



Environmental Policies and Development in Penang

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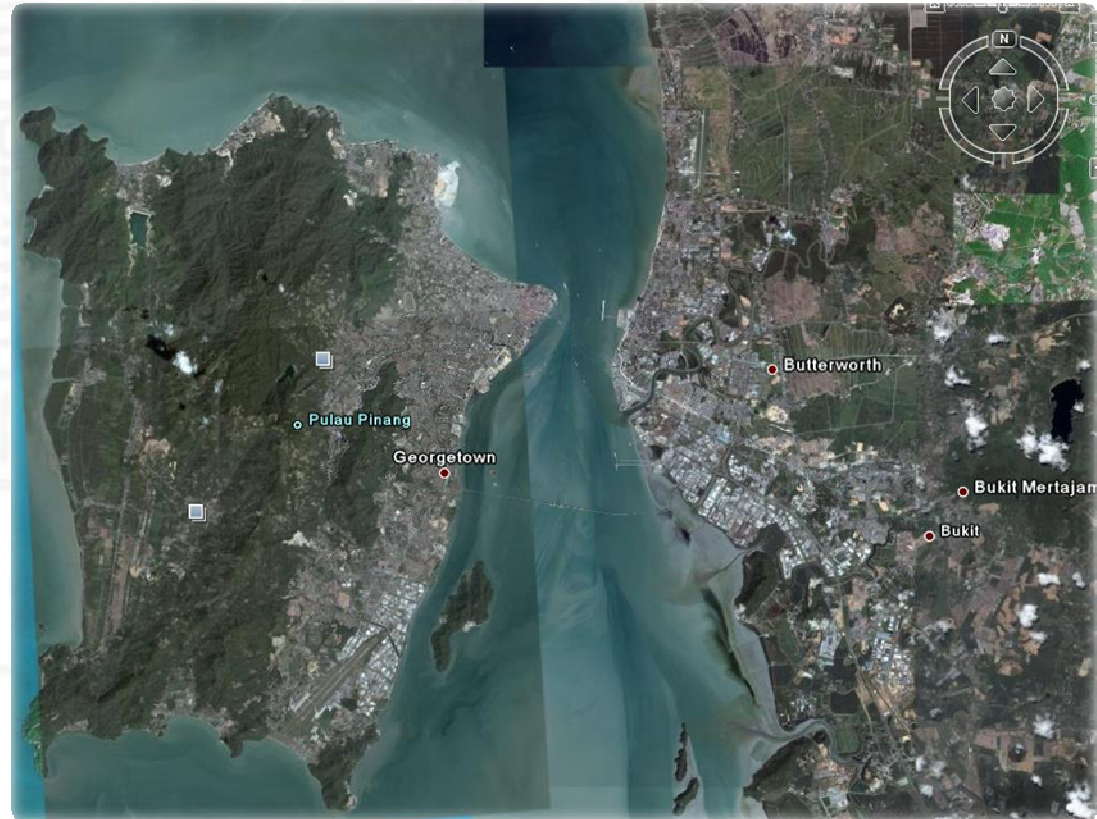
Overview

- Penang, Malaysia
- Environmental Policies for Penang
- Penang Environmental Conservation Strategy (1999)
- Paradigm Shift
- Penang Blueprint (2011 – 2015)
- Penang Green State
- Public Programmes
- Cleaner Greener Penang
- Penang Eco-Town
- Conclusion



Penang, Malaysia

- Penang Island was established in 1786 by Capt. Francis Light of the British East India Company
- Mainland Penang (Province Wellesley) was occupied in 1790, and placed together under the administration of Straits Settlement.
- George Town, a port town, was developed as hub for trading, commerce and culture.
- Country : Malaysia
- Coordinates: 5°24'N 100° 14'E
- Area: 1,048 km²
- Population: 1.5 million (as of 2010)
- GDP : RM 49.5 billion (as of 2010)
- Human Development Index : 0.773
- Urbanization: 80%





Facets of Penang



Penang, Malaysia

- Started off as a trading port in Malaysia. Penang enjoyed the status of free trade port until 1969.
- In 1970, Bayan Lepas Free Industrial Zone was established to spur economic developments in Penang
- Apart from Bayan Lepas FTZ, other parts of Penang were also developed as industrial zones, including areas such as Juru, Bukit Minyak and Mak Mandin.
- Manufacturing is the largest component of the economy, at 50.6%. Service industry follows with 45.8% of the economy.
- In 2010, Penang attracted RM 12.2 billion worth in investments, contributing to 26% of Malaysia's total investment



