REWORK

NEWSLETTER

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Sarawak launches its Post-COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030



Sarawak Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg launched Sarawak's Post-COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030) on July 22, 2021, which paves the way forward for Sarawak to become a developed state by 2030 and providing high income for the people.

"I am confident we can achieve its objectives based on our achievements in the last four years in our infrastructure development like water, electricity and road connectivity," he told a media conference after the launching of PCDS 2030, in Kuching, Bernama reported.

He said the first phase of PCDS 2030 would be implemented under the 12th Malaysia Plan (2021-2025) with the target of maintaining an average economic growth of between six and eight per cent per annum from this year until 2030.

According to him, the Sarawak Government is committing an estimated RM63 billion to implement the PCDS 2030 under the 12MP whereby, RM30 billion will come from direct development expenditure and RM33 billion from alternative funding.

"Through this creative financial modelling and revenue reengineering, we will continue to enjoy a healthy fiscal position and in line with the strategic thrusts of the PCDS 2030, the public capital spending will be on areas that yield the most economic, social and environmental impact," he said.

Abang Johari said the focus

of PCDS 2030 would be on developing basic infrastructure, namely, roads and bridges, and providing treated water and electricity supply and telecommunications network as the enablers for Sarawak to leapfrog into the second phase of development, which would be talent, skills and innovationdriven.

He said its core objectives included changing Sarawak's structure through economic production scale increment, increasing downstream activities and growing the services sector, modernising and increasing efficiency through digital and physical connectivity, increasing household income to GDP share, placing environmental and sustainability in recovery efforts and long-term economic growth.

According to him, economic development will be accelerated by seven strategic thrusts, namely, transforming Sarawak into a competitive economy, improving ease of doing business to facilitate domestic and foreign investments, and spending on areas yielding the most economic, social and environmental impact.

The efforts also include optimising use of assets and government funding and developing human capital to support socio-economic development, accelerating digital adoption and data utilisation to generate outcomes, driving economic and social benefits for all Sarawakians, and balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability.

"This plan is to prosper the state and its people, and to protect its environment for sustainable development," he said.









Photo credit: BERNAMA

Value Assessment Lab for Miri-Marudi, Marudi-Mulu (Kuala Melinau) and Long Panai-Long Lama road project



Travelling by road from Miri to Marudi enroute to Mulu all the way to Long Lama will not be a long, bumpy and arduous journey in the future once the proposed roads linking Miri-Marudi, Marudi-Mulu (Kuala Melinau) and Long Panai-Long Lama is completed by 2027.

To kickstart this proposed project, we organised a two-day value assessment lab from March 22 to 23 in Miri, which involved the participation from all relevant stakeholders to provide in-depth input and feedback on the design, alignment, architectural works, mechanical & electrical works, utilities relocation works as well as socio-economic impact.

"RECODA has been given the directive to fast-track the project

by implementing it seamlessly, overcoming material logistics and land-related challenges," said our CFO Datu Ismawi Ismuni.

Construction of the proposed roads will involve a total length of 160.5km of single carriageway, nine major bridges and 14 minor bridges as well as one passenger jetty terminal.

Deputy Chairman of Highland Development Agency (HDA) and Mulu State Assemblyman Dato Gerawat Gala, in his closing remarks said this project, once completed, would provide safe and reliable connectivity to the longhouses in Tutoh-Baram area and open up the area for greater economic activities for the benefit of the Baram communities.











Young & Dynamic: RECODA's Investment Promotion Team

RECODA sits down with Facilitation and Coordination Manager Khairina Dawek, whose new team has been tasked with not only sourcing for and promoting investment, but also with aftercare services and industrial support. Khairina, who joined RECODA early this year, speaks of her prior experience and her hopes for the future.

How did you come to join RECODA?

I've always been quite intrigued with RECODA. So, when the news on RECODA recruitment came out in 2019, without much thought, I submitted my application to RECODA.

Can you speak about your prior experience?

Prior to joining Teraju Bumiputera Corporation (TERAJU) Sarawak, I worked at CIMB Bank Berhad for 6 years, doing recovery for business loans. As you can imagine, being a recovery officer, I've seen many businesses fail and go bankrupt, which gave me the notion that it was better to work for people, in big organisations, than to have your own business.

However, in TERAJU, even though it's specifically for Bumiputera, I see that, with strong will and hard work, one can have a successful business. I've also collaborated with government entities to assist the communities in Sarawak rural areas, which also have given me much insight of what is lacking in our communities today.

What's your goal for this new department?

My goal is simple: For RECODA to be relevant and assist the government to bring in new

investments, while at the same time facilitate existing investors to boost inward foreign direct investment (FDI) that will benefit the local supply chain.

What do you enjoy the most about RECODA's working culture?

It is different from when I was in TERAJU Sarawak, where there was only two of us running the ship. In RECODA, it's nice to have all necessary staff in one place and to have a bigger team. Everyone is very cooperative.

You've joined RECODA in the middle of a pandemic. Can you share the challenges of carrying out your duties during this unprecedented health crisis?

There are definitely challenges, especially in achieving our goals. The ongoing pandemic disrupts the way we normally do work. With travel and face-to-face engagements restricted, we have to use virtual tools to promote SCORE, which is tough. Despite the current situation, we still do receive interest from potential FDI & DDI.

In response to the Covid-19 outbreak, we have re-oriented our priorities to focus also on existing investors. We also expanded our aftercare services to boost inward foreign direct investment (FDI). There are potential benefits from inward FDI, such as technology transfer, local supply chain development and further job creation to SCORE and Sarawak.

At the same time RECODA is investing in data to strengthen our core functions and carry out targeted investment promotional activities to promote SCORE.

You had to form a new team from scratch. What traits did you look for when assembling your team?

A team is only as good as the sum of its parts, that's why having

qualified people is important. Among the traits that I look for are that they have to be self-managing, where they are able to prioritise their goals and be responsible for accomplishing those objectives.

They must also learn to act strategically using forward-thinking and minded approach, able manage complexity and work independently, as well as the ability to adapt to sudden change in circumstances.

Finally, they must always agree with what the boss says (laughs).

What drives you?

Results. No matter what I do, big or small, there must be

an endgame to it. By having a concrete goal to meet and enough time to figure out a strong strategy for accomplishing it, we will be able to get everyone to their destination.

