

RECODA

NEWSLETTER

2022

Pg. 6

S'wak to be Asean's 'battery' through sustainable energy development



Pg. 7

RECODA collabs with CENTEXS to provide skilled workers to industries



Pg. 10

Press Metal's 3Q net profit more than doubles to RM283m

TURNING CRISIS INTO RENEWABLE ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES

Pg. 2

Remembering Tan Sri James Masing: His legacy lives on

Pg. 3

Masing contributed greatly to Upper Rajang region, says URDA Regional Director

OCIM President and CEO Steve Choi Sung Kil speaks about riding robust global demand for solar energy in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic



CONTENTS

page		page	
01	State's rapid development reflects closeness between Sarawak and Putrajaya	12	Corruption Risk Management (CRM) Workshop
02	Remembering Tan Sri James Masing: His legacy lives on	13	RECODA Milestone: 2010 - 2011
03	Masing contributed greatly to Upper Rajang region, says URDA Regional Director	14	Turning crisis into renewable energy opportunities
04	Socio-economic labs to boost income of rural residents	18	Projects: News & Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Construction of Pandaruan Rumah Temuai concludes with new roof- RECODA adopts new methods to overcome challenges in delivering infrastructure projects & More
05	RECODA, Wenan Steel touch base with education institutions on steel-making jobs	23	Investment: News & Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none">- RECODA joins online meeting to address poverty nationwide- Discussion with EPU on leveraging BIMP-EAGA, IMT-GT for growth- DCM: S'wak remains attractive place for investment despite pandemic & More
06	S'wak to be Asean's 'battery' through sustainable energy development, says Abg Jo	30	Courtesy Calls <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Samalaju Investors Industrial Association Bintulu- Finnish Ambassador H.E. Sami Leino- Dato Hajjah Hanifah Hajar Taib & More
07	RECODA collaborates with CENTEXS to provide skilled workers to industries	34	RECODA Sports & Recreational Club Activities
08	Petronas subsidiary to provide advisory, technical support for Sarawak's first methanol plant		
09	RECODA joins SEDC, EPU in online fireside chat on economic growth policies		
10	With new masterplans, Sarawak well-positioned to attract renewable energy investments		
11	Press Metal's 3Q new profit more than doubles to RM283m		

CONTACT US



RECODA
Regional Corridor Development Authority

Level 1, 2, 5 & 6, LCD Tower, Lot 2879, The Isthmus,
Off Jalan Bako, 93050 Kuching, Sarawak
Tel: +60-82-551 199 / +60-82-551 189
Fax: +60-82-551 190
Email: contact@recoda.gov.my

Published by:
Communications & Corporate Reputation Unit
Regional Corridor Development Authority (RECODA)



facebook.com/recodasarawak



[@recodasarawak](https://www.instagram.com/recodasarawak)



[@recodasarawak](https://twitter.com/recodasarawak)



linkedin.com/company/recoda



www.recoda.gov.my

State's rapid development reflects closeness between Sarawak and Putrajaya

Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg said the current rapid development in Sarawak truly reflects the close relationship between the State and the Federal Governments, Bernama reported.

“Like being under one roof,” Abang Johari said the close rapport and unity has brought about the development as desired by the multi-ethnic society and the state, in line with the Keluarga Malaysia (Malaysian Family) concept.

“Regardless of our cultural background and religious beliefs, we remain under one roof, maintain close relationship as a Malaysian Family,” he said in his speech at the opening of the New Mukah Airport on December 4, 2021.

The RM450 million airport was officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob in a ceremony also attended by Transport Minister Datuk Seri Wee Ka Siong.

Abang Johari also thanked Ismail Sabri for bringing a lot of infrastructure development to Sarawak when he was formerly the Minister of Rural and Regional Development.

Abang Johari also expressed his appreciation to the Transport



Ministry for agreeing to build the New Mukah Airport which is able to further boost the socio-economic development of the people in Mukah and the surrounding areas.

“Sarawak is trying to open up other areas to produce agricultural products and introduce tourism products and that's the reason for the proposal to upgrade the airport in Lawas and small airports in Betong and Kapit,” he said.

