

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sarawak Metro's SEED Programme sees latest collaboration to develop local human capital

KUCHING: Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd has once again achieved another milestone through its Socio-Economic Enhancement Development (SEED) Programme – with a collaboration now underway between one of its main contractors and a technical and vocational institution in Sarawak.

Through this collaboration, DOM EEB Joint Venture International Sdn Bhd (DOM EEB JV) will provide opportunities for final year students of Politeknik Kuching to undergo a four-month internship with the company.

DOM EEB JV is Sarawak Metro's System Package 2 contractor for Phase 1 of the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) Project.

Sarawak Metro Chief Executive Officer, Ts. Mazli Mustaffa was on hand to witness the exchange of the Letter of Collaboration between DOM EEB JV and Politeknik Kuching at an event held here, recently.

Mazli lauded DOM EEB JV's efforts in giving the students this opportunity through Sarawak Metro's SEED Programme and encouraged active interaction and participation between them.

"I am very happy that our contractor is fulfilling our requirement for knowledge transfer through our SEED Programme, especially to develop the pool of local skilled manpower for the public transport industry," said Mazli, adding that the endeavour required mutual commitment and trust from the partners to achieve the goals and objectives set.

Representing DOM EEB JV at the event was its Project Director, Alex Wong Leh Kui while Politeknik Kuching was represented by its Director, Mohamad Nazri bin Ismail.

Through the internship, the selected students will have exposure to DOM EEB JV's activities in providing the various systems for the Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART).

During their internship, they will also have the opportunity to learn the necessary skills for specific roles, including technical competencies and safety practices related to the maintenance of hydrogen-powered vehicles and the KUTS operations.

For a start, DOM EEB JV will take in nine students from Politeknik Kuching for the internship.

Through its SEED Programme, Sarawak Metro has set a target of 100 students to take part in this internship initiative, which is part of its efforts to develop a competent blue-collar workforce throughout the implementation of the KUTS project.

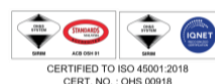
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This internship is part of the ‘transfer of knowledge and skills initiative’ under the SEED Programme, which is designed to expose participants to real-world working experiences and environments.

ENDS

Photo and caption:



COLLABORATIVE EFFORT... Mazli (centre) witnessing the exchange of documents between Wong (2nd left) and Mohamad Nazri, as KUTS Project Director, together with Zafrin Zakariah (right) and DOM-EEB JV director Vincent Ng

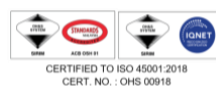
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About Sarawak Metro and KUTS project:

Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd (Sarawak Metro), a State-owned enterprise, has been entrusted by the Sarawak Government to modernise public transport through the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) project.

Sarawak Metro is the implementer, operator and maintainer of the KUTS project.

The project is being developed in phases, and Phase 1 includes the development of three lines: the Blue Line from Rembus in Kota Samarahan to Hikmah Exchange in the city centre; the Red Line, from Kuching Sentral to Pending; and the Green Line, from Pending to Damai.

The backbone of the KUTS project is the introduction of the zero-emission Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) hydrogen vehicles.

The ART vehicles will be operated on dedicated lanes, meaning they will not share the lane with other road users. The ART hydrogen vehicles will run on rubber tires, and hence the dedicated lanes will be trackless. The lanes will mostly be at-grade (road level) while certain sections of the alignment will be elevated.

The ART operation will be supported by a network of feeder buses, which will also consist of hydrogen-powered vehicles to offer the ‘first mile and last mile’ connectivity for commuters.

The move to use hydrogen is in line with the Sarawak Government’s aspirations to advance the hydrogen economy and to decarbonise public transport in Sarawak.

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