And my family. Whatever I do in life or work, it is to provide for the wants and needs of my family.

Could you please share one funny moment that you've encountered?

Actors are either born or trained, and I'm neither. I was asked to act for RECODA's Gawai video, though it's only for a few seconds, it was hilarious and embarrassing. Luckily the video didn't see the light of day but I had fun doing it.

It comes with experience: An interview with a RECODA pioneer



As RECODA expands its role to take on the greater tasks of project implementation and investment promotion, we take a step back and sit down with RECODA's longest serving staff member.

Helen Abdillah, known affectionately as Umi to her colleagues, is currently the Personal Assistant to the Corporate Services Director, but she has put on many hats in the dozen years she has been with RECODA.

The 57-year-old, who started out as the Personal Assistant to the RECODA CEO, has witnessed RECODA evolve from a small outfit to what it is today.



How did you come to join RECODA?

At the time, (former RECODA CEO) Tan Sri (Datuk Amar Wilson Baya Dandot) asked our (former SEDC) chairman Datuk Haji Talib Zulpilip whether there are staff members who want to join RECODA. They were looking around and later I said I'll join RECODA. This was in September of 2009.

Three of us from SEDC went for the interview. Tan Sri asked, 'Among the three of you, who worked in corporate?' I told him I have and he told me to report to work on Monday.

When we first started at RECODA, there were five of us. And then about two or three months later, there were eight of us. And we maintained that number for quite some time. For a few years, there were just eight of us.

We were the smallest group among the economic corridors in Malaysia. We were based in Kuching, at the old DUN (former Sarawak state assembly) building.

Did it seem like a big challenge to build a statutory body from scratch?

Yes, it was. So, you can imagine, we all did multitasking. Even the big bosses, even (Administrative Head) Mr Voon (Kuet San) at that time. He also helped in the filing of admin documents. He's also in charge of admin and HR, finance and audit. All those board papers had to be done. Everybody did a bit of everything, even the cleaner. She helped with filing and letters. What was your memory from that time?

I was the Personal Assistant to the then CEO. We had to be allrounders in the early years. It was very challenging and at the same time, it was very interesting. Well, at that time, besides being a PA, I would do the CEO's programmes and updating, I also helped Mr Voon in HR, admin and filing. And then also help out in corporate services. Then there are the board meetings. It was a lot of work preparing all those things.

We were the pioneers at the time. Everything we learned was something new. We knew nothing about SCORE at the time. So, we had to learn. So as time goes by, you have to pick up on new things. You meet a lot of people, then you learn.

When did they start to increase the number of employees at RECODA?

By 2011, 2012, we started receiving interns. When they completed their studies, we took them in. The rest came in through interviews. But still there are not many of us yet. There were not a lot of us yet, they were still 20 plus.

What was the main focus for RECODA then?

At the time it was giving birth to Samalaju [Industrial Park]. We were getting into Tokuyama and other industries. We did a lot of travelling and we worked closely with the State Planning Unit (SPU). We travelled to Samalaju whenever there was a visit by a minister. At that time there were already roads. The challenge was that it was not fully established. They were building it up.

RECODA is overseeing all the projects in SCORE. All the SCORE projects, all the infrastructure is all under RECODA. We also had

a Mukah office. So, in the end, Tan Sri said move them here, do all the work in Kuching. The DUN office was cramped. When we moved here, it's a relief.

What were the main obstacles in the early years?

The resources. Or the lack of it. The tools, the materials, the manpower. Those are the obstacles. You said the obstacles. We have less staff and the system is not there yet. Sometimes there were breakdowns, because the office was old. Before RECODA moved in, there were only two other offices there, the Halal Hub and the other was JKR.

We say that we need people. We cannot work with few people. So, when we moved here (LCDA tower) 2017, we were happy because we have more space.

What is the difference between RECODA then and now?

We are bigger. RECODA is more mature and more established now, under the leadership of our CEO Datu Ismawi (Ismuni).

Last time, I remember, people were always asking, 'What is RECODA? What is SCORE? But now you ask people, they know because RECODA is well established already.

What are the changes in the working environment?

We still work very beautifully together. Our teamwork has always been great. Everyone has their scope of job. They know what they're doing. You still do multi-tasking but it's not as heavy as before. Now you are more focused because you have your SOP.

What do you enjoy most about RECODA's working culture?

Like I said just now, I enjoy the teamwork. We respect each other. As a RECODA, I do say that we work excellently in terms of teamwork.

Could you share a memorable experience?

I do have one at the old DUN office. You know the DUN building is so old, holes everywhere. You can see a hole at one corner and another hole at another corner. Believe it or not, one day when I was doing my work, a mouse dropped from a hole in the ceiling on my table.

I just screamed. Tan Sri came out and I was already standing on the table. And at that time, Tan Sri had a guest in his room. He asked what happened to you? I said a mouse dropped on my table and it went under my table.

Another time I was locked in the toilet. I knew that door cannot be locked, but I accidentally locked it. It was 6pm at the time. Thankfully Fizza, one of the admin girls, was

still at the office.

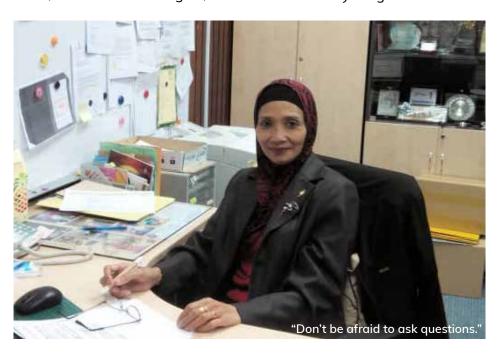
But a habit of hers is that whenever she wants to go back, she will tell me, so at the time she didn't find me at the desk. She said Umi, Umi, I'm going back.

I said, 'Fizza, I'm stuck!' She got a ladder and I had to climb it to get out.

Do you have any advice for the younger people who are starting out their careers here?

Don't be afraid to ask questions. Be a team player. Have confidence in yourself and present yourself nicely. Some people have the attitude that it's just work, so they don't dress well. You should always present yourself nicely, with a good working attire, or a nice outfit. It doesn't have to be expensive. But when people look at you, they should have confidence in you and your abilities.

