

For Immediate Release

Press Release

7 October 2024

Sarawak Metro exchanges MoUs with Japanese companies

KUCHING: Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd recently exchanged Memorandums of Understanding with Japanese companies towards collaborations in various fields.

The MoU exchange ceremony took place at Astaka Malaysia, the Malaysian Pavilion set up by Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) at the recent InnoTrans 2024 in Berlin, Germany.

The first MoU, exchanged between Sarawak Metro and Integrated Design & Engineering Holdings Co Ltd (ID&E), was towards collaborations on the development of Terms of Reference for consultancy services in Sarawak relating to Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS), Demand Responsive Transit (DRT) Services, Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and other relevant expertise including those outlined in ID&E's published group capability platform, "The Good City".

The second MoU, exchanged between Sarawak Metro, ID&E, and its subsidiary, Nippon Koei Group of Companies was towards the development of a coordination and cooperation plan to collaborate and explore future modern urban transportation consultancy services globally.

Representing Sarawak Metro at MoU exchange ceremony was its Chief Executive Officer, Ts. Mazli Mustafa, while ID&E and Nippon Koei Group of Companies were represented by ID&E's Deputy Director General of Business Promotion and Regional Marketing Operations, Tsutomu Tamura and BDP Holdings Ltd's Head of Transport, Architect Director, Peter Jenkins and Nippon Koei Railway Division's Railway Planning Department General Manager Mochizuki Atsushi.

According to Mazli, the MoU exchange was yet another important milestone for Sarawak Metro, signifying a potential expansion of the company's activities beyond Sarawak's shores.

"We are indeed excited about the prospect of working together with our Japanese partners, collaborating on potential projects outside Sarawak, especially in assisting others with our knowledge and experience on trackless zero emission public transport systems."

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He added that the opportunity to hold the MoU exchange ceremony at Berlin's InnoTrans 2024 made it even more memorable, as it is widely considered as the world's largest trade fair for the rail transport industry.

"To be able to get this opportunity to represent Sarawak as part of Malaysia's delegation at this highly significant trade fair and having our MoU exchange with international organisations here in Berlin are definitely milestones for all of us at Sarawak Metro to appreciate and motivate us to reach higher goals."

On hand to witness the MoU exchange ceremony were Ambassador of Malaysia to the Federal Republic of Germany, Her Excellency Datin Paduka Dr. Adina Kamarudin, Malaysia Rail Industry Corporation (MARIC) president, Datuk Dr Mohd Yusoff Sulaiman and MATRADE Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mansor Shah Wahid.

Meanwhile, Sarawak Metro's participation at InnoTrans 2024, was at the invitation of MATRADE, as part of its delegation of exhibitors.

This was the first time that MATRADE had held such an event for the Malaysian rail transport industry at InnoTrans, and this maiden effort was through its collaboration with MARIC, of which Sarawak Metro is a member.

InnoTrans 2024, which was held on 24-27 September, is organised every two years at the Messe Berlin exhibition centre, in Berlin.

Ends

About Sarawak Metro and KUTS project:

Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd (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 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.

Construction of the first package for the Blue Line is expected to complete by the fourth quarter of 2025 and all three lines are scheduled to be fully completed by the end of 2027.

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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.

Photos and Captions:



Mazli (3rd left) exchanging the MoU document with Jenkins, witnessed by (from left) Sarawak Metro’s Legal & Company Secretary Director, Bibi Waheeda Arman Khan, Datuk Dr Mohd Yusoff, Datin Paduka Dr. Adina, Mansor and Mochizuki Atsushi

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Mazli (3rd left) exchanging the MoU document with Tsutomu Tamura, witnessed by (from left) Sarawak Metro’s Legal & Company Secretary Director, Bibi Waheeda Arman Khan, Datuk Dr Mohd Yusoff, Datin Paduka Dr. Adina, Mansor and Mochizuki Atsushi



Mazli (2nd right) presenting a memento to Datin Paduka Dr. Adina at the conclusion of the MoU exchange ceremony at Astaka Malaysia, witnessed by Datuk Dr Mohd Yusoff (left) and Mansor

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