

November 2, 2015 @ 11:00am

AFTER months of being smothered by smog and enveloped by gloomy weather, bright days are here again. I even welcome the sun shining in my eyes as I drive.

However, what I do not welcome is a return to the lackadaisical attitude and reactions to the haze when it becomes unbearable.

Malaysia holds the Asean Chair for this term, and that should mean something.

Malaysia should call for an Asean meeting to discuss long-term plans towards preventing the smog from recurring and having cross-border arrangements should it recur.

Asean strives to be a community and the best way to demonstrate that the Asean community means business is by tackling the haze issue together.

An Asean joint task force should be formed to check cross-border pollution to:

PREVENT a recurrence;

DETECT a recurrence;

ERADICATE if there is a recurrence; and,

MANAGE and reduce if there is a possibility of cross-border pollution.

Now is the time for Asean member states to demonstrate to the world how we are able to work together for the benefit of our communities.

I hope an operational task force will be formed once the legalities are addressed

This task force should identify standard operating procedures to tackle the haze situation should it recur, including when the Asean community units should intervene, be on

tps://web.whatsapp.com/send?currence.

Fig. 1 because after almost 20 years, I believe the people of Asean have had enough of this unwelcome annual occurrence.

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