Due to the rapid urbanization, demand for water for domestic and industrial uses is increasing.

Smart city action plan

Vision: To develop Johor Bahru smart city into a strong and sustainable metropolis of international standing.

Focus area: Good Governance, Quality Environment

Project 1: Iskandar Malaysia Urban Observatory (IMUO) Tool for Decision Making, Stocktaking, and Measurement

Improve planning approval process via informed decision-making and develop a Centralised Data Center to collate, update, analyse, manage and disseminate data.

Project 2: Management of Water Resources and Distribution

Improve water sustainability practices to increase water reserves by 20% all year round and to identify new water sources through innovation and technology.

Status of progress

Project 1

- a) In its final year of framework development together with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP).
- b) One of the 2019 key deliverables: Establishment of a co-ownership between IRDA and key stakeholders on the IMUO platform and data sharing.
- c) IRDA plans to localise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Iskandar Malaysia; target to complete by end 2019.
- d) Phase 1 of IMUO target to be completed by 2022.
- e) Issues for implementation:
 - i) Reliable data from 3rd party sources that can complement official data sources.
 - ii) Policies that facilitate greater data sharing between government agencies.



Project 2

- a) IRDA is collaborating with the Federal water regulatory body to develop a Smart Water Grid Management platform/tool to be piloted in an identified area within Iskandar Malaysia for 2019.
- b) This platform/tool will cover aspects of the water processing, distribution, water assets, management and maintenance data from multiple sub-agencies and GLCs in a holistic and streamlined manner.
- c) Concurrently, IRDA is also working with the water regulatory body to formulate regulations to enable the sale and use of treated waste-water for non-potable use to supplement the ever-increasing water demand.



Chief Smart City Officer

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