



Faculty of Electrical Engineering

**MALAYSIAN REFERENCE NETWORK MODELLING FOR
PHOTOVOLTAIC IMPACTS STUDY**

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**MALAYSIAN REFERENCE NETWORK MODELLING FOR
PHOTOVOLTAIC IMPACTS STUDY**

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**A thesis submitted
in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science
in Electrical Engineering**

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DECLARATION

I declare that this thesis entitled “Malaysian Reference Network Modelling for Photovoltaic Impacts Study” is the result of my own research except as cited in references. The thesis has not been accepted for any degree and is not concurrently submitted in candidature of any other degree.

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Date :

APPROVAL

I hereby declare that I have read this thesis and in my opinion this thesis is sufficient in terms of scope and quality for the award of Master of Science in Electrical Engineering.

Signature :

Name : ASSOC. PROF. DR. GAN CHIN KIM

Date :

DEDICATION

Special gratitude to my beloved parents, Mr. Annathurai and Mdm. Pancharvaramah for their enduring love, tenacity and patience throughout all my walks of life. Also to my siblings, Viknesh and Vinodini who have motivated and supported me throughout my life. I love you all.

ABSTRACT

The burning of abundant fossil fuel amount to accommodate the energy demand causes emission of the greenhouse gas (GHG) which is contribute to the climate change. The Distributed Generation (DG) and renewable energy resources is one promising approach to reduce the emission, thereby mitigating climate change. However, most of the DG and renewable energy resources, especially the photovoltaic (PV) system is intermittent and often fluctuates. In this regard, this thesis focuses on the analysing the impact of PV integration at the medium voltage (MV) network. More precisely, the network losses and voltage issues are used to evaluate the effects of four variables; PV system installed locations, PV variability index (VI), different time resolution of PV generation profiles used and the PV penetration levels. The Malaysian Reference Network (RN) is modelled with the intention to analyse the impact of PV integration at the Medium Voltage (MV) network. Moreover, the breakdown of network losses for the Malaysian MV network is quantified by utilising the RN models. All case studies have been carried out for the urban, semi-urban and rural MV networks. The findings suggest that PV system installed at the end of the 11kV feeder for the rural and semi-urban produces significant network losses reduction than urban networks, which is driven by feeder length and load size. The findings also show that different categories of VI produce different impact on the networks. Voltage fluctuation and voltage step change are the two main concerns of various PV variability on the MV network. In addition, the different time resolution of real solar PV generation profile was collected to be used in the case study. By analysing different ranges of time resolution, it is suggested that a 15-minute time resolution PV generation profiles data are sufficient in network assessment study with approximately 5% error. The use of hourly PV generation data will cause up to 31% loss of accuracy. Furthermore, a case study was done to evaluate the impact of different PV penetration levels. The results show that PV integration above 60% and 100% penetration level will likely cause voltage rise violation in rural and urban networks, respectively. The research also suggests that the maximum PV penetration levels for a MV Malaysian network are based on several network performance indicators. In conclusion, the results show that location of PV system, PV variability, time resolution and PV penetration level are the key parameters to study the impact of PV in the MV networks.

