

Radiation levels in the Russian city of Severodvinsk rose by up to 16 times on Aug. 8 after an accident that authorities said involved a rocket test on a sea platform, Reuters wrote.

## Indonesia needs \$15 billion investment to meet geothermal target by 2025

Indonesia may require an estimated \$15 billion in investment to meet its target of reaching 7.2 gigawatts (GW) of geothermal power capacity by 2025 and is studying ways to reduce project costs, an energy ministry official said on Tuesday.

The capacity would be an increase from less than two GW of geothermal power currently, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources' Director General of Renewable Energy F.X. Sutiastoto told reporters at a conference on geothermal energy, Reuters reported.

Earlier at the conference, Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla said during a speech that progress in geothermal power development in the past decade has been "very slow" and the dependency on coal power has caused air pollution around the capital Jakarta.

Coal currently makes up around 60 percent of the country's energy mix versus about five percent from geothermal power, according to data from state utility company PT Perusahaan Listrik Negara (PLN).



REUTERS

The energy ministry is drafting up plans to accelerate ongoing projects to meet the target, Sutiastoto said, including reviewing the possibility of the government reimbursing some part of the development costs.

"We will see, things such as infrastructure, may be possible to be reimbursed by the government," he said, referring to items such as roads or bridges built by the company to reach the geothermal power site.

PT Pertamina Geothermal Energy, a unit of state energy company PT Pertamina, is aiming to invest \$2.7 billion in geothermal power through 2026, President Director Ali Mundakir told reporters at the conference.

The company aim to increase its geothermal capacity to 1.1 GW by 2026 from 672 megawatts currently.

## Australia should reduce emissions, coal mining: Pacific leaders

Australia should do more to reduce its carbon emissions and giving cash to countries battling climate change was not enough, Pacific island leaders said on Tuesday in a rebuke of Canberra's latest attempt to improve ties with the region.

Australia will give A\$500 million (\$339 million) to Pacific island nations for renewable energy projects and to help them prepare for the impact of climate change, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Monday before a trip to the region, Reuters wrote.



indiatimes.com

Leaders from the Pacific's smallest islands, who say rising sea levels are an existential threat to their low-lying nations, said Canberra's announcement did not excuse its support for the country's coal industry.

"No matter how much cash you put on the table, it does not give you the excuse not to do the right thing, that is to cut down on emissions and not open coal mines," Tuvalu Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga, who is also chair of the Pacific Small Islands States meeting, told reporters.

The smaller states met in Funafuti, the capital of Tuvalu, ahead of Tuesday's opening of the Pacific Islands Forum.

In June, Australia approved a new coal mine in Queensland State by India's Adani Enterprises that is expected to produce eight to 10 million tons of thermal coal a year. Morrison's strong backing of the mine was seen as a key factor in his government's surprise re-election in May.

Pacific island leaders have also criticized Australia for counting emission reductions achieved prior to its 2016 pledge to reduce emissions by between 26 percent-28 percent from 2005 levels by 2030.

Canberra has said going further would cause major damage to an economy dependent on the mining industry.

"Australia meets its commitments, and we will always meet our commitments," Morrison said on Tuesday when asked how he reconciled the environmental aid package with the Adani mine approval.

"And that is a point that I'll be making again when I meet with Pacific leaders," he added.

Australia's stance has created tensions with its neighbors just as China is looking to increase its sway in the region.

Along with economic aid and loans, China's support for tackling global warming is seen aiding its drive to win allies and influence in the Pacific region.

## Iran proposes UNESCO to register Hawraman

Iran has applied to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to register the historic beautiful region of Hawraman located in the western province of Kordestan in its list of the world heritage.

Talking to IRNA, Managing Director of Kordestan Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism office Mohsen Alavi said that 80 experts in various fields have gathered facts, adding that studies have been conducted in anthropology, archeology, natural sciences, architecture, historical documents and dwelling.

He added that over 500

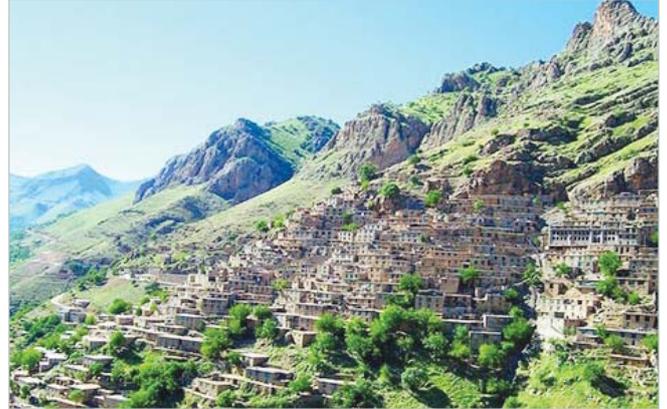
antiquities dating back to Paleolithic Era have been discovered in this area.