Penang, Malaysia

- Tourism development is the second largest driver for the economy. One niche sector developed in Penang is Eco-tourism, featuring sites such as:
 - Penang Botanic Gardens : oldest public botanic gardens in Malaysia (1884)
 - Penang Hill : oldest hill resort in the region (1796)
 - Penang National Park : smallest national park in the world
 - Batu Feringghi beach : beach resort strip since 1970



Environmental Policies for Penang

- Penang adopted policy for sustainable development since 1991.
- Penang Strategic Development Plan 1 (1991- 2000) - incorporate environment and natural resource management into economic planning.
- Penang Strategic Development Plan 2 (2001 – 2010) - Proposed strategies for transition towards sustainable development.
- 1999 – Penang Environmental Conservation Strategy was adopted by the Penang State Government



Penang Environmental Conservation Strategy (1999)

- To address environmental concerns in Penang vis-à-vis development in the recent decades.
- Identified problems in the Strategy:
 - Environmental pollution
 - Traffic congestion
 - Solid waste disposal and management
 - Hill slope development and soil erosion
 - Flash floods
 - Lack of public open spaces
 - Degradation of natural ecosystems
 - Poor environmental health : air & water sources
 - Exploitation of future natural resources



Penang Environmental Conservation Strategy (1999)

- A set of strategies, with desired policy interventions and time-frame for implementation was derived to address issues based on these focus:
 - Population
 - Land use and rehabilitation
 - Freshwater resources
 - Marine and coastal resources
 - Biological diversity
 - Sustainable tourism development
 - Liveability development
 - Industry-related environmental management
- The supporting policies, institutional mechanism, implementing agencies, time frame for implementation and needs assessment were done suggested in the strategy to address the issues.



Paradigm Shift

- Shift from environmental protection towards sustainable development
- Ecological or environmental sustainability is the basis of economical and social sustainability
- Change in strategies for adoption, based on:
 - Protection of the environment and reducing the impact of development
 - Improve the quality of life through environmental planning
 - Sustaining the future – Adaptation strategies form future environmental threats and transition to a sustainable future



Penang Blueprint 2011 - 2015

- Emphasis is given towards the transition for a more sustainable Penang
- Previously outlined issues are re-examined and strategies are rearranged based on priority
- New agenda for the transition are included:
 - Using ecological footprint as a tool to measure sustainability
 - Global climate change – response from the local community
 - Natural resource depletion – efficient use of resources
 - Development based on sustainability
 - Green growth, green business and green manufacturing
 - Addressing loss of ecosystems and biodiversity
- The Penang Blueprint is used as a guide for new developments in the coming 5 years



Penang Green State

- State Government vision to transform Penang into the first green state of Malaysia.
- Geared towards empowering the people of Penang to make a difference, and to increase awareness of Penang's commitment towards green via:
 - Green School Award
 - Aqua Save Award
 - Green Journalism Award
 - Penang Environmental Award
 - No Free Plastic Bag Day (From 3 days to 1 week)
 - Green Citizenship
 - Cleaner Greener Penang initiative
 - Eco-town



Public Programmes

- Cleaner Greener Penang initiative – launched in 2010 as campaign to bring environmental improvements to Penang
- Multi-stakeholder participation, from State Government to the community, NGOs, media, public
- Targets to improve the quality of life with environmental changes via:
 - Cleaner and greener neighbourhoods
 - Achieving waste minimization through 3R
 - Transforming mindset towards responsible citizenship



Cleaner Greener Penang

- Activities of Cleaner Greener Penang includes:
 - Establishing Environmental Resource Centres in various districts and communities
 - Mass cleanup of public open spaces
 - Urban redesigning initiatives
 - Greening of streetscapes



Cleaner Greener Penang Programmes



Penang Eco-Town

- Follow up on the collaboration initiated by UNEP- ITEC in 2008.
- State government and Local government are major stakeholders
- Serves as catalyst for the Penang Green Agenda – programmes are implemented in the programme area
- Large participation by industry players.
- Also incorporates vision to develop Penang as a Green Manufacturing Hub



Penang Eco-Town

- The Eco-Town study and implementation also inspired the development of 2 other projects:
 - Eco-Village: On Penang Hill, a well known tourist destination with a small community
 - Eco-City : Green field development: to incorporate sustainable city designs on a new piece of development
- Other similar projects:
 - Eco 2 City : A World Bank concept that is aimed to transform the area of George Town into a economical and ecological viable city



Conclusion

- Changes towards realising environmental importance and sustainability is growing in Penang
- Reflective in policy changes and programmes, especially from the State Government
- Receptive by the people, and have spurred similar interest nationwide
- Still a long way to go before achieving a truly ecologically sustainable State, but efforts are there to continue support the vision.





Thank You

Question and Answer

Ben Wismen
Research Officer
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