ABSTRAK

Pembakaran bahan api fosil yang tinggi untuk menampung permintaan tenaga, menyebabkan pelepasan gas rumah hijau (GRH) menyumbang kepada perubahan iklim. Penjana teragih (PT) dan sumber tenaga boleh diperbaharui adalah pendekatan yang menjanjikan pengurangan pelepasan, dimana ia membantu mengelakkan perubahan iklim. Walau bagaimanapun, kebanyakan PT dan sumber tenaga boleh diperbaharui, terutamanya sistem Fotovolta (FV) terputus-putus dan sering berubah. Tesis ini memberi tumpuan dalam menganalisis kesan integrasi FV di rangkaian voltan sederhana (VS). Lebih tepat lagi, kerugian rangkaian dan isu voltan dinilai dengan menggunakan empat pembolehubah iaitu tempat sistem FV dipasang, indeks kepelbagaian FV (IK), profil generasi FV yang berbeza resolusi masa dan tahap penembusan FV. Rangkaian Rujukan (RR) Malaysia dimodelkan bertujuan untuk menganalisis kesan integrasi PV di rangkaian voltan sederhana (VS). Selain itu, pecahan kerugian rangkaian untuk rangkaian VS Malaysia dinilai dengan menggunakan model RR. Semua kajian kes telah dijalankan bagi rangkaian VS untuk bandar, separa bandar dan luar bandar. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa sistem FV yang dipasang pada akhir penyuaip 11kV bagi luar bandar dan separa bandar menghasilkan pengurangan kerugian rangkaian yang banyak berbanding rangkaian bandar, ini disebabkan oleh panjang feeder dan saiz beban. Selain itu, hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa kategori berlainan di IK menghasilkan kesan yang berbeza pada rangkaian. Perubahan voltan dan langkah voltan adalah dua masalah utama bagi kepelbagaian FV pada rangkaian VS. Di samping itu, generasi PV solar sebenar dengan resolusi masa yang berbeza dikumpulkan untuk digunakan dalam kajian ini. Dengan menganalisis julat yang berbeza resolusi masa, adalah dicadangkan bahawa masa 15-minit generasi FV profil data mencukupi dalam kajian penilaian rangkaian dengan ralat kira-kira 5%. Penggunaan data generasi FV setiap jam akan menyebabkan kehilangan sehingga 31% ketepatan. Tambahan pula, satu kajian telah dilakukan untuk menilai kesan terhadap tahap penembusan FV yang berbeza. Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa integrasi FV yang melebihi 60% dan 100% tahap penembusan, akan menyebabkan pelanggaran kenaikan voltan dalam rangkaian bandar dan luar bandar, masing-masing. Kajian ini juga menunjukkan bahawa tahap penembusan maksimum FV untuk rangkaian Malaysia VS adalah berdasarkan beberapa petunjuk prestasi rangkaian. Kesimpulannya, keputusan menunjukkan bahawa lokasi sistem FV, FV kepelbagaian, resolusi masa dan tahap penembusan FV adalah parameter utama untuk mengkaji kesan FV dalam rangkaian VS.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
DECLARATION	
DEDICATION	
ABSTRACT	i
ABSTRAK	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF APPENDICES	xii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xii
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	xiv
CHAPTER	
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Problem Statement	6
1.3 Research Objectives	7
1.4 Research Scope	8
1.5 Contribution	9
1.5 Thesis Outline	10
2. LITERATURE REVIEW	11
2.1 Introduction	11
2.2 Distribution Network System	12
2.2.1 Reference Network	13
2.2.2 Reference Network of a Malaysian Distribution System	16
2.2.3 Types of Distribution System	18
2.2.4 Distribution Network in Malaysia	20
2.3 PV System on Distribution Network	25
2.3.1 Installed PV System in Malaysia	26
2.4 Challenges of PV System on Distribution Network	31
2.4.1 Network Losses	31
2.4.2 Voltage Issues	32
2.4.3 PV Variability	34
2.5 Uncertainty of Distributed Energy Resources (DER)	36
2.5.1 Uncertainty of Photovoltaic	37
2.5.2 Uncertainty of other Low Carbon Technologies	38
2.6 Data Granularity	39
2.7 Research Gap and Summary	41

