

For Immediate Release

Press Release

20 May 2024

Visiting educators get an ART experience in Kuching

KUCHING - A group of more than 100 educators, hailing from all over Malaysia, had the opportunity to view firsthand the prototype Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) hydrogen vehicle, during their recent visit here.

The delegation, who consisted of school management personnel, principals and teachers, were in Kuching for the SIPartner+ (School Improvement Partners) National Conference 2024.

A special visit to the ART assembly facility here was arranged for the delegates following the conference's opening ceremony recently, which was graced by the Premier of Sarawak, The Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg.

In his speech, the Premier highlighted Sarawak's commitment to green energy and the potential of the hydrogen-powered ART.

During their visit, the delegates were briefed by Sarawak Metro's Project Director for the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) Project, Haji Zafrin Zakariah.

Chairman of Persatuan Professional SIPartners Sarawak (SIGMA Sarawak), Haji Shbini bin Haji Saini, who was among the delegates expressed pride in the KUTS project, explaining that his hometown is Kota Samarahan, which is the location of the main ART depot and also where the first stretch of the ART alignment will be completed.

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“We are looking forward to this project especially in easing traffic congestion between Kota Samarahan and Kuching,” he enthused.

He also believed that the hydrogen technology that Sarawak Metro is introducing in the KUTS project is a step forward towards managing climate change and decarbonising Sarawak’s public transport.

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.

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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Photos and Captions:



Sarawak Metro Project Director Zafrin Zakariah (right) welcomes the group to the ART assembly plant for the ART vehicles.



The delegates are excited about their firsthand experience inside the prototype hydrogen-powered ART.

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They are looking forward to visit Kuching again for the real ride on the ART.



The group poses for a photo in front of the prototype unit of the ART.

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