Four Geothermal Power Generation Sites Identified

Four potential geothermal power generation sites in Peninsular Malaysia, which could collectively generate more than 2MW of electricity, has been identified by

Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB). These projects, which are expected to be fully implemented by 2016, are in the early stages of a feasibility study jointly conducted by Generation Asset Development (GAD) and TNB Research Sdn Bhd. TNB's proposed geothermal power plants use steam produced from hot water springs to generate electricity. With more than 40 thermal springs in Peninsular Malaysia, most of these springs are good potential sites to generate geothermal power as part of the nation's plan to enhance its renewable energy potential.

According to Ms. Shahrina Abdullah, TNB Manager cum engineer for renewable energy, the company had completed the first phase of a feasibility study on the prospects of generating geothermal power in the four undisclosed locations. So far, it had managed to secure a 20% confidence level for the projects. TNB is now entering the second phase of the feasibility study, for which it hopes to secure a 60% and 90% confidence level by 2012 and 2013 respectively. Once that has been achieved, the company would begin exploratory drilling in the four sites. Shahrina admitted that the group faced some challenges, especially in terms of rights and land ownership, to proceed with the geothermal power generation projects.

(Sourced from The Star)

Safeguard Investigation on Hot Rolled Coil Imports Initiated

A preliminary safeguard investigation on hot rolled coil (HRC) imports into Malaysia has been initiated by the government. The latter undertook the investigation after receiving a safeguard petition from Megasteel Sdn Bhd, which represented the domestic HRC industry, which alleged that HRC importation increased between 2007 and 2010, causing a negative impact on the local industry. The International Trade and Industry Ministry said in a statement that further investigation will be carried out if preliminary affirmative determination is made by the government. Preliminary determination will be made within 90 days from the commencement of the investigation on May 1. During this time, the government may impose a provisional safeguard duty on the imports of HRC for the purpose of providing temporary protection and reduce the effects of serious injury to the domestic industry. HRC is used in the automotive, construction, electric and electronics, fabrication, engineering and manufacturing industry.

(Sourced from BERNAMA)

Qingdao Bay Bridge Set to Open to Traffic

Qingdao Bay Bridge, the world's longest cross-sea bridge located in east China's Shandong Province, is expected to open to traffic this month. The construction of the 41.58km long bridge has so far cost nearly 9 billion yuan (RM4.2 billion), accounting for 94% of the budget. The bridge, linking the urban district of the port city Qingdao to its Huangdao district, will shorten the route by 30km and reduce travel time to about 20 minutes. China started research and planning work for the project eight years ago while construction work began in 2007.

(Sourced from BERNAMA)

Robotics World Cup in New Zealand

The first ever Robotics World Cup will be held from 11 to 13 October 2011 in Auckland. University teams from Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Mexico and Columbia have already confirmed their participation in the event, which is being organised by the New Zealand Information and Technologies Group and Kiwibots New Zealand, which runs Vex Robotics competitions in schools.

Based on the Vex Robotics World Championship, the Robotics World Cup will involve designing, building and maintaining robots that compete in a game of speed, strategy and skill. Vex Robotics was launched in New Zealand in 2008 in response to a worldwide shortage of engineers as a platform for high school students with an interest in science, technology, engineering and math to participate in games requiring teamwork, leadership and problem solving.

(Sourced from BERNAMA)

RM3 Billion Integrated Petroleum Hub in Labuan

RG Gas and Chemicals (M) Sdn Bhd will invest RM3 billion over the next 10 years to build an integrated oil and gas hub on Pulau Daat, about 15 minutes by boat from Labuan. The hub is one of the nine new Entry Point Projects of the Economic Transformation Project. Jimmy Y.M. Tang, Group Project Director, said the hub would be built over four phases and provide land-based logistics and support services. Earthworks for the first phase will be completed by year-end.

The first phase, with an investment of RM500 million, would involve the building of a storage tank terminal with a capacity of 300,000 cubic metres and is expected to commence operations by end-2012 or early 2013. The other three phases include building a 1.5 million cu metres storage tank terminal, engineering fabrication yard and other facilities including water storage facilities. The hub would likely benefit from the opening of new oil fields around the area.

(Sourced from BERNAMA)