

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sarawak Metro and Sarawak Science Centre to collaborate on talent development

KUCHING: Sarawak Metro recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sarawak Science Centre to further enhance efforts in talent development.

The MoU will also look into ways to collaborate on various initiatives, especially through Sarawak Metro's Socio-Economic Enhancement Development (SEED) Programme.

This will include promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, future mobility education programmes, public awareness and sustainability campaigns, industrial exposure pathways, and other mutually agreed areas of collaboration.

The Premier of Sarawak, the Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg was on hand to witness the exchange of the MoU documents that was carried out recently during the official launch of the Sarawak Science Centre.

Representing Sarawak Metro at the event was its Director of Legal & Company Secretary, Bibi Waheeda Arman Khan while Sarawak Science Centre was represented by its Managing Director, Ts. Dr. Peter Morin Nissom.

Speaking after the signing ceremony, Sarawak Metro Chief Executive Officer Ts. Mazli Mustaffa expressed his appreciation to Sarawak Science Centre for the collaboration, describing it as an important platform to inspire and nurture the next generation of talents in science and technology.

"We are honoured to be among the organisations that are taking a meaningful step towards strengthening collaboration in nurturing talent in science and technology, especially since Sarawak Metro places great emphasis on talent development," said Mazli.

He pointed out that as the future operator of the Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) system that is powered by hydrogen, Sarawak Metro will require a highly skilled workforce with strong capabilities in science, technology and engineering to support its operations.

"This collaboration is in line with our commitment to nurture young talents and we believe that it also aligns with the aspirations of the Sarawak Science Centre as well as the Sarawak Government's vision of developing a knowledge-based and innovation-driven economy," said Mazli.

Sarawak Metro introduced the SEED Programme in 2020 to add value to the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) project.

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The SEED Programme focuses on developing a future-ready workforce for the public transport industry while enhancing the competencies of local talents through structured training, education and industry exposure.

Through the SEED Programme, Sarawak Metro also works closely with local institutions of higher learning, including collaborations on developing training modules.

Another focus of the SEED Programme is on localisation by creating business opportunities through the development of the local supply chain for the KUTS project.

ENDS

Photo and caption:



COLLABORATIVE EFFORT...Bibi (3rd left) and Peter exchanging the MOU documents, witnessed by the Premier of Sarawak (4th left) and other distinguished guests

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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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