As for Mukah, he said the State Government had drawn up a master plan on the socio-economic development of the people in the area

based on the education, tourism and food sectors.

The plan, he said, was supported by Mukah's strategic position under the Regional Corridor Development Authority (RECODA).

The New Mukah Airport worth RM450 million was opened on June 17, 2021 to replace the small Mukah short takeoff and landing airport (STOLport).

The airport construction project at the new site some seven kilometres from Mukah town centre, which began on August 11, 2017 is able to cater to 265,000 passengers per annum.



Remembering Tan Sri James Masing: His legacy lives on



Photo credit: Bernama

The legacy left behind by the late Tan Sri Dr James Masing, the Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister who died on October 31, 2021 is deeply etched in the hearts of the people of Baleh, the State Legislative Assembly constituency that he had represented for almost 40 years.

Unlike the perception of those who have yet to set foot in the area, which is still fresh thanks to its natural surroundings, Baleh, which is located in the interior of central Sarawak, has undergone a lot of changes due to the development that had taken place during that period.

A local leader in Ulu Gaat, Baleh, penghulu (village headman) Bunsu Gerinang, 80, has experienced the many difficulties of living in the area when it could only be reached via the river.

“Previously, to travel by boat from Ulu Gaat to Kapit, which is the nearest town, would take us about three hours. Apart from that, the

journey was perilous, the cost of petrol was high because we had to use barrels of petrol for our outboard engines,” he told Bernama.

Now, that is just a memory following the robust development that began with the Baleh Hydroelectric Dam that is located about 105 kilometres (km) from Kapit town, and which has proven to be the catalyst for the growth of other projects in the area.

These projects included the 73km road facility from Nanga Mujong to Nanga Antawau costing RM1.2 billion that has been completed and used by the residents in the surrounding areas, thus making it easier for residents to commute to Kapit by land vehicles.

“There are also more cars now. Petrol usage is also less because with a full tank, one can commute to Kapit and move around the village. Even getting to Kapit takes only two hours,” said Bunsu.

According to him, there is now electricity supply to longhouses under his care while pipes for water supply from the river are also being installed.

“If this is not a form of development, then what else can be described as development? Outsiders who do not know what actually took place here should not try to compare the development carried out in Baleh with that in Kuala Lumpur because that is not fair,” he said.

Bunsu said that he and several other longhouse chiefs had planned to start a fish farming project in cages at the Baleh Hydroelectric Dam when it is ready and they expect the project to raise the income of those who take part.

With this development, Bunsu hopes that whoever replaces the late Masing as Baleh assemblyman after the 12th Sarawak State Election will be able to continue developing the area for the convenience of the people.

Longhouse chief Kilau Ugap said those claiming that no development had taken place in Baleh were those who had never been to the area before or witnessed the changes that had taken place over the years.

“Come and see for yourself the changes that have taken place. All along Sungai Baleh, Sungai Batang Rajang and Sungai Mujong, there are various development projects. There are schools and clinics, telecommunication systems are being set up and electricity supply using solar energy has also been implemented. The Bukit Mabong District Office has also been set up to facilitate the people’s dealings with the Government,” he said.

Another longhouse chief, Jimbun Ajai said that his longhouse in Pulau Won was now close to enjoying electricity supply.

“The electrical wirings in the house have been done and all that is left now is to install the meter,” he said.

In addition, residents in longhouses are now able to enjoy Internet facility with the installation of the WiFi ConnectMe hotspot system by the Government.

“We have been waiting patiently for this Internet facility for a long time and finally we have got it. We are grateful because this facility can help our children follow the home-based teaching and learning method (PdPR),” he said.

He added that the longhouse residents wanted the legacy of development carried out by the late Masing to be continued by his successor.

Masing, who was the Baleh assemblyman since 1983, died at the age of 72. He was also the president of Parti Rakyat Sarawak (PRS), one of the component parties of the Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) that formed the State Government.