He described the registration of Hawraman as an important step for the development of the province.

Hawraman is a mountainous region located within the provinces of Kordestan and Kermanshah in western Iran which also extends into northeastern Iraq within Iraq's Kurdistan Region.

Hawraman in the Kurdish language means the land of sun.

One of the outstanding features of this region is its rocky and mountainous landscape, which include historical villages, castles and religious sites, with different customs and rituals.



navayebidrar.com

## Heat-trapping gases broke records in 2018, climate crisis report finds

The gases heating the planet in 2018 were higher than humans have ever recorded, according to an authoritative new report from the American Meteorological Society and the US government.

Greenhouse gas levels topped 60 years of modern measurements and 800,000 years of ice core data, the study found. The data used in the 325-page report is collected from more than 470 scientists in 60 countries, theguardian.com reported.

The global annual average for carbon dioxide — which is elevated because of human activities like driving cars and burning fuel — was 407.4 parts per million (ppm), 2.4 ppm higher than



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

in 2017.

The report finds 2018 was the fourth-warmest on record since the mid-to-late-1800s. Temperatures were 3°C to 4°C higher

than the average between 1981 and 2010.

Sea levels were the highest on record, as global heating melted land-based ice and expanded the

oceans. Sea surface temperatures were also near a record high.

As the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration put it, the report "found that the major indicators of climate change continued to reflect trends consistent with a warming planet".

Arctic and Antarctic sea ice extent was near a record low, and glaciers continued to melt and lose mass for the 30th year in a row.

Despite recent massive wildfires in the US and the Arctic, 2018 fire activity around the globe was actually the lowest on record. That is because humans have turned the savannas that have burned frequently into

agricultural areas.

Mexico reported its third warmest year in its 48-year record, and Alaska reported its second warmest in its 94-year record. There were 14 weather and climate events in the US that each caused over \$1 billion in damage — the fourth highest since records began in 1980.

The Caribbean saw coral reef bleaching and South America experienced seven extreme snow-fall events. Europe was a hotspot, with its second warmest year since at least 1950. And Australia had its third warmest year since 1910, with a rapidly intensifying and expanding drought and significant fires.

## Researchers study impact of consumption trends on biodiverse regions

One quarter of the world's tropical land could disappear by the end of the century unless meat and dairy consumption falls, researchers have warned.

If the global demand for animal products continues to grow, large swaths of natural land will vanish potentially leading to widespread loss of species and their habitats, www.news-medical.net wrote.

Some nine percent of natural land — 95 percent of which is in the tropics — could go within 80 years unless global dietary habits change, the scientists said.

Researchers at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland's and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany studied the impact of consumption trends on biodiverse regions — areas that have a wealth of mammals, birds, amphibians and plant life.

They found that rapid increases in meat and milk production result in sharp rises in land clearing in tropical regions that harbor high levels of biodiversity.

As incomes increase across the globe, consumption has shifted from staples such as starchy roots and pulses to meat, milk, and refined sugars.

Meat and dairy production is associated with higher land and water use and higher greenhouse gas emissions than any other foods.

By replacing animal products with plant-based alternatives, they predict that the global demand for agricultural land could be reduced by 11 percent.

Researchers also found that industrial feed systems reduce agricultural expansion but may increase environmental degradation due to agricultural pollutants such as fertilizer.

The study comes after the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change last week published a special report that identified reducing meat consumption as an important focus for climate change mitigation.



echo.net.au

## Malaysian Environment Department activates two action plans to tackle haze



BERNAMA

The Malaysian Department of Environment (DoE) has activated the National Open Burning Action Plan and the National Haze Action Plan to coordinate measures by government agencies in addressing open burning and the haze in the country.

Its director-general, Norlin Jaafar, said this was done as the air quality reached a hazardous level in Miri and a very unhealthy level in Kuala Baram, both places in Sarawak, over the past two days, malaymail.com wrote.

"We have also issued directives under Section 31 and Section 37 of the Environmental Quality Act 1974 to all landowners in the peat soil areas of Kuala Baram to prevent and control fires there.

"Also, we have been conducting daily patrols in areas at risk of open burning as well as providing the Air Pollution Index (API) readings to the Sarawak State Disaster Management Committee for further action," she said when contacted by the Bernama News Channel (BNC).

Norlin explained that several measures have been taken to address the haze in Sarawak, including stepping up enforcement against open burning and other activities that can aggravate the situation.

In addition, the department is working with other agencies to implement the standard operating procedure (SOP) on preventing and controlling fires on peat soil and disseminating information, she said.

Norlin said she hoped that all stakeholders and landowners can closely monitor fire-prone areas such as landfills, forests, peat soil areas as well as agricultural and industrial land.

"The people are reminded to not carry out open burning which will affect the air quality. DoE will take stern action against those caught for open burning under Section 29 (A) of the Environmental Quality Act 1974," she said.