3. METHODOLOGY	43
3.1 Introduction	43
3.2 Digital Simulation of Electrical Networks, DIgSILENT	44
3.2.1 Time-series Power Flow Analysis	44
3.2.2 Validation of DIgSILENT with IEEE 34 Node Test Feeder	45
3.3 Reference Network Modelling	47
3.3.1 RN#1 for 132/33/11kV Voltage Transformation	48
3.3.2 RN#2 for 132/33/11kV Voltage Transformation	49
3.3.3 RN#3 for 132/33/11kV Voltage Transformation	50
3.3.4 RN#4 for 132/11kV Direct Voltage Transformation	52
3.3.5 RN#5 for 132/11kV Direct Voltage Transformation	53
3.3.6 RN#6 for 132/11kV Direct Voltage Transformation	54
3.3.7 Modelling of Six Reference Networks	56
3.4 Cable Modelling	57
3.5 Transformer Modelling	62
3.6 Network Demand Modelling	63
3.7 Solar PV Integration	67
3.7.1 Solar Photovoltaic Data Collection	67
3.7.2 Integration of PV Simulation	69
3.8 Base Case Simulation	82
3.8.1 Network Losses	83
3.8.2 Voltage Fluctuation	85
3.9 Summary	86
4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS	87
4.1 Introduction	87
4.2 Reference Network	87
4.2.1 Network Losses	88
4.2.2 Voltage Profile	92
4.3 Network Impact Assessment	96
4.3.1 Case Study 1-Impact of PV Integration in Various Position on feeder	97
4.3.2 Case Study 2-Evaluation of Technical Parameter under VI on MV Network	102
4.3.3 Case Study 3-Effect of Different Time Resolution of PV Generation Profile on Network	106
4.3.4 Case Study 4-Impact of PV Integration of Various Penetration Levels	112
4.4 Summary of the Network Impact Assessment	118
5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	121
5.1 Introduction	121
5.2 Research Contributions	121

5.2.1 Modelling of Malaysian RNs and Quantify the Network Losses	121
5.2.2 Evaluation of the Impact of PV integration on Malaysian MV network	122
5.3 Significant of Results	124
5.4 Recommendation for Future Works	125
REFERENCES	127
APPENDICES	147
Appendix A	147
Appendix B	159

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	TITLE	PAGE
2.1	PVC, ABC and Bare AL conductor ratings	21
2.2	XLPE and PILC conductor ratings	21
2.3	Utilised Transformer Rating in Malaysian Distribution network	23
2.4	Steady-state voltage level fluctuation limits under normal conditions	24
2.5	Steady-state voltage level fluctuation limits under contingency conditions	24
2.6	Range of Maximum Demand for types of Premises	25
2.7	Range of Maximum Demand for types of shops-houses	25
2.8	Normal Operating at Point of Common Coupling (MV)	30
3.1	Validation of DIgSILENT 34-Node System Results with IEEE Test Results	46
3.2	Types of RN and Voltage Transformation	47
3.3	Parameters for RN#1	49
3.4	Parameters for RN#2	50
3.5	Parameters for RN#3	52
3.6	Parameters for RN#4	53
3.7	Parameters for RN#5	54
3.8	Parameters for RN#6	55
3.9	Comparison of Six RNs	57

3.10	Cable Ratings for 11kV Line	58
3.11	Cable Ratings for 33kV Line	59
3.12	Technical Data of Cable	60
3.13	Technical Data of Transformers	63
3.14	Feeder Load Density Based on Geographic Location	64
3.15	Proportion of residential and commercial	66
3.16	Details of the PV system in UTeM	68
3.17	Multi-voltage level of transformers and lines	85
3.18	Steady State Voltage Fluctuation	86
4.1	Proportion of network losses breakdown	92
4.2	Comparison Voltage Drop in Percentage	94
4.3	Losses Reduction across the 11kV Feeder	101
4.4	Losses ratio based on different time resolution	107
4.5	Voltage drop ratio based on different time resolution	111
4.6	Summary of safe PV maximum penetration level respect to different network impact assessment criteria	118

