# Overcoming Barriers through Policy Advocacy \&Investment Promotion: The Case of Ocean Thermal Energy-Driven Development in Malaysia 

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#### Abstract

There are numerous barriers to anything new, the like of ocean thermal energy-driven development, even though it has been revealed over 1414 years ago, discovered in the early 19th century, demonstrated early in the last century, and revived in the Seventies, and is fast becoming an emerging technology in the 21st century. These barriers can be organised in four dimensions: legal-policy framework, institutional arrangement, finance, and technology. To overcome such barriers in Malaysia, UTM Ocean Thermal Energy Centre (UTM OTEC) is established since 3 January 2013; it undertakes, not like other R\&D institutions, the reverse approach: commercialisation, first, to be followed by further development with the existing intellectual properties and research results, and more research to discover the required new advancement in knowledge and innovation. In order to commercialise the best commercially available technology, it conducts a number of activities, including a series of presentations to various stakeholders, including 69 government agencies, government linked companies, universities and research institutions, professional and scientific bodies, potential investors, locally and abroad, and others, through such processes so-called "policy advocacy" and "investment promotion". As a result, the establishment of the UTM OTEC has facilitated an easy access to various stakeholders by the order of $245 \%$, that is, 49 post- 2013 compared to only 20 over the period 2007-2012; the first Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), for ocean thermal energy conversion to electricity or hydrogen (OTEC-H2), established since 18 November 2014, and by 1 June 2015, four more SPVs have been registered. The subject of "ocean energy" has been included in the 11th Malaysia Plan 2016-2020, for the first time ever, since the introduction of the first Five-Year Malaysia Plan back in 1965.


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"OVERCOMING BARRIERS THROUGH POLICY ADVOCACY \& INVESTMENT PROMOTION:

THE CASE OF OCEAN THERMAL ENERGY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT IN MALAYSIA"

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## OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

1. INTRODUCTION
2. BARRIERS
3. OVERCOMING BARRIERS
4. EFFORTS IN POLICY ADVOCACY \& INVESTMENT PROMOTION
5. OUTCOME
6. THE WAY FORWARD

## © UTM <br> 1. INTRODUCTION

- OTEC Resource Assessment
- OTEC Potential in Malaysia
- The First Five Promising Sites for OTEC Projects in Malaysia


Malaysian Marine Survey in the South China Sea (MyMRS) (2006-2008)


15 Sppranies 2015 LITM KI.
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## 2. BARRIERS

- "OTEC, not viable ...", high initial capital requirement;
- "OTEC in Malaysia, also not viable ...", the deep waters are very far (generally 60 km away from the nearest coastlines);
- "Energy = Electricity," nothing else!
- "Technology not yet to be developed at commercial scale ...";
- "No laws governing OTEC development in Malaysia ..."; and
- "No agency or institution, championing OTEC in Malaysia ..."

COMPRRATVE OTEC w. FOSSLI FVEL
Uff: CCClecosing


Note: Price of Oil : USD 100/barrel

- By introducing project-life costing;
- By realising that "renewable", "virtually free";
- By highlighting "cost-saving" over project life;


OIL Total Cost: USD 7.7 billion

1 Seppranies 2015 UIMM KI.


### 3.2 OVERCOMING BARRIERS:

OTEC in Malaysia, also not viable ...", the deep waters are very far (generally 60 km away from the nearest coastlines)

- There are potential users of OTEC power in the deep waters of Malaysia, because there exists deep water oil \& gas production;



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## ... 3.3 OVERCOMING BARRIERS: <br> ENERGY=ELECTRICITY, NOTHING ELSE

- If there is no immediate take-up of the generated electricity, it would be used, by electrolysis, to generate hydrogen fuel;
- Why H2 fuel?



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## ... 3.4 OVERCOMING BARRIERS: OTEC TECHNOLOGY NOT YET DEVELOPED @COMMERCIALSCALE

- Blue Rise of the Netherlands
- DCNS of France
- Energy Island of UK
- KRISO of the Republic of Korea [ROK]
- Lockheed-Martin of USA
- [Technip of France]
- Xenesys Inc of Japan/POSCO of ROK
- Not quite true;
- Offshore 10 MWe net is to be commissioned by 2018
[Refer presentation by Mr Thierry Bouchet of DCNS]


## ... 3.5 OVERCOMING BARRIERS: NO LAWS GOVERNING OTEC DEVELOPMENT IN MALAYSIA

There exists:

1. Territorial Sea Act of 2012; or
2. Exclusive Economic Zone Act of 1984.
[Refer presentation by Datin Sharina Shaukat of MIMA \& Mohd Haris
Rani of UTM OTEC]

@UTM OTEC: The Preferred Path, with Existing Knowledge of Technology, for Commercialisation=>Development=>Research





Figure 2. Stakeholders' Engagement by Type of Institution in Malaysia and Abroad, 2007-2014

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### 5.1 OUTCOME: INVESTMENT PROMOTION

OTEC has been promoted in Malaysia since 2007;
But, since the establishment of UTM OTEC in January 2013, the number of activities has increased by $140 \%$ in the last two years over the first 6 -year period of 2007-2012; and

- As a result: the first four or 5 SPVs have been incorporated, namely,
- Deep Sea Thermal Solutions Sdn Bhd [(90-X\%) PASDEC;
( $\mathrm{X}+10$ in kind) \% UTM Holdings Sdn Bhd];
- UTM OTEC Sdn Bhd;
- UTM OTEC Solutions Sdn Bhd;
- Pro-Active MH Resources Sdn Bhd; and
- [Sustainable Ocean Thermal Energy Resources Sdn Bhd (SOUTHER)]


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### 5.2 OUTCOME OF POLICY ADVOCACY

- The subject of "ocean energy" has been incorporated in $11^{\text {th }}$ Malaysia Plan (2016-2020):
Exploring New Renewable Energy Sources


#### Abstract

17.78 Studies will be conducted to identify new RE sources to diversify the generation mix. In the Eleventh Plan, new RE sources such as wind, geothermal and ocean energy will be explored. Currently, the national wind mapping exercise is underway and it is expected to be completed by 2016. The exercise will further enable a study on the feasibility of wind energy to be developed. Geothermal potential will also be further explored with the discovery of a 12 square kilometres geothermal field in Apas Kiri, Sabah. Viability of ocean energy will be explored to take advantage of Malaysia's geographical position of being surrounded by sea.


"Ocean Energy" $=$

- Ocean thermal energy;
- Offshore wind energy;
- Tidal movement;
- Oceanic current;
- Wave energy; and
- Salinitygradient


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## ... 5.2 OUTCOME OF POLICY ADVOCACY

- An OTEC project can gain access up to RM 200 million of Facilitation Fund under the Public-Private Partnership Unit, Prime Minister's Department;
- A proposed OTEC project can be submitted to Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), under one-stop approval centre, and be eligible to a range of incentives, including Investment Tax Allowance, Exemption of Import Duties etc;
- An OTEC project is eligible for a "green certificate" issued by Malaysia Green Technology Corporation (MGTC) for a $2 \%$ reduction in loan interest rate; and
- OTEC, is the next choice, over nuclear energy


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## 6. THE WAY FORWARD

- The $1^{\text {st }}$ Public-Funded OTEC Project off Pulau Layang-Layang under $11^{\text {th }}$ Malaysia Plan (20162020)
- The $1^{\text {st }}$ Private-Funded OTEC Project supplying power to deep water oil \& gas production, the surplus of which to generate H2 fuel


Deepwater Production Off Sabah \& Promising OTEC Project Sites






