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HUMAN RIGHTS DAY FORUM 2021:

ACCESS TO SAFE, CLEAN, HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AS A HUMAN RIGHT

9.00AM - 12 NOON 10 DECEMBER, 2021



REGISTER FOR ZOOM LINK HERE: <u>https://tinyurl.com/544xjzd8</u>

WATCH ON YOUTUBE LIVE HERE: <u>https://youtu.be/z0U5f-XRWEE</u>

BACKGROUND

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December. It commemorates the day on which the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) - a milestone document that proclaimed the inalienable rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being, regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

The formal inception of Human Rights Day started since 1950, when the Assembly passed Resolution 423 (V) inviting all States and interested organizations to adopt 10 December of each year as Human Rights Day. Drafted by representatives of diverse legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration sets out universal values and a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. It establishes the equal dignity and worth of every person. Together with States' commitments to its principles, the Declaration has uplifted the dignity of millions and laid the foundation for a more just world.

Decades later in 2015, when United Nations Member States unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, human rights and development are placed at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) agenda. Human Rights are driven by progress on all SDGs, and the SDGs are driven by advancements on human rights.

THEME

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 24% of all global deaths, roughly 13.7 million deaths a year, are linked to the environment, due to risks such as air pollution and chemical exposure.

Undoubtedly, environmental degradation, climate change and unsustainable development constitute some of the most pressing and serious threats to the ability of present and future generations to enjoy human rights, including the right to life, and the rights to health, development, housing, water and food. The human rights implications of environmental damage are most acutely felt by those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations, including indigenous peoples, older persons, persons with disabilities, as well as women and girls.

To this end, the passing of resolution 48/13 by the United Nations Human Rights Council at its 48th Session in October 2021, was lauded by all stakeholders. For the first time, having a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is recognised as a human right.

Resolution 48/13 called on States around the world to build capacities, share good practices and work together with other partners; to implement this newly recognised right. It also noted that the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is related to other rights that are in accordance with existing international law, such as the Paris Agreement 2015; Minamata Convention 2013; Stockholm Convention 2001; Rotterdam Convention 1998; Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 and Ramsar Convention 1971, among others. At the same time, through a second related Resolution (48/14), the Council established a Special Rapporteur dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights globally in the context of climate change. Malaysia co-sponsored both resolutions.

Malaysia's priority in addressing climate change is part of the country's pledges for its membership of the Human Rights Council for the term 2022-2024. It is also in line with the 12th Malaysia Plan (2021-2025), as unveiled by YAB Prime Minister towards a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable growth for all.

To celebrate this positive development, the 2021 Human Rights Day Forum will focus on the impact of environmental degradation and climate change on the enjoyment of human rights, as well as, to explore sustainable environmental solutions. The multi-stakeholder panel session aims to bring different perspectives on the topic.



OBJECTIVES



To commemorate Human Rights Day, celebrated on 10 December annually



To promote the spirit of cooperation and interaction between various stakeholders, particularly the Government, NGOs and civil society



To promote public awareness and support for human rights, and the works of various organisations, including government departments dedicated to promoting human rights



To increase awareness on the impacts of environmental degradation and climate change on human rights

FOCUS AREAS



Rights that are affected by environmental degradation and climate change



Individuals and groups most vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation



Commitments by the Government and how they are being met







Other regional and international cooperation being undertaken by the Government



Role and responsibilities of the business sector, civil society, media, academia Efforts undertaken by the UN and its various bodies and mechanisms



Impact of environmental degradation and climate change on youth, as well as their participation in decision-making and policy-making on these matters



Sustainable solutions that protect the environment, promote human wellbeing and the enjoyment of human rights



Multilateral environmental agreements – and what does Malaysia have to comply with



Capacity building, technical assistance as well as climate financing opportunities



PROGRAMME: OPENING SESSION (9.00 – 9.50AM)



Welcoming Address:



Opening Address:

YBhg Tan Sri Othman Hashim SUHAKAM Chairman 2019-2022

Karima El Korri UN Resident Coordinator for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam





Official Address:

Keynote Address:

YB Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah Minister of Foreign Affairs

YBhg Tan Sri Jemilah Mahmood Executive Director of Sunway Centre for Planetary Health, Pro-chancellor of Heriot-Watt University Malaysia





PANEL DISCUSSION AND Q&A: ACCESS TO SAFE, CLEAN, HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AS A HUMAN RIGHT (9.50 – 11.25AM)



Moderator

Tengku Nur Qistina Petri Senior Researcher Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia



Speaker 1 Ministry of Environment and Water



Speaker 2 YBhg Dato' Mah Weng Kwai Commissioner 2016-2022 SUHAKAM



Speaker 3 Katinka Weinberger Chief Environment and Development Policy Section United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



Speaker 4 YBhg Datin Seri Sunita Rajakumar Founding Member Climate Governance Malaysia



Speaker 5

Muhammad Shaqib Shahrilnizam Former Global Youth Focal Point on Climate Finance to the UNFCCC



LAUNCH: SUHAKAM'S HUBHAK WEBSITE (11.25-11.35AM)



Video Presentation:

HubHAK website

CLOSING SESSION (11.35-11.45AM)



Remarks by:

YB Dato' Sri Azalina Othman Said Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on Law and Human Rights



Closing remarks by:

YB Dato Sri Dr. Hj Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar





HUMAN RIGHTS DAY SOCIAL MEDIA FRAME



STEP 1 - MERGE YOUR PROFILE PICTURE WITH FRAME

- 1. Click on this link https://www.twibbonize.com/hrd21
- 2. Choose your photo
- 3. Adjust your photo (if necessary)
- 4. Click 'Next'
- 5. Click 'Download'
- 6. Copy the general message to be pasted on your caption (optional).

STEP 2 - UPLOAD TO FACEBOOK, TWITTER OR INSTAGRAM

- 1. Upload your profile picture with frame onto your choice of social media.
- 2. Paste the general message (optional)
- 3. And you are done!











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#humanrightsday2021 #InUnityforHumanity

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