



YB Phee Boon Poh
Executive Councillor,
Penang State Government
17th November 2019

Introduction

(VIP salutations as per attendance)

Members of the media,
Ladies and Gentlemen

First in Malaysia

1. I'm excited to be here at the launch of Penang's very first Climate Action Week. It's not only a first for Penang, it's a first for Malaysia and I'm proud that the Penang State Government has been working closely with Think City and organisations here in Malaysia who are passionate about taking action with us, as far as the Climate Crisis is concerned.

Climate Change Effects in Penang

2. The Climate Crisis is not news, it's here and the signs are clear. Rising temperatures, rising sea levels, extreme winds and flash floods. We here in Penang are experiencing all of the above.

According to the [Centre for Governance and Political Studies \(Cent-GPS\)](#), a behavioral and social science research firm - although the transition monsoon phase usually brings wet weather, climate change IS currently in full effect.

Their representatives state : we must now collectively recognise that the usual storms are now stronger than ever. The rains are now heavier than ever. The damages that these daily storms are causing, are now costlier than ever.

The centre warns us that the monsoon season which brings thunderstorms and heavy rain will potentially unleash floods in the low-lying areas in Penang and Johor between November and as early as December this year.

By the end of November, they are predicting that the flooding in Penang will get worse.

This is caused by us

3. Research shows that as Antarctica melts, our sea levels will rise and the increase in water volume means the storms that form over seas will be much stronger. Malaysia



is especially susceptible to this because we are right next to the Southern Pacific, a body of water which has recorded the highest levels of sea rise in the world. Floods and disrupted roads, cost millions of ringgit in damages. This comes out of the taxpayers' pockets, YOUR pockets, and what is more -- these costs will be substantially multiplied in the next few months, not just for Penang but for multiple states.

4. All these effects, ladies and gentlemen, have been caused by us. Mass urbanisation, mass consumption, rapid urban development, use of plastics, our CO2 emissions from planes and auto vehicles, deforestation, agricultural waste, industrial waste - into the atmosphere and into our rivers and oceans. All these things are killing Mother Earth, and in turn, will kill us.

What Can Be Done & Penang Climate Adaptation Programme

5. Can anything be done? Thankfully the answer is yes. On a national level, there can be regulation to make large-scale activities that affect our planet illegal. That's just one thing.
6. On a State level, we are looking at several plans to mitigate the disastrous effects of climate change. I'm happy to say that we are working with Think City on a nature-based Climate Adaptation Plan for Penang, to reduce the temperature, mitigate the effects of storms and flooding, and much more. I believe that Think City will be sharing the initiatives of the plan after this, and I hope that you will take note.
7. But back to us, as urban citizens, you too can make changes from a personal level and from a household level, neighbourhood level and from a community level. We all need to change the way we do things.
Whether it is stopping the use of disposable plastics, finding new uses for old items, consuming less, ensuring you sort your waste properly for recycling. There is a long list and many ways that YOU can make a difference.
I urge you to take some time to visit the exhibition space in the building to view the exhibition that Think City has put together, to understand the effects of climate change, and to see what you can pledge to do today.
8. This is what Penang Climate Action Week is all about -- us gathering together as a community, as a State, to discuss, share information, formulate strategies and take action.

Thanks

9. I would like to commend the teams who took part in the Climathon. To witness the sheer innovation that has resulted from the hackathon is wonderful and I truly wish the winning team all the best for the global competition in Paris.



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10. I would like to thank Think City and all the organisations involved in Penang Climate Action Week, for doing this with us.
11. With that I hope that you will all be able to benefit from Penang Climate Action Week and have a fruitful week enjoying yourselves but learning at the same time, and I hope it translates into action for a Cleaner, Greener, Safer, Healthier and Happier Penang.

Thank you.

END