And try to cultivate perseverance in yourself, step out of your comfort zone and most important of all, believe in yourself. Then you can achieve your goals.



Press Metal boosts capacity with Smelter 3



Press Metal Aluminium Holdings Bhd's new phase has commenced production and is expected to operate at full capacity by the third quarter of 2021, according to the group's 2020 Annual Report.

"Our smelting operations continued to operate at optimum capacity while the construction of our new Phase 3 smelter at our Samalaju plant is nearly completed," Press Metal Group CEO Tan Sri Koon Poh Keong was quoted as saying in the annual report.

"Accordingly, our total smelting capacity will increase by 42% from the current 760,000 tonnes to 1,080,000 tonnes, cementing our position as the largest aluminium smelter in South East Asia. The completion of this expansion is timely as aluminium price has since strengthened significantly over the last few months."

"As global economic recoveries are expected to continue, demand for aluminium will also pick up and consequently prices are expected to be kept at elevated levels. For the coming years, aluminium supply will also face challenges as decarbonisation policies and

environmental awareness are limiting the potential of any new aluminium supply," said Koon.

He said the global aluminium price had strengthened significantly over the last few months to current levels of some US\$2,400 (RM9,907.20) per tonne, and that the completion of Press Metal's new Phase 3 smelter under capacity expansion in Samalaju Industrial Park, Bintulu is timely.

According to The Star, aluminium price started to recover in mid-2020 and was back to pre-Covid-19 levels by fourth quarter-2020 as global industrial production rallied from its contraction earlier in the year.

The new smelter boosts the group's smelting capacity by 42% to 1.08 million tonnes per year from existing 760,000 tonnes per year, further cementing Press Metal as the largest aluminium smelter in South-East Asia, the English daily said.

"The new phase (smelter) has commenced production, and we anticipate operating at full capacity by the third quarter of 2021," Koon said in the company's 2020 Annual Report. He said the

group's smelting operations had continued to operate at optimum capacity despite the movement restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The strong aluminium price drove Press Metal's quarterly earnings to record high, according to the The Star.

In first quarter ended March 31, 2021 (Q1FY21), group's after-tax profit soared to about RM258.6mil from RM130.3 million in Q1FY20 as group revenue climbed to RM2.1bil from RM1.83bil in Q1FY20 or an increase of RM271.7mil or 14.8%.

For the coming years, Koon said global aluminium supply will face challenges as decarbonisation policies and environmental awareness are limiting the potential of any new aluminium supply.

On the supply of key raw materials - aluminia and carbon anode - to the group smelting operations in Bintulu and Mukah plants, he said Press Metal will be able to source a significant amount of its requirements internally by end-2021.

"We now own stakes in Australian Indonesian and alumina producers as well as an investment in Shandong's carbon anode production. With this, reliance on third party suppliers will reduce considerably, providing raw materials security for Press operations." Metal's smelting Koon said.

OM Holdings rises as much as 13.6% on Main Market debut



OM HOLDINGS LIMITED

Australia-listed mining firm OM Holdings Ltd (OMH), which made its debut on the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia on June 22, 2021, rose as much as 35 sen or 13.62% to RM2.92. This is the first cross-listing on Bursa and the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX), the Edge Markets reported.

At the opening bell, the manganese ore and ferro-alloy producer climbed 15 sen or 5.84% to RM2.72. On market close, it settled at RM2.83, still up 26 sen or 10.12% from its listing price of RM2.57 apiece. The counter, which was the third top gainer, saw 599,300 shares traded.

The group's executive chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) Low Ngee Tong said at a virtual press conference that the group's immediate focus is to expand its mining project in Australia and raise the output of its Sarawak plant.

He said the group also plans to convert to metallic silicon to produce higher value-added products, and diversify into the aluminium, chemicals and solar downstream industries.

He also said demand for infrastructure remained strong, amid the Covid-19 pandemic. "We are in a very niche market. The order books are filled out for most of this year," he said.

On its Sarawak plant, which is temporarily suspended due to the Movement Control Order (MCO) 3.0, he said the group is trying its best to ensure its workers receive the attention they need to quarantine and be routinely tested, so that the plant can get back to normal as soon as possible.

OM Holding's Sarawak plant, which currently has the capacity to produce up to 300 kilotons per annum of silico manganese, is expected to yield an additional 150 kilotons of silico manganese, following its capacity expansion plans.

On whether the group plans to issue new shares to raise more funds, Low said its primary focus is to broaden its shareholder base via the listing, especially for Malaysian investors who are familiar with the industrial park in Sarawak.

"Of course, we don't rule out the opportunity to raise capital in the future, when conditions are met," he said.

Wenan Steel project at site preparation stage - MINTRED



Wenan Steel targets to commence operation by end of 2024, as the RM13.8 billion project at Samalaju Industrial Park is now at its site preparation stage, according to a news report published by The Borneo Post on June 24, 2021.

In a statement, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development (MINTRED) said site preparation works on 700 acres of land for Phase 1 of this project is expected to be completed by April 2022 and the construction of the factory will commence thereafter.

Due to the pandemic and the Movement Control Order (MCO),

the project is facing some delay in its implementation.

"Wenan Steel targets to commence operation by end of 2024. When completed, the RM13.8 billion steel plant will be one of the major steel producers in the region," MINTRED said in a statement following a virtual meeting on the project on June 23, 2021.

The meeting saw Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan being briefed by Wenan Steel (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd Managing Director Gao Wei and MCC Overseas (M) Sdn Bhd General Manager Chen Qi on the latest development of the project. Awang Tengah, who is also International Trade and Industry, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development Minister, was joined by MINTRED Permanent Secretary Datu Liaw Soon Eng, and General Manager of Bintulu Development Authority Muhamad Yakup Kari at the meeting.

According to previous news reports, the Wenan steel manufacturing facility will be the largest steel manufacturing plant in Southeast Asia once completed, and is projected to have a production capacity of ten million tonnes per annum.

RECODA Milestones: The First Two Years

Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy or SCORE is one of five economic development corridors created by the Federal Government as part of its ambitious plan to stimulate growth, especially in traditionally rural areas of Sarawak. RECODA was established to oversee and manage SCORE as the implementing agency for infrastructure and socio-economic projects within the SCORE region, as well as tasked to attracting investors to the state and creating job opportunities.