Masing contributed greatly to Upper Rajang region, says URDA Regional Director

As many will attest, the late Deputy Chief Minister and Upper Rajang Development Agency (URDA) Chairman Tan Sri Dr James Masing played a vital role in bringing development to the Upper Rajang region, which is an unenviable task considering that the area is larger than Pahang, the largest state in Peninsular Malaysia.

Masing's contribution was exemplified in no small part by his role during establishment of the Upper Rajang Development Agency (URDA), one of RECODA's three regional development agencies that is the brainchild of Sarawak Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Abang Openg.

The Chief Minister, who is also RECODA Chairman, believes that the inclusion of key leaders and representatives of Federal and State agencies reflects the State Government's commitment in spurring the development in these areas.

And so it naturally came to be that Masing, a Deputy Chief Minister with vast administrative and political experience, would come to helm URDA, which was established on 12 July 2017.

With most of the areas in Sarawak which are still under-developed, there is an urgent need to open up the rural central region with an area of 41,186km² covering Kanowit, Song, Kapit, Bukit Mabong and Belaga that has huge economic potentials.

Despite the great challenges, Masing remained a "humble" and "very capable leader" throughout, says URDA Regional Director Joseph Belayong Punan.

"He is a friend outside office but will also talk about development

during our unofficial engagement," said Joseph, who is formerly Kapit Resident before taking up his new post in RECODA.

"I've known him since some 35 years ago when I served Kapit as a Sarawak Administrative Officer in 1986. I also worked with him when I was posted to the Ministry of Land Development in 1994. He was the Minister for Land Development at that time."

Joseph believes Masing's single greatest contribution to the Upper Rajang Region is the 110-km road linking Sibu to Kapit.

"The road from Sibu to Kapit was the outcome of his good relationship with YB Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi (Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Datuk Alexander Nanta Linggi)," said Joseph.

"They both pursued this road to the State and Federal Governments. He also introduced commercial farming to Mujong area through NCR (Native Customary Rights) joint venture projects to eventually improve the livelihood of the rural population. He used to quote that Kapit is an island as it could only be accessible by river



Joseph (second from left) with Masing during the official launch of the Belaga Waterfront on October 17, 2020.



before the completion of the road.”

Soon after its establishment, URDA was allocated with RM1.5 billion to carry out development projects, comprising roads, bridges, water and electricity supplies, telecommunications, improvement and other smaller projects such as the repair of dilapidated school projects.

This was in line with the Sarawak Government's rural development agenda to improve connectivity through the upgrading of road infrastructure and public amenities, which serves as a foundation to reduce wealth disparities, as well as to support employment opportunities and livelihood of rural communities.

These projects also serve as enablers for investments in the rural and hinterland areas of Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE).

Masing has left a number of legacy projects that brought

development to the region and to SCORE at large, said Joseph.

These include the ongoing construction of Baleh Hydroelectric Plant, the establishment of Bukit Mabong District, the proposed new Tunoh township, the Bukit Mabong airport and the proposed Tapak Megah Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ).

Despite his busy schedule, Masing, who was Minister of Infrastructure and Ports Development, was personable.

“The late Tan Sri Masing was a very approachable person and at times I didn't have to make an appointment to meet him,” said Joseph.

“He always found his time to meet me. He is a person who never raises his voice. While he was in Kapit we were always ready to be called to accompany him for a bowl of kampua at 6:30am in the morning.”



Masing (far right) attending the 2018 RECODA Board Meeting Dinner.



Socio-economic labs to boost income of rural residents

RECODA will be organising socio-economic labs for the three development regions of the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) as part of a wider effort to raise the standard of living among rural residents and eradicate poverty.

The labs will focus on areas overseen by RECODA's development agencies – Upper Rajang Development Agency (URDA), Highland Development Agency (HDA) and Northern Region Development Agency (NRDA). The board of each agency is chaired by a Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister.

In an online briefing with Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed on August 5, 2021, RECODA CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni informed Putrajaya that the labs will involve in-depth discussions among

stakeholders, community leaders, researchers and government agencies to shed light on the best that each region can offer economically.

