

**For Immediate Release**

Press Release

19 May 2024

**Sarawak Metro apprentices set off to China on latest industrial attachment**

**KUCHING:** Committed to its intention of building a pool of local talents for the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS), Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd (Sarawak Metro) recently assigned another two of its Young Talent Programme (YTP) apprentices on a four-week industrial attachment in Tangshan, China.

The series of industrial attachments is part of Sarawak Metro’s Socio-Economic Enhancement Development (SEED) Programme, which aims to add greater value to the KUTS project.

“We are keeping to our commitment in upskilling our workforce towards ensuring the success of this noble project, where we are aiming to modernise public transport and ease the traffic congestion in Greater Kuching,” said Sarawak Metro Chief Executive Officer, Ts Mazli Mustaffa.

“Apart from the opportunity to acquire indepth knowledge of the systems and equipment, this industrial attachment is also a platform for overseas exposure for our young engineers,” added Mazli.

He also thanked the KUTS Systems Package 1 contractors – EPR Mobilus Global Rail JV Sdn Bhd (EMGJV) for arranging and coordinating the industrial attachment, the third held in China thus far.

The two YTP apprentices – Muhammad Afio Rudi and Nur Adilla Binti Hushairi – will be undergoing their industrial attachment in Tangshan Baichuan Intelligent Machine Co., Ltd.,

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China, where they will focus on depot equipment maintenance vehicle (DEMV) hydrogen purging system.

The industrial attachment aimed to provide a thorough understanding of the manufacturing and assembly processes involved in the hydrogen purging system, thus enhancing their knowledge in the system components, safety protocols and innovative design methodologies.

“We are delighted that our staff and apprentices are able to gain substantial knowledge from these industrial attachments,” said Mazli, who also highlighted that upon their return the apprentices would have the opportunity to share their experiences with the management team, their mentors and their fellow apprentices during Sarawak Metro’s annual ‘*Ngopi*’ session.

Apart from this latest industrial attachment, Sarawak Metro’s staff and apprentices have completed similar attachments, namely with CRRC MRT Holding Group Co Ltd in Changsha in August last year and with Fangda Innotech Co Ltd in Shenzhen in March this year.

A similar industrial attachment was also conducted with Global Rail in Selangor for two months in August last year.

Sarawak Metro’s YTP apprenticeship initiative is a sub-programme under the SEED Programme, an initiative to recruit young local talent to fulfil the workforce needs for the new transportation industry.

SEED Programme is introduced by Sarawak Metro to capitalise on the investments made towards the KUTS project. Apart from recruiting young local talent, the programme also create platform to generate economic and employment opportunities and encouraging research and development activities as well as inspiring studies on the public transport sector.

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**About Sarawak Metro and KUTS:**

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.

**Photo and Caption:**



**SENDING OFF:** Muhamad Afio and Nur Adilla (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> from left front row) in a group photo with management and staff of Sarawak Metro and EMGJV

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