The State Planning Unit was the interim Secretariat prior to the establishment of the RECODA office

2008

FEBRUARY



11 February 2008: Malaysia's 5th Prime Minister, YABhg Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi

18 February 2008: The launch of Tanjung Manis Halal Hub. The hub provides an ideal location for business involved in upstream and downstream halal food production and export

2009

MARCH



March 2009: The earth breaking ceremony for the Mukah New Administrative Centre, which housed the head office of RECODA. The establishment of RECODA office & appointment of RECODA's CEO



April 2009: Mukah coal-fired power plant began its operations

APRIL



March 2009: The construction of Murum Dam began



August 2009: Press Metal Sarawak Bhd started operations in Mukah

8 October 2009 - The earth breaking of Tanjung Manis Halal Hub

AUGUST

OCTOBER



October 2009: The construction of Samalaju Industrial Park (SIP) began





Building a Future: Gao Wei on establishing Wenan Steel

China does everything in a big way. So, it comes as no surprise that its first major foray into the SCORE region involves the largest single investment in Malaysia for a steel manufacturing plant.

The Government has green-lighted Wenan Steel (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd's plans to establish an integrated steel plant in the Samalaju Industrial Park, with earthworks beginning in 2021.

With a projected installed capacity of over 10 million tonnes per annum when all phases of construction

have been completed, the RM13 billion plant will be the largest of its kind nationwide.

The project, which is expected to create thousands of jobs, also marks the biggest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for Sarawak thus far.

RECODA recently sat down with Gao Wei, Wenan's Managing Director, for a chat about the company's plans and also whether he has adjusted to the Sarawakian way of life since moving here in 2016.



What attracted you to venture into Sarawak?

There's a competitive edge here. Sarawak has a nice port in Samalaju and the location of our plant just 4km from the port. Our steel production depends on volume, so logistical convenience and cost are very important factors for us.

Before we came here, we looked at India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, searching for sites to make an investment. And Sarawak was our last stop and our best option. It was mainly the logistics and energy advantages that attracted us here.

What's the current status of your investment?

We went through various procedures in the past three years. We completed the environmental

evaluation requirements by the Federal Government and we also have acquired the manufacturer's license from MITI (Ministry of International Trade and Industry). Everything is ready and the site at Samalaju Industrial Park is now being cleared for construction.

Now that earthworks have begun, how long would it take for construction to be completed, and what is the manpower required to achieve it?

Construction would begin next year. The construction commissioning will take about two years, if everything goes as planned. But as you know, there's an ongoing pandemic.

As for manpower, it would take several hundred people, because construction is a very different operation. For construction, you need special skills, because this is not a general infrastructure. We need to use very specialised equipment. You need special skills to know how to set it up properly.

Once it's operational, what's the energy requirement for those plants?

We need about 50MW, which is not much because we generate a lot of gas (power) by ourselves. So, for most of the power, we can eventually generate on our own.

What are your future plans for the company?

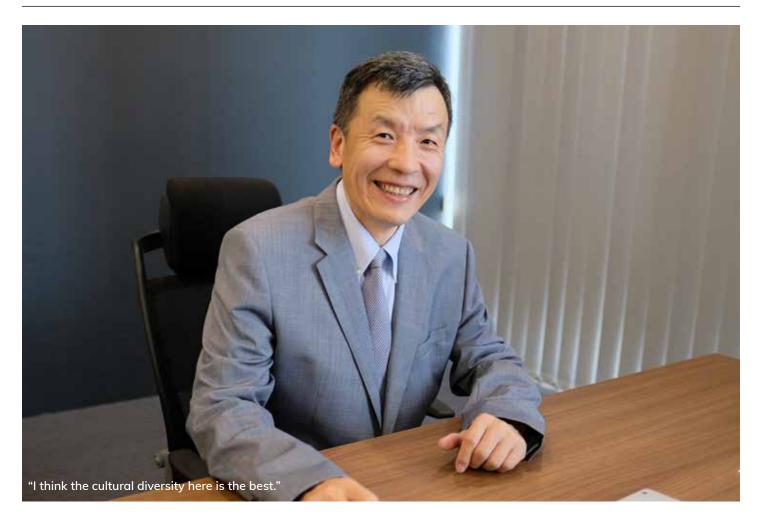
Our production target is 5.5 million tonnes in the first phase. In the second phase, for the next ten years, that would have a total volume of 10 million tonnes of steel. That's the goal.

Most of the steel mills in Malaysia, they just produce rebar and construction steel. What we produce is totally different because we produce steel for automobiles and electric appliances for industrial use. I think it's good for Malaysia. It's not just for infrastructure (use), so there's no direct competition between us and the local steel mills. The products are different.

While you are setting up the investment, where are most of your current team based? What is the future of manpower like for Wenan Steel?

A lot of the guys are from MCC Overseas Ltd. They are a minority shareholder. Together we have set up our HQ office here (in Kuching). We also have an office in Samalaju, where we have several engineering personnel to oversee the progress of the site clearing. Here, mainly is the management to coordinate with the Government.





We forecast that we will deploy about three thousand skilled workers, with maybe 60 to 80 percent, to be hired locally. Of course, they will have to go through some training prior to working.

Has the pandemic affected Wenan Steel?

Yes, it has had some negative impact on us. We have a lot of machines like bulldozers and tractors sitting idly because we just can't find enough manpower to operate them.

On a more personal note, how has the pandemic affected you?

It is worrisome. If we return to China, we will have to quarantine for up to 3 weeks, and when I come back to Malaysia that is another 2 weeks. That is over a month of living in a hotel for quarantine.

I cannot do that. The last time I returned to China from Malaysia was in January 2020.

So, you've spent two Chinese New Years in Kuching?

Yeah (laughs).

Well, hopefully you'll be able to go back home soon.

Unless quarantine is cancelled. Otherwise, I wouldn't consider returning back to China. It will just take up too much time.

Despite being away from home, how is it living here in Sarawak?

Yes, it's good. For a Chinese (national) - and from my experience being in so many countries in the world - I think the cultural diversity and harmony here is the best.

I especially like the culture here. There is racial harmony. There is no racial discrimination, which happens quite a lot in other countries. It is even better here than West Malaysia, as far as I could see (laughs).

Would you move your family here?