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	TITLE	PAGE
1.1	Solar PV Global Capacity, 2005-2016	2
1.2	Average polysilicon PV system price from 2000 to 2017	2
1.3	Projected CO2 emissions for four sectors in Malaysia	3
1.4	Statistics of PV system in MV network	5
2.1	Single line of the 8500-Node Test Feeder Circuit	14
2.2	UKGSD-EHV1 network	15
2.3	Proposed Framework to Classify Real Malaysian Distribution Network	16
2.4	Data stratification for the Malaysian distribution MV feeders	18
2.5	Simplified design of radial, loop and network type of distribution network	19
2.6	Substation with two transformers which operate simultaneously on two separate half-busbars	22
2.7	Statistics of < 500kW PV system size installed in Malaysia, 2012-2016 Mac	28
2.8	Statistics of > 500kW PV system size installed in Malaysia, 2012-2016 Mac	28
2.9	Network Losses for Three Different System	32
2.10	Percentage of case violation in Malaysia and UK network	33
2.11	PV Variability	35

2.12	Moderate PV VI with buffered PV	36
2.13	Loss Ratio	41
3.1	IEEE 34 Node Test Feeder System	45
3.2	Urban Network, RN#1	48
3.3	Semi-Urban Network, RN#2	50
3.4	Rural Network, RN#3	51
3.5	Urban Network, RN#4	53
3.6	Semi-Urban Network, RN#5	54
3.7	Rural Network, RN#6	55
3.8	Cable sizes with network losses in RN#3	61
3.9	Normalized demand profile of commercial network in Malaysia	65
3.10	Normalized demand profile of residential network in Malaysia	65
3.11	Thin Film Solar PV System	67
3.12	Monitoring Room	68
3.13	Fifteen-minute resolution of PV generation profile for base case study	69
3.14	Location of the PV system	70
3.15	Flowchart of the case study with different location of PV	71
3.16	Flow hart of the case study with different PV VI	72
3.17	PV generation profile on clear sky day	74
3.18	PV Generation Profile on Overcast Sky Day	75
3.19	PV Generation Profile on Mild Variability Day	76
3.20	PV Generation Profile on Moderate Variability Day	76
3.21	PV Generation Profile on High Variability Day	77
3.22	Solar Irradiance versus Time for a Moderate VI Day	78

3.23	Distribution of Solar Irradiance with Different Time Sampling	79
3.24	Flowchart of the Time Resolution	80
3.25	Flowchart of Base Case Simulation	82
4.1	Network Losses (RN#1 RN#2 RN#3)	89
4.2	Network Losses (RN#4 RN#5 RN#6)	91
4.3	Voltage Level Stages and Nodes	93
4.4	Average Terminal Voltage in RN#1, RN#2 and RN#3	95
4.5	Average Terminal Voltage in RN#4, RN#5 and RN#6	95
4.6	Location of PV system on the 11kV feeder	97
4.7	Network Losses with Different Location of PV (Urban)	98
4.8	Network Losses with Different Location of PV (Rural)	99
4.9	Loss reduction with the position of PV system	100
4.10	Voltage Profile at Urban (Peak PV Time)	103
4.11	Voltage Profile at Rural (Peak PV Time)	104
4.12	Number of Voltage Step Change for Urban and Rural Network	105
4.13	Loss ratio for urban, semi-urban and rural network, based on different time resolution	106
4.14	Voltage ratio at urban based on the time resolution	109
4.15	Voltage ratio at semi-urban based on the time resolution	110
4.16	Voltage ratio at rural based on the time resolution	110
4.17	Percentage of network losses for urban network (RN#1 and RN#4)	113
4.18	Percentage of network losses for rural network (RN#3 and RN#6)	114
4.19	Maximum voltage versus PV penetration level	116

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX	TITLE	PAGE
A	IEEE 34-Node Test Feeder System	148
B	Publications	159