“We are trying to understand what kind of activities can be done to alleviate poverty,” Ismawi informed the online sharing session today, which was also participated by the Sarawak Economic Planning Unit (EPU), Sabah EPU, researchers and other agencies.

“Whatever we do here, we do this together on a long-term basis. The outcome of the labs will be the basis for us to plan things properly for the next five years,” Ismawi said.

Ongoing socio-economic development programmes being implemented by RECODA include developing facilities for the parang-making industry, constructing ‘Anjung Usahawan’ to provide opportunities for small traders to sell their produce

and wares, donating ‘enjin sangkut’ or outboard motors to fishermen and providing facilities for traders to smoke ‘Tahai’ fish.

Sarawak EPU Director Dr Muhammad Abdullah Zaidel said Sarawak aims to double the size of its economy with a focus on digital innovation as part of the recently unveiled Post Covid-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030.

Meanwhile, Mustapa said government initiatives should not only focus on infrastructure development but also on locally-drawn initiatives that have a bottom-up approach.

Today's online session involved Poverty Circle members that comprise representatives from the government, private sector, civil society and education institutions.

RECODA, Wenan Steel touch base with education institutions on steel-making jobs

RECODA on July 13, 2021 joined the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Research (MESTR), Wenan Steel (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd and the Department of Skills Development (JPK) Sarawak in an online meeting to brief education institutions on job opportunities in the steel industry.

China-based Wenan Steel is investing into a steel manufacturing plant in the Samalaju Industrial Park in Bintulu, which is expected to be operational by 2024. The plant, the largest of its kind in Malaysia, is expected to have a production capacity of 10 million tonnes per annum and employs up to 4,000 people at various stages.

Today's meeting, hosted by MESTR, was to provide early awareness to institutions on potential future workforce requirements of the steel industry, as Wenan Steel's project is already in progress.

"In the steel industry, we

generally welcome all sorts of skilled workers, who may specialise in automation or even accounting," said Wenan Steel Managing Director Gao Wei.

"The investment of the steel plant will contribute to the local economic, social and industrial development. Based on its expected dominant position in the steel industry chain, we expect to attract high technical talents and ambitious investors, and help accelerate Malaysia's industrial growth," he said.

The site of the plant is currently undergoing earthworks, which is expected to be completed by March next year, added Gao Wei.

Attending the briefing were representatives from institutions that included Advanced Technology Training Center (ADTEC) Bintulu, Sarawak Skills (PPKS), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Centre of Technical Excellence (CENTEXS),

Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus, Mukah Polytechnic, Kuching Polytechnic and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Bintulu Campus.

Wenan Steel, which will utilise continuous casting in its steel-making process, will need technical specialists, industrial machinists, plant maintenance mechanics and special skills related to the steel-manufacturing sector.

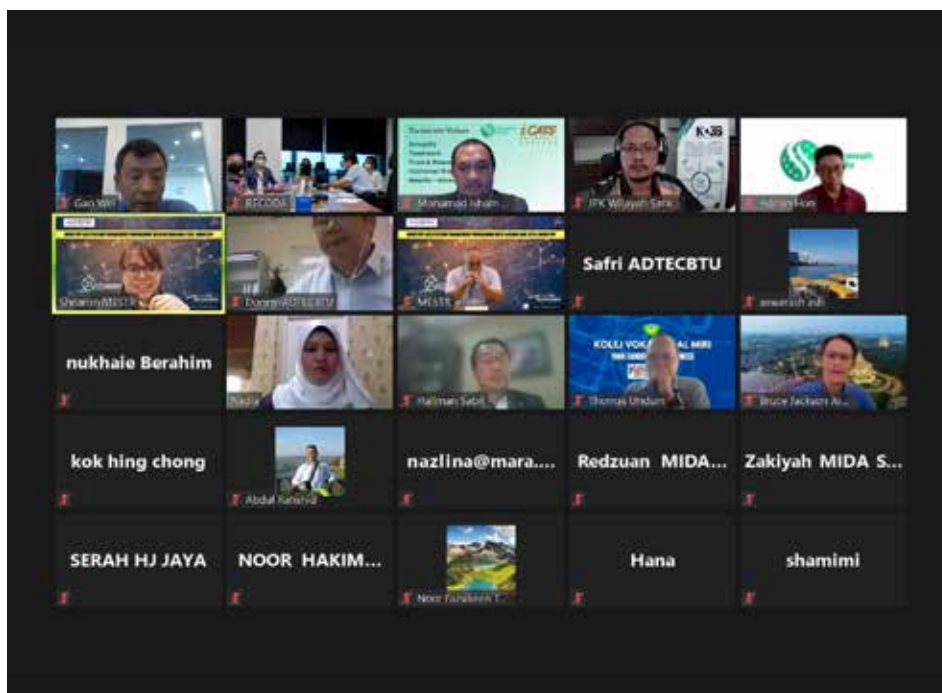
Also required are electrical & electronics, mechanical and chemical engineers as well as chemists, in addition to administrative staff.