My family is in Canada and my daughter is still in junior high-school. But I'm going to apply for Permanent Residence. There's a good variety of food here, especially Chinese food. My favourite is the local fish, like sea bass and grouper. And even when you drive, you can turn on the radio for Chinese broadcasts. It makes you feel like you're not in a foreign country.

Lawas residents receive compensation from NRDA



Sixty-six recipients received a total of RM1.7 million in land compensation by Northern Region Development Agency (NRDA) Chairman and Deputy Minister Datuk Chief Awang Tengah Ali Hasan at the Lawas District Office on February 9, 2021. NRDA will utilise the land for infrastructure projects, supply projects, and the development of a "Anjung Usahawan".

NRDA presents compensation cheques for new roads, trailer parking centre



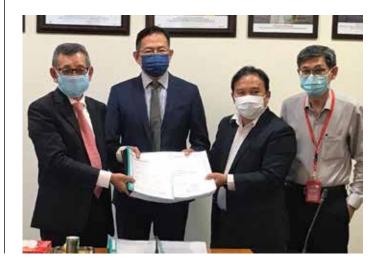
A total of RM3.92 million in compensation cheques were presented to Limbang residents by Awang Tengah at the Limbang Resident's Office on February 20, 2021.

The projects included the upgrade and construction of new roads linking Kampung Pendam to Ipai, new roads linking Bukit Labok to Kampung Seberang Kedai, as well as for the construction of a Trailer Parking Centre in Limbang.

RECODA given mandate to roll-out Miri-Marudi road project

The Public Works Department (JKR) officially handed over Phase 2 and 3 of the proposed 52km road project linking Miri-Marudi to RECODA as the implementing agency on March 3, 2021.

Our CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni (far left) received the symbolic drawings of the project at Wisma Bapa Malaysia, in Kuching from JKR Assistant Director (Road) Meehan ak Jorai, witnessed by Economic Planning Unit (EPU) Sarawak Director Dr Muhammad Abdullah Zaidel (centre).



CM: Road development to transform Limbang, Lawas landscapes



In an official working trip to Limbang on March 16, 2021, Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg said the Government was set on developing the road infrastructure in Limbang and Lawas, in accordance with global standards and also without compromising the environment.

The development also includes the network of double-carriageways and in five years upon the completion of the project, the landscapes of Limbang and Lawas would showcase the transformation, he said.

The Chief Minister, who is also RECODA Board Chairman, was briefed on the proposed 86km Northern Coastal Highway, the proposed Tedungan-Pandaruan dual carriageway and other projects.





RECODA empowered as full-fledged technical department

RECODA is now recognised as a full-fledged technical department after receiving a blanket approval on December 23, 2020 from the Federal Public Works Department (JKR) to implement projects.

The approval exempts RECODA from the need to refer to JKR's technical department prior to implementing projects and has allowed RECODA to carry out much-needed socio-economic and infrastructure development projects to fulfil the government's development goals.

Residents receive compensation from HDA for Temala Junction-Uma Akeh road project

Twenty-five Baram residents received land compensation cheques on March 31, 2021 from the Highland Development Agency (HDA) for the construction of a new road linking Temala Junction and Uma Akeh. The cheques were presented by Telang Usan assemblyman Dennis Ngau at the Telang Usan district office at Long Lama, Baram.

The project is part of the proposed improvement and construction of roads connecting Long Lama, Temala Junction Main Road and Uma Akeh. A total of 21.4km existing earth roads, including spur roads, will be upgraded to JKR R1 Standard in the HDA project, under RECODA. Construction is expected to be completed by early next year.



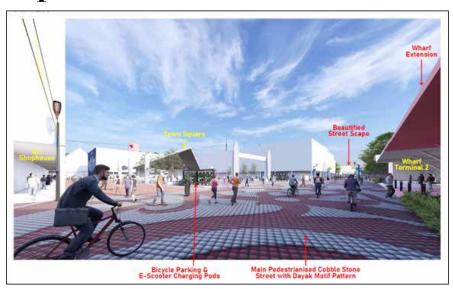
Penguang: Roads in northern Sarawak rolled out soon



The proposed new Miri-Marudi link road is likely to take off in the second half of this year, said Assistant Minister of Local Government and Marudi assemblyman Datu Dr Penguang Manggil in a Borneo Post report published on May 16, 2021. He, however, did not give a specific time frame as to when the northern road connection, including the link road, is ready to be rolled out.

"The new Miri-Marudi road, the road to Nanga Melinau, and Long Panai-Long Lama road projects will start soon," he said when asked on the progress of the road project amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. The link road will drastically slash the distance between Miri and Marudi when completed, compared to the distance of 70km now.

Long-term development plans for Kapit Division unveiled



A total of three long-term development plans have been laid out for Kapit Division. According to a statement from the Deputy Chief Minister's office on May 24, the overall development plan comprises the proposed Master Plan for Kapit town, the Bakun Lakefront Township and Island Resort Local Plan as well as the Master Plan for Belaga.

The plans were presented during

a Zoom meeting, where Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Datuk Amar Dr James Jemut Masing was briefed on the development plans by the consultants for the three development projects.

"The Master Plan for Kapit town proper will be more to a pedestrian town. Heavy vehicles will not be allowed to come to town. Parking buildings will be built within the periphery of the town centre," the statement said.

Limbang residents to enjoy road access to Northern Coastal Highway

The residents of Limbang town will enjoy access to a new highway that will provide easier road travel throughout the northern region of Sarawak when constructions completes in 2022.

The 1.1km stretch of the Tedungan-Pandaruan road, in Limbang is currently being upgraded into a dual carriageway of JKR U3 Standard, which will link to the Northern Coastal Highway (NCH).

The Tedungan-Pandaruan road upgrade, passes by the Limbang police station, Limbang Museum, Limbang District Office resthouse, Limbang District Council Nursery, Limbang Public Works Department (JKR) Divisional Office and St Mark's Church.

Meet up with Tok Pa



Our CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni held a virtual meeting on February 8, 2021 with Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed to share updates on the SCORE region.

Tunoh Minerals pays courtesy call



Tunoh Minerals Sdn Bhd representatives (from right) Pengiran Mohamad Umar Ali and Dato' Sri Doris Sophia Brodie paying a courtesy call on us on March 1, 2021.

