



NEWS RELEASE

MALAYSIAN PUBLIC TO BENEFIT FROM INFORMATIVE LECTURES

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 November 2008 – In embracing the philosophy of “*knowledge is power*”, three Malaysian publicly listed companies today kick-started the first in a series of public lectures aimed at promoting a better informed society through the sharing of information.

The Hap Seng Public Lecture Series, organised by Hap Seng Consolidated Berhad, Hap Seng Plantations Holdings Berhad and Malaysian Mosaics Berhad, will cover a wide range of topics in the areas of business and current affairs, science, technology, literature as well as fine arts. Presented by renowned speakers in the respective fields, this initiative will take place at the Auditorium and Convention Center of Menara Hap Seng.

YB Datuk Peter Chin Fah Kui, Minister of Plantation, Industries and Commodities, Malaysia, was on hand to officiate the launch of the Hap Seng Public Lecture Series. YB Datuk Peter Chin also delivered the inaugural lecture based on the topic, *‘Palm Oil: Food or Bio-Fuel? Policy implications for the future.’*

In his lecture, YB Datuk Peter Chin elaborated on how palm oil has expanded its usage as a source for food to being a feedstock for biofuel production. While the development of the latter reduces our dependence on fossil fuels, thus indirectly decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, it is crucial that its continued development should not be at the expense of food production.

Utilisation of agricultural products should also be increased as this will help ensure remunerative income to farmers. With regards to long-term implementation, YB Datuk Peter Chin has highlighted that the Government intends to increase the proportion in the biodiesel blend and foresees a greater uptake of biofuel technologies by Malaysian companies. As a result, this will promote the growth of the local biofuel industry.

YBhg Datuk Edward Lee Ming Foo, Group Managing Director of Hap Seng Consolidated Berhad, said, "As corporate citizens, we understand and appreciate the power of knowledge. The Hap Seng Public Lecture Series is a platform that enables members of the public to gain knowledge and information on a broad range of issues and topics from experts of the selected field."

"All in all, we believe that knowledge-equipped Malaysians will be integral to the continued growth and competitiveness of our country and this corporate social responsibility initiative is our contribution towards this end," YBhg Datuk Lee concluded.

The Auditorium and Convention Centre in Menara Hap Seng is a new facility that seeks to provide a cost effective and flexible alternative to seminars and functions. It features two seminar rooms that have flexible arrangements of up to a maximum of 130 and 60 persons respectively as well as one auditorium that has a capacity of 150 persons.

For more information of the Hap Seng Public Lecture Series, please visit www.hapseng.com.my

Hap Seng Consolidated Berhad

Hap Seng Consolidated Berhad is a progressive and well-established publicly listed Company with diversified businesses in plantations, property investment and development, credit financing, trading of fertilizers and automotive, as well as building materials and stone quarries.

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