MESTR and the Department of Skills Development, under the Ministry of Human Resources Malaysia, also updated attendees on the National Occupational Skills Standards (NOSS) relevant to the steel industry as well as requirements for vocational training and upskilling programmes that may cater to the steel manufacturer's workforce requirements.

RECODA's role, meanwhile, is to facilitate engagement and collaboration between industry and institutions in order to match the workforce requirements of the industry.

"Our part is to help plan, collaborate and administer programmes to upskill and reskill industry workers, particularly within the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) region," said RECODA Facilitation and Coordination Manager Khairina Dawek.

In addition to drawing investment to SCORE and creating job opportunities for Sarawakians, RECODA is also tasked with implementing infrastructure and socio-economic development projects.



S'wak to be Asean's 'battery' through sustainable energy development, says Abg Jo

Blessed with abundant natural resources as well as a highly competent and skilled workforce, Sarawak will continue to leverage on sustainable energy development to fulfil its aspiration of becoming Asean's 'battery' to power continued growth in the region, said Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg.

He said by improving resilience in energy supply and security through interconnections, Sarawak can create a cohesive and united economic market to capture growth opportunities for a greater Borneo, reported The Borneo Post on August 6, 2021.

He noted that the shift towards renewable hydropower development to power Sarawak via the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) has proven to be fundamental to the socioeconomic development of the people in the state.

Abang Johari said Sarawak's current generation capacity is predominantly renewable hydropower from the Batang Ai, Murum, and

Bakun hydropower plants.

"By 2026, once the 1,285-megawatt Baleh hydropower project is completed, Sarawak will have additional supply to the grid.

"Due to the advantages of renewable hydropower, our people have been able to enjoy several benefits such as the lowest average unsubsidised tariffs in Malaysia and the region, and economic growth and job creation through investments into Sarawak through bulk power purchase agreements for industries.

"Aside from that, our people have also enjoyed greater rural electrification and infrastructure development, accelerated economic transformation through hydro industrialisation, and advancing Sarawak's ambition to generate 15 per cent of our renewable energy sector income from foreign or export markets," he said during the Power Exchange Agreement and Interconnection Agreement signing ceremony between Sabah Electricity and Sarawak Energy, which was held

virtually.

Abang Johari said Sarawak was also able to cultivate a sustainable energy future for its people and beyond as it can share surplus renewable energy resources with its neighbours through robust infrastructure, supporting the regional transition to renewable energy, ensuring energy supply security and sustainability, while attracting investments for economic transformation of the Borneo region.

He said with sustainability at the forefront of its development agenda, Sarawak has embarked on its Green Energy Agenda to promote a low carbon economy and transportation through the development of cleaner energy alternatives such as hydrogen and solar, spearheaded by Sarawak Energy.

He noted that Sarawak is also making good progress in driving its Digital Economy agenda, which has been imperative in facing the challenges of Covid-19.



Photo credit: Sarawak Energy Berhad

RECODA collaborates with CENTEXS to provide skilled workers to industries



The MoU signing between RECODA and the Centre of Technical Excellence Sarawak (CENTEXS) was witnessed by the Chief Minister.

