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## 29 recognised for embracing sustainable goals

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**PETALING JAYA:** The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) set up by the United Nations Agenda 2030 feature 17 goals designed to ensure an inclusive and sustainable future. It gained widespread business support and today, many companies and business organisations have embraced the SDG to ensure no one is left behind.

Regulators and corporations worldwide are also intensifying the practice and principles of Environment, Social and Governance (ESG), making it more significant and effective while raising corporate practices in environmental protection, climate action and social responsibility.

To recognise their hard work and dedication, 29 outstanding organisations and individuals are being awarded the 2022 Malaysia SDG and ESG Impact Awards, organised by the All Party Parliamentary Group on SDG (A P P G - S D G), Economic Club of Kuala Lumpur and the KSI Strategic Institute



Denison is proud to be the award. SUNPIX

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» Organisations, individuals honoured with 2022 Malaysia SDG and ESG Impact awards for their hardwork and dedication

for Asia Pacific (KSI), with the support of the Malaysian CSO Alliance.

The winner of the 2022 Malaysia Sustainability Leadership Award and head of the secretariat for APPG Malaysia - Sustainable Development Goals, Prof. Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria, expressed thanks to KSI and Tan Sri Michael Yeoh for recognising the role of the Malaysia CSO-SDG Alliance, while mobilising and networking with government agencies such as the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) on SDG matters.

"I have been a part of the EPU committee SDG since 2016. I am very thankful for this," he told *theSun*.

Denison said the award also recognises work done in the past and provides greater visibility of the SDG agenda of leaving no one behind in the Malaysian society.

"This gives us a stronger focus on public advocacy in impacting national development policies as well as impacting the delivery of services at the grassroots.

"We need to understand the 17 SDG goals and targets. SDG is about addressing inequalities across gender, class, ethnicity, and ensuring equal opportunities for all. SDG 16 is about peace, justice and good governance.

"Delivery must address the needs and concerns of all. This is key. It must also address concerns for multi-dimensional and cross-cutting ways encompassing economic, social and environmental concerns."

Reef Check Malaysia, a recipient of the 2022 Malaysia Outstanding SDG Icon Award, said the group is honoured to receive the award. Its general manager, Julian Hyde, told *theSun*: "We wish to share this award with the local women's community in Kampung Song-Song, Sabah, whom we work with, especially members of Pertubuhan Wanita Kg Song-Song or Wanis.

"Their commitment to leading and uplifting the economy and capabilities of their community continues to inspire us. We have been working on community empowerment and alternative livelihood programmes with

local communities for many years, so it is nice to be finally recognised for our work," he said.

Hyde added that the award proves that Reef Check Malaysia is heading in the right direction when it comes to community empowerment and implementation of the SDG.

"This recognition will help us draw more partners or collaborators to replicate and extend the work we do with local communities. Additionally, it will further motivate our local beneficiaries as the programmes they are involved in getting highlighted and supported by the APPGM-SDG network," he said.

Another recipient under the same category is Masala Wheels Social Enterprise. Founder Kuan Pathy said he is deeply honoured and grateful for the award as it is impactful, a recognition for the community and the lives it has managed to change. Masala Wheels is to be rebranded as Pepper Labs, its holding company.

"We are consistent in reaching out to marginalised communities and effectively empowering them. Our social enterprise, established for seven years, has been actively involved in advocacy and representing the voices of the ecosystem," he said.

The company hopes Malaysia will continue to support social enterprises as part of the shared prosperity agenda and consistent with the aspiration of Sustainable Development Goals.

"We also hope that this would inspire young people to bring change and positively impact and transform people," he said.