

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18 APRIL 2026

### Sarawak Metro's SEED Programme advances talent development with industrial attachment in China

**KUCHING:** Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd (Sarawak Metro) is sending a group of five apprentices and staff to Yibin, China today for an industrial attachment under its Socio-Economic Enhancement Development (SEED) Programme.

According to Sarawak Metro Chief Executive Officer, Ts. Mazli Mustaffa, for this latest industrial attachment, the participants will get the opportunity to gain first hand experience at the Sichuan CRRC SDIG Rail Transit Co. Ltd plant, where the Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) hydrogen vehicles (H2V) are produced.

"This month-long attachment with one of our original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), from 18 April to 15 May 2026, will involve direct participation in the H2V production and assembly processes.

"This latest industrial attachment for our staff and Young Talent Programme (YTP) apprentices also comes at a very significant moment, as our first two H2Vs are set to be delivered to Kuching while work on the next set of ART H2Vs are in progress," said Mazli in a statement issued today.

He added that Sarawak Metro has always recognised the importance of fostering a culture of continuous learning and innovation.

"This industrial attachment represents yet another significant step in our efforts to groom the next generation of leaders in the transport industry.

"And this initiative under our SEED Programme is an ideal platform to create the pool of skilled local manpower, which will be vital for our Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS)," said Mazli.

He also expressed his appreciation to EPR Mobilus GR JV Sdn Bhd (EMGJV), the System Package Contractor 1 for the KUTS Project for its commitment in making industrial attachments under the SEED Programme a success.

This industrial attachment is designed to provide apprentices and staff with the opportunity to work closely with OEMs and technology providers, gaining exposure across stages from design through to the production of the hydrogen-based ART system.

The industrial attachment comprises integrated classroom learning, hands-on practical training, and supervised on-site exposure, enabling effective transfer of skills and technical knowledge between experts from the OEM and Sarawak Metro's apprentices and staff.

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Participants will gain hands-on experience in H2V assembly, component integration, testing, and quality control, while being exposed to industry-standard practices, tools, and technologies.

They will also be involved in high-stand and low-stand assembly processes for the third and fourth units of the ART H2V, prior to delivery.

Apart from that, the industrial attachment provides the opportunity for the participants to gain valuable real-world experience, strengthen their technical competencies, and deepen their understanding of engineering workflows, including documentation and quality assurance practices.

Industrial attachments such as this, which have allowed Sarawak Metro’s YTP apprentices and staff to gain direct learning access with OEMs, started since 2022 through the SEED Programme.

Ends

**Photos and Captions:**



KUTS Project Director, Zafrin Zakariah (7<sup>th</sup> left) as well as other representatives from Sarawak Metro and contractors sending off the industrial attachment participants at Kuching International Airport.

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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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