Evaluating Current Practices of Disaster Management Under Environmental Law Towards Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Malaysia has been a consistently high-growth economy for over four decades with the industrial sector being the primary source of economic development since the 1980s. However, at the other end of the spectrum, economic growth has created new risks of disaster and environmental vulnerabilities including that of air and water pollution. Despite experiencing serious health impacts and other losses as outcomes of these pollutions, Malaysia's mitigation strategies and response mechanisms are still weak with no clear policy linkages being made on the economy, environmental disaster and sustainable development. The study followed a doctrinal methodology to highlight imperative evidence about the current policy and law on pollution, and measures adopted to control emissions and discharges as a trade-balancing tool for sustainable development. It also seeks to present a discussion of challenges regarding disaster management in Malaysia from the perspective of environmental law. The study suggested a need for accelerate efforts to analyse diverse but interrelated nature of environmental law and disaster management. The study argued that a comprehensive environmental legal framework is an indispensable condition towards the implementation of effective disaster management and can assist towards the attainment of sustainable development.