

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

21 MAY 2026

### Sarawak Metro apprentices and staff complete industrial attachment in China

**KUCHING:** A group of apprentices and staff from Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd successfully completed a month-long industrial attachment in Yibin, China, gaining valuable hands-on experience in the production and assembly of Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) hydrogen vehicles.

Conducted under Sarawak Metro's Socio-Economic Enhancement Development (SEED) Programme, the industrial attachment was held from 18 April to 15 May at the Sichuan CRRC SDIG Rail Transit Co. Ltd. manufacturing plant, where the ART hydrogen vehicles are produced.

To mark the successful conclusion of the programme, a 'Completion Ceremony' was held recently in Yibin, witnessed by Sarawak Metro's Director of Legal and Company Secretary Department, Bibi Waheeda Arman Khan, representing Chief Executive Officer, Ts. Mazli Mustafa.

The five participants who completed their industrial attachment were senior apprentices Muhammad Amiruddin Syukri Bin Mohd Bakri Iman, Muhammad Aqil Bin Azlan, Abang Akmal 'Irfan Bin Abang Abdul Razak and Frankie Ngerong Sali, as well as Suzana Binti Abdullah, a Senior Executive from Sarawak Metro's Operations & Maintenance Department.

Mazli said this SEED Programme initiative coincided with another important milestone for Sarawak Metro, namely the upcoming arrival of the first two ART hydrogen vehicles for the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) Project.

"The timing of this industrial attachment is particularly significant for Sarawak Metro as our first two ART vehicles are set to be delivered to Kuching soon," he said.

He added that the SEED Programme reflects Sarawak Metro's continued commitment towards developing skilled and competent local talent for the future of the transport industry.

Mazli also expressed his appreciation to EPR Mobilus GR JV Sdn Bhd (EMGJV), the KUTS Project's contractor for Systems Package 1, for its commitment in ensuring the success of the industrial attachment under the SEED Programme.

"Under our Young Talent Programme (YTP), which is a part of our SEED Programme, we have trained more than 60 apprentices, many of whom are now invaluable members of Sarawak Metro's workforce," he said.

The YTP is part of Sarawak Metro's move to create a pool of skilled workforce to manage this new technology for the transportation industry.

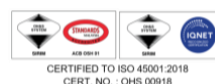
For media enquiries, please contact the Sarawak Metro Corporate Communication team :

Letitia Samuel, Media Senior Manager

+6(016) 800 4516

[letitia.samuel@mysarawakmetro.com](mailto:letitia.samuel@mysarawakmetro.com)

[www.mysarawakmetro.com](http://www.mysarawakmetro.com)



This recent industrial attachment combined classroom learning, practical training, and supervised on-site exposure, allowing participants to gain experience in the assembly of hydrogen vehicles, component integration, testing, and quality control, while learning industry-standard practices and technologies directly from the original equipment manufacturer (OEM).

Participants were also involved in both ‘high-stand’ and ‘low-stand’ assembly processes for the third and fourth units of the ART hydrogen vehicles prior to their delivery, further strengthening their technical competencies and understanding of engineering workflows, documentation, and quality assurance practices.

Industrial attachments with OEMs have been conducted under Sarawak Metro’s SEED Programme since 2022, providing apprentices and staff with valuable industry experience and technical knowledge transfer.

Ends

**Photos and Captions:**



Apprentices and staff of Sarawak Metro posing for a group photo with representatives from EMGJV and the management of CRRC SDIG Rail Transit

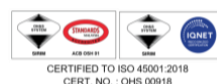
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Bibi Waheeda (2<sup>nd</sup> left) presenting a memento to CRTC SDIG Rail Transit Deputy General Manager Wang Guocheng, witnessed by Sarawak Metro’s Head of Department for Operation & Maintenance, Haji Muhamad Burhanordin Haji Ismail and Head of Department for Strategic Human Resources Jane Ah Guan



CRTC SDIG Rail Transit Deputy General Manager Wang Guocheng (2<sup>nd</sup> right) presenting a certificate to Suzana Abdullah, witnessed by (from left) Sarawak Metro Head of Department for Strategic Human Resources Jane Ah Guan, Head of Department for Operation & Maintenance Haji Muhamad Burhanordin Haji Ismail, Bibi Waheeda and EMGJV Director Zhao Jun Ku

**About Sarawak Metro and KUTS project:**

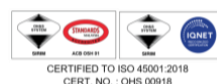
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**SARAWAK METRO SDN BHD (201801007738)**  
*State-owned Enterprise*

SF205, SF210-212, Second Floor,  
Riverside Shopping Complex,  
Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman,  
93100 Kuching, Sarawak.

Tel: (082) 524 222  
Fax: (082) 524 224  
E-mail: [info@mysarawakmetro.com](mailto:info@mysarawakmetro.com)  
Website: [www.mysarawakmetro.com](http://www.mysarawakmetro.com)

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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