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Al	-	Aluminium
CI	-	Clearness Index
Cu	-	Copper
DG	-	Distributed Generation
DIGSILENT	-	Digital Simulation of Electrical Network
FiT	-	Feed in Tariff
IEEE	-	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
LV	-	Low Voltage
MV	-	Medium Voltage
OLTC	-	On-Load Tap Changer
p.u.	-	Per Unit
PV	-	Photovoltaic
RN	-	Reference Network
SEDA	-	Sustainable Energy Development Authority Malaysia
ST	-	Suruhanjaya Tenaga
TNB	-	Tenaga Nasional Berhad
UK	-	United Kingdom
U.S.	-	United States
VI	-	Variability Index

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Journal

- [1] Annathurai, V., Gan, C. K., Ibrahim, K. A., Baharin, K. A., & Ghani, M. R. A, (2016). A Review on the Impact of Distributed Energy Resources Uncertainty on Distribution Networks. *International Review of Electrical Engineering (IREE)*, 11(4), 420. (Scopus-indexed)

- [2] Annathurai, V., Gan, C.K., Ruddin, M., Ghani, A., and Baharin, K.A., (2017). Impacts of Solar Variability on Distribution Networks Performance. *International Journal of Applied Engineering Research*, 12 (7), pp.1151–1155. (Scopus-indexed)

- [3] Annathurai, V., Gan, C. K., Baharin, K. A., Ruddin, M., & Ghani, A. (2016). Shading Analysis for the Siting of Solar PV Power Plant. *ARPJ Journal of Engineering and Applied Sciences*, 11(8), 5021–5027. (Scopus-indexed)

Conference

- [1] V. Annathurai, C. K. Gan, K.A. Ibrahim, M.R.A. Ghani, “Technical Assessment of Reference Network in Malaysia,” *6th IEEE International Conference on Power and Energy (PECON2016)*, Melaka, 2016 (In-Press).

- [2] V. Annathurai, C. K. Gan, M.R.A. Ghani, K. A., Baharin “Necessity of Time-Series Simulation For Investigation of High Penetration of PV System in Malaysia,” *International Symposium on Research in Innovation and Sustainability*, Melaka, 2017 (Accepted).

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Enormous amounts of non-renewable resources are being utilized every day to meet the increasing energy requirement, mainly in the industrial sector. Other sectors such as transportation, commercial and residential also accounts for this requirement and contributed to energy-related carbon emission. The combustion of fossil fuels contributes to the increase of greenhouse gas emissions, which results in global warming. In future, the greenhouse gas emissions from the developing countries will probably exceed those produced by developed countries (Chandler et al., 2002; Hardisty et al., 2012).

Many countries all over the world have been involved in generating power from renewable sources to accommodate the expected higher demand in the future. At present, renewable energy contributes approximately 30% of the total global power-generating capacity and around 23% of the total global electricity production. For the last decade, PV has seen a dramatic rise of 51% in terms of average annual growth in installed capacity (REN21 Secretariat, 2016). As shown in Figure 1.1, over the last fifteen years the PV capacity is increasing rapidly in the world. Tremendous drop of PV panel price in the past two decades has caused corresponding increases in the PV system projects in many countries. Figure 1.2 shows the average price trend of polysilicon solar modules in the past few years.