Advancecon's 30%-owned associate bags RM153.5m earthworks project for Wenan Steel



Earthworks and civil engineering services specialist Advancecon Holdings Bhd's 30%-owned Advancecon Sarawak Sdn Bhd bagged its single-largest contract worth RM153.5 million to undertake earthworks in the Samalaju Industrial Park, Bintulu, Sarawak.

The contract was awarded by Wenan Steel (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd, which is building an iron and steel production complex there.

MITI: Malaysia records RM164b of total approved investments in 2020 amid global pandemic

Malaysia recorded a total of RM164 billion in approved investments through 4,599 projects in the manufacturing, services and primary sectors in 2020, according to the International Trade and Industry Ministry (MITI) statement published March 2, 2021.

These investments are expected to create 114,673 new jobs in various sectors of the economy once implemented. In contrast, a total of 5,287 projects with investments of RM211.4 billion were approved in 2019.



Sarawak continues to be among top five investment destinations in Malaysia, says Abang Johari



Sarawak continues to be among the top five investment destinations in Malaysia with an approved investment worth RM19.6 billion last year, said Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg.

"We provide competitively-priced renewable and reliable power, connectivity infrastructure, investment infrastructure, friendly business policies and competent and trainable workforce," he said when witnessing the term sheet signing between Syarikat Sesco Berhad and Malaysia LNG Sdn Bhd on March 4, 2021.

"I am happy to note that Sarawak continued to be among the top five investment destinations in the country, recording an approved investment worth RM19.6 billion last year."

Pre-launch of RECODA Organisational Anti-Corruption Plan (OACP) (2021-2025)

We held a pre-launch ceremony for our Organisational Anti-Corruption Plan (OACP) (2021-2025) at our headquarters in Kuching on March 8 in conjunction with RECODA Integrity Day 2021.

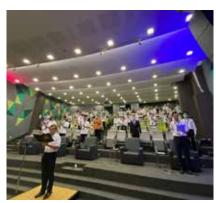
Officiating the ceremony was Yang Berhormat Datuk Haji Talib Zulpilip, Minister in Chief Minister's Department (Integrity and Ombudsman).

The pledge was witnessed by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Sarawak Director Tuan Mohd Zaki bin Hassan.

This document is the result of in-depth discussions involving department heads and officers of all levels at RECODA's OACP (2021 to 2025) workshop held from December 21 to 23, 2020.









Teaming up with MESTR, CENTEXS, UNIMAS to create jobs



To better serve our investors and clients, we engaged with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Research (MESTR), Centre of Technical Excellence (CENTEXS) and UNIMAS to discuss potential collaborations on job creation, upskilling and manpower development.

RECODA Corporate Services Division Director Dr Hadysyam Junaidi (centre left) on March 26, 2021 received a token of appreciation from UNIMAS University Sustainability Centre (USC) Director Noraziah Abdul Wahab after a briefing session at RECODA's HQ. Also present was MESTR Principal Assistant Secretary Zulkipli Ismail (far right).

RECODA also conducted a lab visit to CENTEXS, which caters to the technical manpower needs of industries in the SCORE region, such as construction, hospitality & tourism, electrical, oil & gas, and textile & heritage.

Deloitte pays a visit

Deloitte Kuching office representatives Wong King Yu, Audit Partner and Dominic Choo, Director of Audit & Assurance – Advisory Services paid a courtesy call on us on March 29, briefing our senior executives on their corporate services.





Courtesy call from Wenan Steel



We, along with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Research (MESTR) received a courtesy call from Wenan Steel, represented by Wenan Steel (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd Managing Director Gao Wei and MCC Overseas (M) Sdn Bhd General Manager Chen Qi in Kuching on April 1.

The meeting showcased the governmental industrial support to the China-based investor, as well as co-ordinated potential vocational training and upskilling programmes to cater to Wenan Steel's workforce requirements.

MIDA relaxes conditions for companies approved with incentives

The Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) relaxed conditions to manufacturing and services companies that have been approved with incentives.

In a statement on April 6, 2021, MIDA said this is part of proactive measures undertaken by the government to continue Malaysia's economic revitalisation efforts by facilitating investments and restoring investors' confidence.



Touching base with PPKS, TEGAS on job training programmes

In an effort to ensure that qualified and skilled workforce requirements in the SCORE region are met, we touched base with Sarawak Skills Development Centre (Sarawak Skills) and Tabung Ekonomi Gagasan Anak Sarawak (TEGAS) to learn about vocational and entrepreneurship training that are available for young adults.

RECODA, led by its Industrial Support Unit, was briefed on April 9, 2021 by Sarawak Skills on its leading role in providing Technical Vocational Education & Training (TVET) through its 9 learning centres in Kuching, Miri and Mukah.



LCDA briefed on our transformational journey



It's about organisational change and getting the right people. RECODA's corporate services management, in a briefing to Land Custody and Development Authority (LCDA) Holdings Sdn Bhd on April 9, 2021, our Human Resource Head Sabrina Razali spoke about how the statutory body is undergoing a restructuring in order to carry out its expanded roles, which cover promoting investment to the SCORE region, implementing infrastructure projects and creating job opportunities.

Malaysia says South Korean and Japanese firms to invest US\$3.9b in coming years

International Trade and Industry Ministry secured potential investments from South Korea and Japan amounting to RM16.05 billion ringgit (US\$3.89 billion) and export purchases of about RM986.2 million to be realised in the coming years.

In a statement on April 7, the Ministry said Malaysia is hoping to attract more foreign investment this year after a major drop in 2020. South Korean firms had committed in the immediate term to invest a total of RM7.3 billion in Malaysia, and to purchase exports of Malaysian goods amounting to RM70 million, the ministry said.

Collaborations with MIDA to draw investors



We are always looking at better ways to further enhance our collaboration with Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) to attract more investors into SCORE areas.

MIDA Sarawak director Redzuan Abdul Rahman paid us a courtesy call on April 13, 2021 to discuss ways to help attract more investors. MIDA is tasked to promote foreign and domestic investments in the manufacturing and services sectors and to undertake planning for industrial development in Malaysia, among others.

UNIMAS engaged on potential partnership

We are working towards a potential partnership with UNIMAS in terms of carrying out potential upskilling programmes and socio-economic projects for rural communities. At UNIMAS City Campus in Kuching on April 16, 2021, preliminary discussions were held on how best to serve industries as well as communities in terms of employment opportunities and training.