RECODA is collaborating with the Centre of Technical Excellence Sarawak (CENTEXS) to provide industry players with the right match of skilled workers.

Through this collaboration, both parties will share knowledge on the required skills and technical manpower needs through consultation and engagement with industry players.

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was held between RECODA and CENTEXS, which was witnessed by Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Abang Haji Openg during the launch of CENTEXS Mukah on August 28, 2021.

RECODA, which looks after the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) development growth, has been aggressively engaging with industry players, particularly those at the Samalaju Industrial Park to facilitate them in their investment needs, including manpower supply to meet their operational demands.

Similar collaborations on upskilling and manpower development will also be inked between RECODA and other skills training providers and higher education institutions soon.

In addition to drawing investment to SCORE and creating job opportunities for Sarawakians, RECODA is also tasked with implementing infrastructure and

socio-economic development projects through its three development agencies.

The agencies are the Upper Rajang Development Agency (URDA), the Highland Development Agency (HDA) and the Northern Region Development Agency (NRDA).



Petronas subsidiary to provide advisory, technical support for Sarawak's first methanol plant

Petronas Global Technical Solutions Sdn Bhd (PGTSSB) has entered into an agreement with Sarawak Petchem Sdn Bhd to provide advisory and technical support services for Sarawak's first mega methanol plant, The Borneo Post reported.

In a statement on October 4, 2021, Petroliaam Nasional Berhad (Petronas) said the agreement covered advisory on technical services, procurement and turnaround, as well as critical operations and maintenance support for the methanol project throughout its project execution and operation stages.

It said the agreement demonstrated Petronas' commitment towards supporting Sarawak Petchem in delivering the mega project, in line with the latter's 'One Team One Goal One Spirit, Building Legacy' aspiration.

The agreement was signed by PGTSSB Board Chairman Noor Ilias Mohd Idris and Sarawak Petchem's Director-in-Charge Dr Muhammad Abdullah Zaidel at a ceremony here in Kuala Lumpur on October 1, 2021.

Established in June 2017, Sarawak Petchem will be the first company in the state that produces methanol, with an annual capacity of 1.7 million metric tonnes per annum (mtpa). Its plant in Bintulu is currently under construction.

PGTSSB is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Petronas that offers technical services to the oil and gas sector.

Petronas said the agreement also marked another milestone in the long-standing collaboration between Petronas and the State Government in Sarawak's pursuit of growth, specifically in the downstream petrochemical sector.

In 2018, Petronas Chemicals



Noor Ilias (right) and Dr Muhammad Abdullah at the agreement signing ceremony.

Marketing (Labuan) Ltd became Sarawak Petchem's partner to market methanol products for the project.

Noor Ilias said in the statement: "Petronas is honoured to be the preferred energy and solutions partner of Sarawak Petchem in supporting the successful delivery of this historic project for Sarawak's oil and gas venture into the petrochemical sector.

"We are committed to help facilitate Sarawak's vision for their first mega methanol plant with our best-in-class technical and project delivery expertise. PGTSSB's local experts are of multiple technical disciplines with rich experience in similar projects in Malaysia, and they are able to contribute towards ensuring a sustainable pipeline of

technical talents in Sarawak Petchem through knowledge transfer."

Currently, Institut Teknologi Petroleum Petronas (INSTEP) is providing curated technical training to Sarawak Petchem staff in the areas of operations, maintenance and health, safety and environment. The first batch of trainees began their technical training at INSTEP in August via Virtual Instructor-Led Training.

PGTSSB has served more than 30 local and multinational companies covering services in the scope of engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning (EPCC), as well as operations for various projects across the oil, gas and petrochemical value chain.

RECODA joins SEDC, EPU in online fireside chat on economic growth policies

Despite the ongoing pandemic situation, the Regional Corridor Development Authority (RECODA) continues its efforts to attract investment into manufacturing hubs while facilitating and assisting existing investors.

One of the key initiatives by RECODA, aside from implementing infrastructure and socio-economic projects, is its after-care programme.