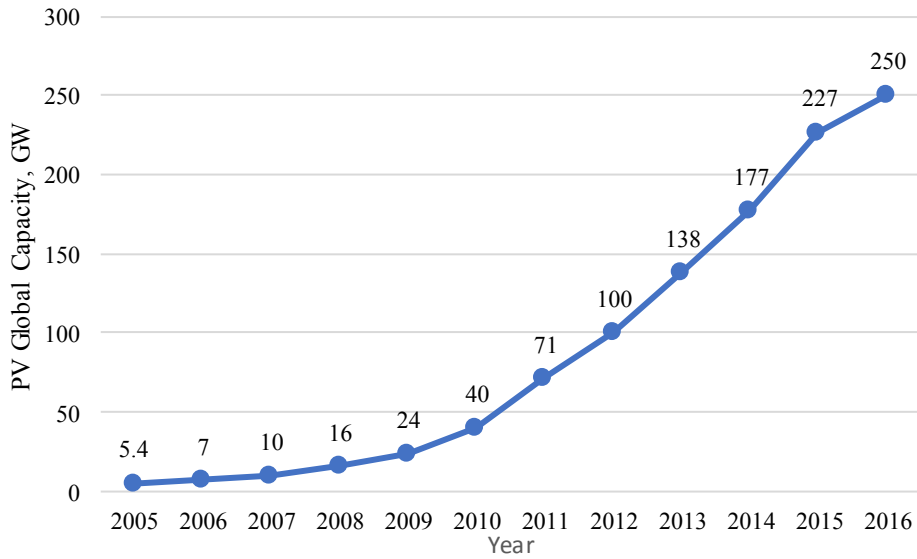


Figure 1.1: Solar PV global capacity, 2005-2016 (REN21 Secretariat, 2016)

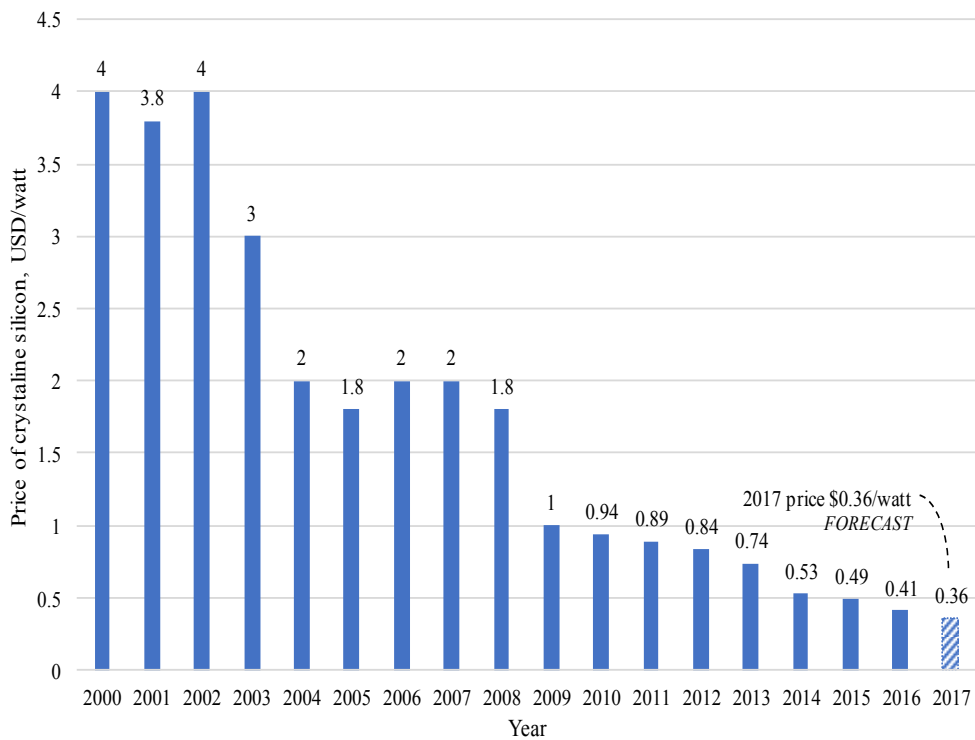


Figure 1.2: Average polysilicon PV system price from 2000 to 2017 (Bano and Rao, 2016)

In Malaysia, the electricity generation, industry, transport and residential are the four major sectors require a high demand of energy and a huge contributor of carbon dioxide (CO₂)

emissions as shown in Figure 1.3. A study was done to support that by the year of 2020 the total emissions of the CO₂ will reach 285.73 million tons (Safaai et al., 2014). In this concern, the Malaysian government had assured and set the target to reduce 40% carbon emission intensity along with high-income nation by 2020 (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia, 2000; National Economic Advisory Council, 2009).

