



SARAWAK METRO SDN BHD (201801007738)
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PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sarawak Metro staff and apprentices head for industrial attachments in China

KUCHING: Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd (Sarawak Metro) is sending a team to China on an attachment programme with the developer of the Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) vehicle.

The attachment programme comes under Sarawak Metro's Socio-Economic Enhancement Development (SEED) programme, a first for a mega project in Sarawak, towards enhancing the procurement value of the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) project.

The four-member team – an engineer and three apprentices – headed for Changsha, China yesterday (31 August) for their 10-week attachment.

This marks another milestone for Sarawak Metro in its efforts to create a pool of skilled manpower to manage the KUTS project.

“Apart from creating a pool of skilled manpower, this SEED programme is also our initiative to prepare our young local talent to manage the need of this new industry,” said Sarawak Metro's Chief Executive Officer, Mazli Mustaffa.

“This is our commitment towards ensuring the success of this noble project, which aims to modernise public transport and ease traffic congestion in Greater Kuching,” said Mazli, adding that more attachments are in the pipeline.

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Meanwhile, EPR Mobilus Global Rail JV Sdn Bhd's (EMGJV) Project Director Mohd Asmadi bin Abdul Manaf explained the core objective of the attachment is to facilitate professional growth of emerging talents by providing them a unique opportunity to participate in the final design phase of the ART hydrogen vehicle (H2V) system.

EMGJV, the System Package 1 contractor for Phase 1 of the KUTS Project, organised the attachment initiative as part of its SEED Programme implementation plan.

"The H2V project is on the cutting edge of transportation technology and is poised to revolutionise the urban transit landscape.

"By cultivating their skills in this field, these young talents will play a pivotal role in establishing local production capabilities for the H2V system right here in Kuching, next year.

"We are fully committed to the success of this knowledge transfer initiative," said Mohd Asmadi.

The four young talents- Sara Athynna binti Mohd Kamal Basheer, Addery Ingka anak Andok, Nabil bin Norman and Muhammad Razi bin Yunus, will undergo their attachment at the CRRC MRT Holding Group Co Ltd's facilities in Changsha, China. They will be in Changsha until November where they will be attached to various departments related to their respective work scopes.

Sara, an engineer, and Addery (Young Talent Programme (YTP) senior apprentice) are currently with Sarawak Metro's Hydrogen Power & Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) department while both Muhammad Razi (YTP senior apprentice) and Nabil (YTP apprentice) are with the Operation & Maintenance department in Sarawak Metro.

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Apart from these four, Sarawak Metro also recently assigned another group, consisting of two engineers and two Young Talent Programme apprentices, to be on attachment with Global Rail Sdn Bhd in Selangor.

They started their attachment on 28 August 2023 and are scheduled to complete it by the end of this October. After completing their attachment with Global Rail, all four will continue on to China, to continue with their attachment there.

Sarawak Metro, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), has been entrusted by the Sarawak Government to modernise public transport through 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. Phase 1 of the KUTS Project is scheduled to start operations from the fourth quarter of 2025. The backbone of the KUTS project is the introduction of the zero-emission ART hydrogen vehicles.

The ART vehicles will be operated on dedicated lanes, which means they will not share the road with other road users. The ART hydrogen vehicles will run on rubber tyres and hence the dedicated lanes will be trackless. The lanes will either be at-grade (road level) or elevated.

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

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

End.

Photo and caption:



ONE FOR THE ALBUM...Mazli (3rd right) posing for a group photograph with (from 3rd left) Nabil, Addery and Sara as well as Muhammad Razi (extreme right) before their flight to Changsha. Also seen in the photograph are Sarawak Metro’s staff (from extreme left) Francis Goyem and Aizwan Saufiee Muhamad together with Priscilla Annabel Bisop (2nd right) who will be accompanying the four to Changsha.

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