

Press Release

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Sarawak Metro enhances language skills for its staff and apprentices through its SEED Programme

KUCHING: As part of its Socio-Economic Enhancement Development (SEED) Programme, Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd recently introduced a 'Mandarin for Beginners' language training programme for its staff and apprentices.

The initiative is a collaboration between Sarawak Metro and its Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) Project's Systems Package 1 Contractor, EMG JV Sdn Bhd.

As for the training resources for the programme, it is provided by Universiti Malaysia Sarawak's (UNIMAS) Professional Continuous Excellent Learning (ProCEL) Department.

In officiating at the kick-off event for 'Mandarin for Beginners', Sarawak Metro's Director of Corporate Communication, SEED Programme and Bumiputera Relations, Alexius Barieng explained the training programme aimed to address some of the challenges faced by Sarawak Metro's engineers and apprentices, especially those dealing with technology providers based in China.

"The language barrier is one of the challenges faced by our team and our technology providers from China and hence we want to close that gap.

"I hope 'Mandarin for Beginners' will provide them the opportunity to learn basic Mandarin towards enhancing better communication and collaboration," said Barieng during the kick-off event held at Sarawak Metro's corporate office, here.

Among those present at the event were EMG JV Project Director, Asmadi Manaf and UNIMAS's Faculty of Education, Language and Communication Deputy Dean (Industry & Community Engagement), Dr. Noratikah Mohamad Ashari.

About 80 of Sarawak Metro's staff and its Young Talent Programme apprentices registered for the 14-week training programme.

Once they complete the 'Mandarin for Beginners' programme, they will then be given the opportunity to take part in a more advanced Mandarin language programme, which will include technical engineering terminologies.

End.

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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.

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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Photo and Caption:



A group photo of the 'Mandarin for Beginners' participants with (front row, from left) Dr. Noratikah Mohamad Ashari, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Education, Language and Communication, UNIMAS, Alexius Barieng, Director of Corporate Communication, SEED Programme and Bumiputera Relations, Idayati Alek, Senior Manager for SEED Programme and Asmadi Manaf, Project Director of EMG JV.



Trainer and students in action during the first session of 'Mandarin for Beginners'

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FIRST LESSON... The start of the journey in learning a new language

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