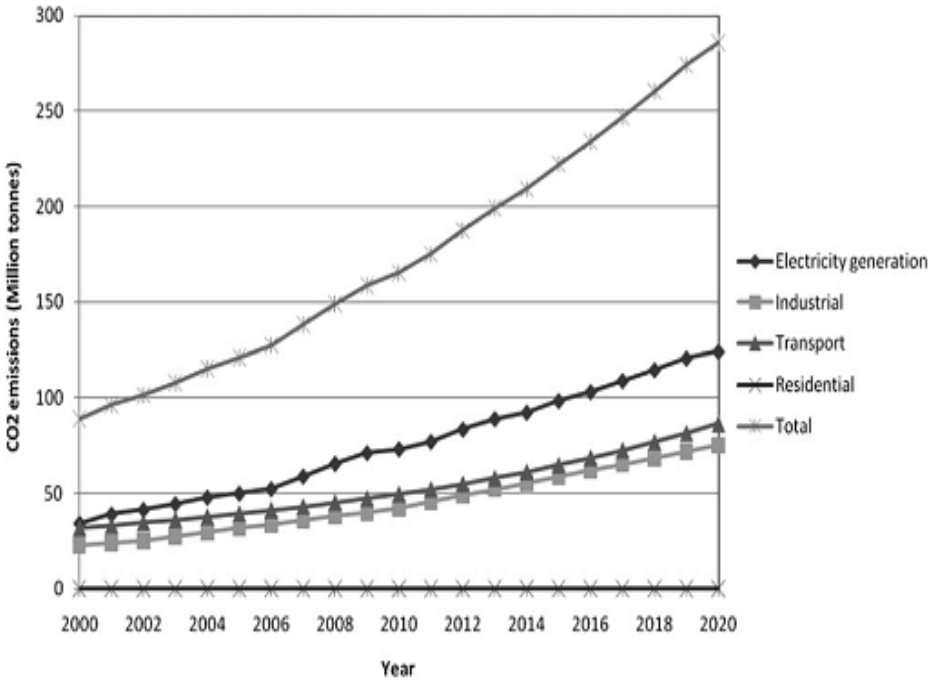


Figure 1.3: Projected CO₂ emissions for four sectors in Malaysia (Safaai et al., 2014)

Consequently, the Malaysian Government formed a statutory body named, Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA) in year 2011 and set a clear objective for renewable energy, which is to achieve up to 985 MW of renewable energy (RE) production by 2015 (The Economic Planning Unit, 2010). SEDA is responsible for managing the feed-in tariff (FiT) mechanism which is authorised under the Renewable Energy Act 2011 (Act 725) (Parliament Malaysia, 2011). The distributed solar photovoltaic (PV) has become one of the most favourable alternative energy resources for Malaysia (Zahari and Ahmad, 2012). This is contributed by strong governmental effort and by Malaysia being geographically located near the equator,

enabling it to receive the solar irradiance of 4000 to 5000Wh per square meter per day (Teh, 2012). Moreover, PV panels and systems require minimum maintenance and easy to fit in the roofs (El-Khattam and Salama, 2004). Furthermore, the decreasing price of PV panel with the increasing of efficiency results in the increased installations of PV panels in residential and commercial areas. These are the main reasons for the solar PV to become the most promising RE in Malaysia. This is proven by the creation of enactment of Renewable Energy Act 2011 which encourages investment in the Renewable Energy (RE) sector through the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) incentive scheme (Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water, 2011). This FiT scheme acknowledges great responses, especially for the grid-connected PV systems (Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water, 2011; Tam, 2013).

Figure 1.4 shows the statistics of the large PV system size (more than 500kWp) is increasing rapidly in Malaysia over the years. Since of the introduction of the FiT scheme (2012) the total generation of PV system is increased by 100% at end of the year 2016 (SEDA, 2011). By year 2016 for the solar power plants with an installed capacity of 2MW, 3MW, 5MW and more than 5MW are rapidly increases than the residential PV capacities.