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# Policies and Its Implementation

***By: Engr. Mah Soo*** *F.I.E.M., P.Eng.*

The insatiable hunger for rapid development has seen the gobbling up of natural resources and skyrocketing energy usage. If left unchecked, it could lead to uncontrolled wastage, depletion of natural resources and pollution.

Unchecked usage of finite quantities of fossil or 'brown' fuels would lead to unsustainability. The importance of energy efficiency (EE) and the shift towards renewable energy (RE) or 'green' fuels has made the Government to include EE and RE in its policies to address such issues.

Though much has been said on pollution control, waste management and the importance of EE and RE, much more action needs to be put in place to give them due recognition. The country will definitely gain from any improvement in waste reduction and the derived savings could be used in other better ways.

The Small Renewable Energy Power (SREP) program has been launched on 11 May 2001 but, to date, it has not produced much encouraging or promising results. With the recent electricity tariff increase, it could be given another kick-start if its terms are reviewed and improved to make it viable both financially and technically to spur some real growth in the RE sector towards achieving the set objectives and targets.

Recent crisis of leachate seepage into our precious water resources has made the front pages of local newspapers. New technologies based on the concept of turning "Waste to Wealth" have been developed and they could offer some solution to the problem.

The latest is the unfortunate fatalities due to landslide. This had been a hot topic on numerous occasions and IEM has even put up a position paper on landslides and its monitoring and maintenance.

Though policies and strategies have been developed and put in place, their implementation has yet to live up to the stakeholders' expectations. There seem to be some mismatch between policies and their implementation to give the expected results. As responsible citizens, distinguished members within the engineering fraternity, the BEM and IEM, who happen to hold important positions with in-roads to the Government machinery, should give their learned advice on such matters for the good of the country and rakyat to re-synchronise the effective implementation of the formulated policies.

Finally, we should put into action on our beloved Prime Minister's advice to focus on the three areas in monitoring, maximising and maintaining projects to ensure success. ■