

# G2G cooperation to tackle haze

**HIGHER LEVEL:** KL, Jakarta to address issues without involving provincial govt agreement

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**I**NDONESIA and Malaysia will work together via a government-to-government (G2G) cooperation to tackle issues pertaining to transboundary haze pollution instead of involving a provincial government agreement.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said Indonesia had agreed to work together under the Asean Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution framework that was ratified last year via G2G to address the problem at a higher level.

Wan Junaidi said the Indonesian government would no longer be pursuing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on transboundary haze pollution with Malaysia on a regional level.

"Indonesia cannot proceed with the MoU as it will not be effective because the Sumatra government alone cannot tackle the problem and requires cooperation from the Jakarta government.

"When haze occurred last year, the Sumatra government needed the central government.

"The Indonesian government feels this issue must be tackled between the federal and central governments.

"Thus, the Technical Committee meeting will be held on May 30 to discuss instruments needed under G2G to tackle the transboundary haze issue in Indonesia," he said yesterday.

Junaidi said Indonesia had assured Malaysia that it would lay out an action plan for the haze problem to avoid the incident last

year from recurring.

Malaysia was set to sign an MoU with Indonesia to implement measures to curb peat fires, which have contributed to transboundary haze, but its Indonesian counterpart was unwilling to sign the deal.

Wan Junaidi said the haze expected next month would likely be moderate due to La Nina.

The phenomenon, which is also expected to hit in the same period (next month to September), bringing with it heavy rainfall, would reduce the impact of haze.

He said based on research by the Asean Specialised Meteorological Centre in Singapore, La Nina might cause floods in some areas in Malaysia, including Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang.

Wan Junaidi said the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) had agreed to carry out an assessment research on the impact of the haze that occurred last year on the Asean region.

He said the Asean Secretariat had been tasked with collecting data from all countries to identify the economic, health and social impact of haze.

He said the ministry had asked related agencies, departments and ministries to provide their feedback on the impact of the haze last year.

He said the findings would be brought to the secretariat for deliberation.

The 18th MSC on Transboundary Haze Pollution was held in Singapore on May 4. It was chaired by Singapore's Environment and Water Resources Minister Masagos Zulkifli.

Malaysia was represented by Deputy Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Hamim Samuri.



Natural Resources and Environment Minister **Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar** (left) with his deputy, **Datuk Hamim Samuri**, at the ministry in Putrajaya yesterday. Pic by Ahmad Irham Mohd Noor