The university provides non-formal training short courses, conferences, mobility programmes, Intensive English Language Programme (IELP) as well as Professional & Executive Programmes (PEP). RECODA was also briefed on UNIMAS' University Sustainability Centre (USC), which leads and coordinates industries and communities related sustainable development projects and activities.



RECODA hosts engagement session with InvestKL



We engaged with InvestKL in an information sharing session on April 26, 2021 on the topic of attracting investment into upstream and downstream activities as well as on developing in-house databases on potential investors.

InvestKL Senior Manager (CEO's Office) Jason Cheng and Investor Relations (Asia) Director Mah Chun Wai spoke on their experience in drawing Multinational Corporations (MNCs) to establish their regional hubs and undertake regional activities in Greater Kuala Lumpur.

Sharing our transformational journey with SEDIA

It was enlightening for Sabah Economic Development and Investment Authority (SEDIA) when we shared with them our transformational journey on April 30, 2021.

Sharing this journey with our counterpart are RECODA's Director of Corporate Services, Dr Hadysham Bin Junaidi and Head of Human Resources, Sabrina Bin Razali who stressed that the restructuring exercise carried out by RECODA was needed for it to attract and retain talents to achieve excellence.



RECODA engages with Samalaju Industrial Park

investors



As part of the efforts to ensure investors from the Samalaju Industrial Park in Bintulu are well taken care of, we held a virtual meeting on May 5, 2021 with the senior management staff of all the companies operating there.

Chaired by Facilitation and Coordination Manager, Khairina Dawek, the meeting was also attended by the Group CEO of Press Metal Tan Sri Paul Koon, CEO of OCIM Sdn Bhd Choi Sung Kil and CEO of Malaysian Phosphate Additives (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd Tiong Huo Chiong.

During the one-hour session, the investors shared their concerns that include manpower and infrastructure issues which require immediate attention from RECODA to assist them in liaising with relevant authorities to get it resolved.

FDI rolling in despite lockdown

Although the Covid-19 lockdown may have affected investors' sentiment, this is seen as a transitory hurdle and is unlikely to deter foreign direct investment (FDI) into Malaysia as they are long-term in nature.

In a report by StarBiz on June 7, 2021, Socio Economic Research Centre Executive Director Lee Heng Guie said FDI inflows into Malaysia are expected to improve in 2021 and enjoy better prospects over the medium-term.

He attributed this to the expected strong recovery in global economic growth led by the United States and China, adding that better global economic growth would induce outward investments from the advanced economies to Malaysia.

Press Metal upbeat about global aluminium prices



As global economic recoveries are expected to continue, demand of aluminium will also pick up and, consequently, prices are expected to be kept at elevated levels.

In a news report published in The Star on June 7, 2021, Press Metal Group CEO Tan Sri Koon Poh Keong said as global economic recoveries are expected to continue, demand of aluminium will also pick up and, consequently, prices are expected to be kept at elevated levels.

He said the global aluminium price had strengthened significantly and that the completion of Press Metal's new Phase 3 smelter under capacity expansion in Samalaju Industrial Park, Bintulu is timely.

Forbes Asia: Paul Koon and brothers gain RM3.4b in net value

The biggest dollar gain on the Malaysia Rich List 2021 was Tan Sri Paul Koon Poh Keong and his brothers, who run aluminium company Press Metal. They added US\$3.4 billion (RM14 billion) in the 15 months leading to June 2021, according to Forbes Asia.



MPAS targets integrated complex to begin full production

After delays from the Covid-19 lockdown, Cahya Mata Sarawak Bhd subsidiary Malaysian Phosphate Additives (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd (MPAS) is targeting for its integrated phosphate complex (Phase 1) in Samalaju Industrial Park to begin full production by July, 2021.

According a report by The Star published on June 8, 2021, Cahya Mata Sarawak Bhd (CMS) group Managing Director Datuk Isaac Lugun said the project which was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic is now scheduled for completion and commissioning in the first half of this year. Phase 1 was initially supposed to be ready by end-2020.

MIDA approved RM80.6b investment in 1Q, including RM54.9b FDI

The Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) approved RM80.6 billion worth of investments in the first quarter, which is a surge of 95.6% from RM41.2 billion a year prior driven by robust performance of the manufacturing sector.

MIDA said in a statement on June 12, 2021 that these approved investments involved 993 projects and are expected to generate 32,557 job opportunities. According to MIDA, the total approved Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in the manufacturing, services and primary sectors soared 383% to RM54.9 billion in 1Q from RM11.4 billion a year prior.

Mukah's new airport takes flight as new rural transport hub



Photo credit: Ibraco Berhad

The new Mukah Airport, which began its construction in 2017, opened for passenger services on June 17, 2021.

In a report published by The Star, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong said the new airport can accommodate up to 265,000 passengers per year.

"The new airport is expected to encourage more local economic growth by facilitating the movement of various exports including agriculture and aquaculture products such as sago, pineapples, and umai, a local delicacy," he said.

Samalaju Industrial Park vaccination drives inoculate thousands of workers



Covid-19 vaccination drives held in June 2021 helped inoculate thousands of workers in the Samalaju Industrial Park (SIP) and the oil & gas industry, according to news reports by The Borneo Post.

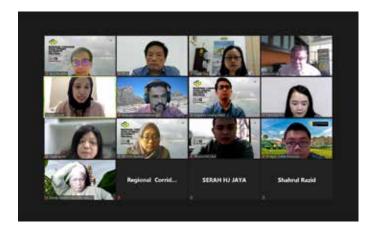
The Press Metal Bintulu Industrial vaccination centre (PPV) at SIP kicked off its programme on June 17, 2021, with the objective of administering 6.000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine within a week.

The Chairman of the Bintulu Division Disaster Management Committee Jack Aman Luat also announced on June 31, 2021 that a second industrial vaccination centre for the oil & gas industry has been established at the Kidurong Club Bintulu to vaccinate 4.800 workers.