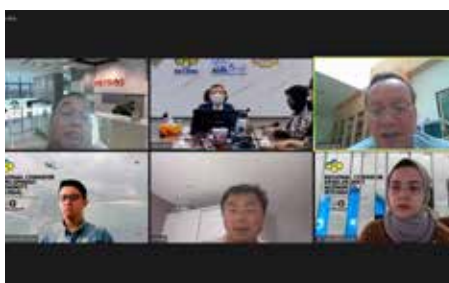
"I have to admit here that because of the pandemic, it is very difficult to go abroad for our investment promotion," said RECODA CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni during an online symposium on Sarawak economic growth policies organised by RHB Bank on September 7, 2021.

"So it is important for us to take care of our investors here now. That is why we have our after-care programme to look after investors, especially the investments in the Samalaju Industrial Park," he said, adding that RECODA works closely with the Samalaju Investors Industrial Association Bintulu (SIIAB).

Also speaking were Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) Chairman Tan Sri Dr Amar Haji Abdul Aziz and Sarawak Economic Planning Unit (EPU) director Dr Muhammad Abdullah Zaidel.

Ismawi said RECODA is collaborating with various agencies for training and upskilling programmes to cater for investors' workers requirements, while also encouraging reinvestment into the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE).

"Many of our investors now are having expansion plans, which will also require more energy. Apart from their reinvestment plans, we are also sitting with them and thinking of attracting more investment in



This is why it is important for us to make sure that SIP has a conducive living environment," Ismawi said.

He added that investor incentives can be further fine-tuned through the collaboration of Government departments such as the Ministry of Finance and the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA).

Meanwhile, Ismawi also spoke on the third phase of the SCORE implementation, which involves the establishment of the three regional development agencies beginning 2017, which are the Upper Rajang Development Agency (URDA), Highland Development Agency (HDA) and the Northern Region Development Agency (NRDA).

"We have been successful in terms of Samalaju Industrial Park, but the whole idea now is that we need to spread development in the SCORE areas and we need to spur development potentials in other areas besides SIP.

"The reason why we have these three development agencies is we would like to be more focused, each of these areas have their own potentials and strengths and different approaches to bring investment into these areas.

"What is common is that three areas are still lagging behind in terms of infrastructure and amenities and before we can attract investors it is very important for us to develop the physical infrastructure so that the investors can come to these areas with better transportation and logistical support."

Aside from investment promotion, RECODA is implementing 275 Federal and State Government projects worth a total of RM15.6 billion.

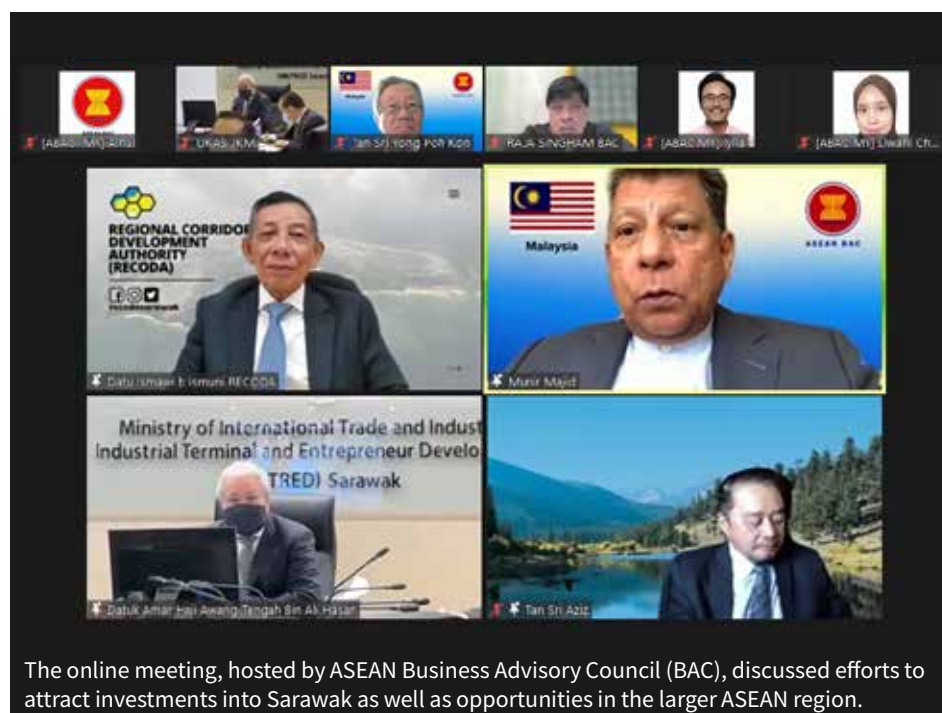
downstream activities, which will require less energy," he said.

