



KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	THE SUN			
TARIKH	:	17/9/2021 (JUMAAT)	MUKA SURAT	:	2
JABATAN	:	KeTSA			

The Sun, 17
Sept 2021_2

Penang Hill gains Unesco recognition

GEORGE TOWN: Penang is another step closer to its objective of becoming a global centre for research on sustainability, biodiversity and conservation.

Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow said the recognition of Bukit Bendera, or Penang Hill, as Malaysia's biosphere reserve by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) would usher in renewed vigour to preserve its flora and fauna.

He described the natural heritage as "priceless" for Penang. "We aim to make Penang an example for other states in the conservation and sustainable economic development front."

He said the Penang Hill Biosphere Reserve has taken the state closer towards its Penang Vision 2030 objectives.

"Green practices will help to improve quality of life and provide better opportunities," he said at a virtual media conference yesterday.

Energy and Natural Resources Minister Datuk Takiyuddin Hassan had earlier announced that Penang had received the recognition from Unesco, making it the third biosphere reserve in Malaysia after Crocker Range in Sabah and Tasik Chini in Pahang.

Chow said the Penang Hill Corporation would set up a unit to manage the site as well as develop programmes to raise awareness and promote an environmentally sustainable approach to economic development that are socially and culturally relevant.

He conceded that it would be a challenge, given the experience the state had with maintaining the George Town Unesco World Heritage status.

Chow said the initiative to get recognition for the biosphere reserve started in 2016, leading to the state gaining its second accolade from Unesco.

He attributed the success to the coordinated efforts and collaboration with The Habitat Group, academics from Universiti Sains Malaysia, various state and federal government agencies as well as the immense support of the Energy and Natural Resources Ministry.

"The Penang government is most grateful and takes great pride in the success of this five-year endeavour." – Bernama