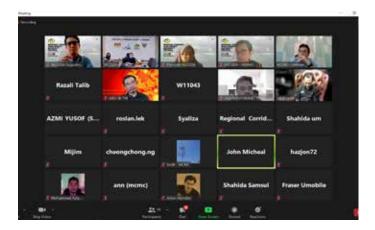
Virtual engagement with Curtin, UiTM, UPM on potential training collabs

RECODA engaged with Curtin University Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Bintulu Campus in an information sharing session on June 18, 2021 on developing potential collaborations with industrial partners to serve regional communities in Sarawak.

During the online meeting, RECODA Facilitation & Coordination Manager Khairina Dawek said potential collaborations would not only focus on job training to serve energy-intensive industries, but also to meet the needs of regional community stakeholders.



Telco authorities urged to speed up internet at Samalaju Industrial Park



As a follow-up action, we sat with a few relevant authorities which include the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), Sarawak Multimedia Authority (SMA) and several telcos on June 18, 2021 to discuss what is in store to beef up the telecommunication facilities at the Samalaju Industrial Park in Bintulu.

MCMC Director Adiman Ajem and SMA General Manager Dr Zaidi Razak broke the good news to RECODA CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni and his team that plans are in the works to upgrade telecommunications at the industrial park within this year.

Also joining the online meeting were representatives from telecommunication firms Sacofa, Telekom Malaysia, Digi Telecommunications, Maxis Communications, Celcom Axiata and U Mobile.



Aluminium maker Press Metal emerges as dark horse in Bursa's largest companies list

Press Metal Aluminium Holdings Bhd emerged as a dark horse in the list of largest companies with rising aluminium prices contributing to Press Metal's fortunes, according to a The Edge Markets report published on April 15, 2021.

Press Metal was the 28th largest company on the exchange on March 31, 2020 with a market capitalisation of RM13.29 billion, according to Bloomberg data.

It rose to 22nd place on Sept 30, 2020 with a market value of RM20.77 billion, and later climbed to eighth place with a value of RM40.46 billion. Between March 31, 2020 and April 15, 2021, the aluminium supplier has added some RM27.17 billion in market capitalisation.

Press Metal receives environmental performance award

Press Metal Bintulu Sdn Bhd has received the Prime Minister's Hibiscus Award 2019/2020 for Exceptional Achievement in Environmental Performance in February, this year.

The award is a public recognition of the business' environmental accomplishment and leadership.

According to the Hibiscus Award website, business and industrial sectors are principal sources of investment and drivers of economic growth and are rightfully the key players in ensuring sustainability in environmental management.

The award is meant to provide the business and industry with the opportunity of an independent evaluation of their environmental commitment, management and performance.

RECODA LENDS A HELPING HAND

Equipment to expedite vaccination efforts in Lawas



The Northern Region Development Agency (NRDA) handed over a vaccine refrigerator, cold boxes and air conditioning equipment to the Lawas District Health Office and the Lawas District Council on June 24, 2021 as part of our CSR.

Deputy Chief Minister and NRDA Chairman Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan (centre) witnessed the handover from NRDA Regional Director Datu Ubaidillah Abdul Latip (far left) to Lawas District Health Officer Dr Farida Nazahiya Mohd Salleh at the Islamic Training Institute of Malaysia (ILIM) Lawas Campus. The donated items will be used to facilitate efforts to provide healthcare and to boost the Covid-19 vaccination drive for the surrounding communities.

Vacuum cleaners for Pekan Long Lama community



The Highland Development Agency (HDA), in collaboration with construction contractor Kendiri Emas Sdn Bhd, donated two heavy-duty vacuum cleaners to the Pekan Long Lama Village Development and Security Committee (JKKK) in Baram on June 5, 2021.

HDA Administration Manager Leslie Emang Jau (centre) presented the items today to Pekan Long Lama Penghulu Desmond Yap, witnessed by (from left) Baram MP YB Anyi Ngau, Telang Usan State Assemblyperson YB Dennis Ngau and Telang Usan District Officer Baru Tai.

The heavy-duty vacuum cleaners will be used to clean up the SJKC Kee Tee multi-purpose hall, which is being used as a vaccination centre to serve the surrounding communities.





Computers for SK Trusan, Lawas

NRDA, in collaboration with construction contractors Kemena Holding Sdn Bhd and HMN Nadhir Sdn Bhd, handed over computers and other items to SK Trusan, in Lawas on June 11, 2021.

Deputy Chief Minister and NRDA Chairman Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan (far left) presented the items today to SK Trusan Headmaster Suliman Yahya at Lawas town. The items, which include six desktop computers, six printers, ten mattresses and ten prayer mats, will be used to alleviate the burden faced by the school following the aftermath of recent floods in the area.



Vaccine-related equipment for Limbang Division Health Office



NRDA donated vaccine-related equipment to the Limbang Division Health Office to assist in the vaccination roll-out to surrounding communities. In a simple ceremony held on June 26, 2021, NRDA Regional Director Datu Ubaidillah Abdul Latip (far left) handed over the contribution to Limbang Division Health Officer Dr Norliza Jusoh at the Limbang Civic Centre, which was witnessed by Awang Tengah.

The equipment includes one top loading vaccine refrigerator, five cold boxes and ice packs, which will be used to assist health officers in expediting the vaccination process in the region.

RECODA Sports & Recreational Club

Ping-Pong Tourney

We hashed it out at the RECODA Sports & Recreation Club's inaugural Ping Pong Tournament. Thirty-two players vied for gold (after work of course) at the basement of the LCDA tower, all for the glory of gold.

After two weeks of play, the winners emerged and on February 26, our CEO Ismawi Ismuni presented gold, silver and bronze medals to the winners. Gold was taken by Corporate Reputation Executive Wesley Rimai (Green House), followed by Project Coordinator Manager Mohamad Nazif Mohamad Ridzuan (Red House) and Coordination Executive Cecil Riseng (Blue House).







Mother's Day & Father's Day Gifts













Badminton Tourney

nine pairs colleagues) competed for yet another inaugural tournament, the Badminton Championships. Each pair represented their respective house colour. After a day's battle, Yellow (Corporate Reputation Head Calvin Yeo and Internal Audit Head Denise Yong) emerged victorious, with runner-ups going to Red (Project Coordination Manager Mohamad Nazif Mohamad Ridzuan and Administrative Officer Hasmi Jamali) and Blue (Procurement **Executive Aisamuddin Mohamad** Zaman and Facilitation and Coordination Executive Shirley Ak Edward Mangga).