Meanwhile, Ismawi spoke of the need to continue the government commitment to further develop manufacturing hubs such as the Samalaju Industrial Park (SIP).

"It is successful in terms of private and public investment, with a total of RM31 billion, which is not a small amount. In terms of employment, there are easily more than 12,000 people and this has not factored in the latest plant by Wenan Steel from China, which brings in another additional 4,000 workers."

"We are undergoing a rebranding exercise, where an industrial park is a place where people need to live and enjoy themselves.

With new masterplans, Sarawak well-positioned to attract renewable energy investments



International Trade and Industry, Industry Terminal & Entrepreneur Development Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan; and Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) Chairman Tan Sri Datuk Amar Abdul Aziz Husain.

Ismawi said Kapit is now accessible by road from Sibul, where previously it was only possible to travel by air or river. Kapit's masterplan encompasses urban renewal and the expansion of a new township. For Bakun, its masterplan will focus on attracting investors with its proposed lakefront township and island resort local plan.

"We want to take advantage of the (Bakun) lake, which is the size of Singapore," Ismawi said.

Mulu's masterplan will involve the construction of a road network linking Miri-Marudi, Marudi-Mulu (Kuala Melinau) and Long Panai-Long Lama, Miri, which will vastly improve connectivity in the area.

"We have to travel by air to visit Mulu. With this masterplan, there will be a road all the way to Mulu. In the next four years to come, tourists and visitors will be able to travel by road from Miri, and have the option to choose another route to places such as Long Lama."

For the NRDA region, which is strategically located near Brunei, Kalimantan and Sabah, the state-funded proposed Northern Coastal Highway will improve overall connectivity.

Additionally, a master plan is near completion for the Lawas Deep Sea Port, which will support the oil & gas industry, including plans for the proposed Integrated Petroleum Chemical Complex in Lawas.

Strategic masterplans have been established in traditionally rural areas, from the central region to the hinterland and the northern region of the state, to spur growth potentials and attract renewable energy investments, said Regional Corridor Development Authority (RECODA) CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni.

"To attract investors, it is vital that we accelerate infrastructure development to drive socio-economic growth in rural areas, which will serve as a foundation to support livelihood and employment opportunities of rural communities," he said during the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) Malaysia online consultation meeting with the Sarawak Government and state agencies on October 21, 2021.

"In line with Sarawak's aspiration to be a developed and high-income state by the year 2030, we are tasked to spur the growth

potentials in the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) which includes three regional development agencies, namely Upper Rajang Development Agency (URDA), Highland Development Agency (HDA), and Northern Region Development Agency (NRDA)," Ismawi added.

RECODA has created masterplans to develop Bakun, Belaga and Kapit under URDA; Mulu and Bario under HDA; and Sundar, Trusan and Merapok under NRDA.

The online meeting, chaired by ASEAN-BAC Malaysia Chairman Tan Sri Dr Munir Majid, discussed efforts in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), its existing priorities and future development plans, as well as opportunities that it can tap into in the larger ASEAN region.

Also speaking were Deputy Chief Minister, Second Minister of Urban Development & Natural Resources, and Minister of

Press Metal's 3Q net profit more than doubles to RM283m



Press Metal Aluminium Holdings Bhd's net profit for the third quarter ended September 30, 2021 more than doubled to RM283.33 million, from RM121.98 million a year ago, on the back of higher revenue, The Edge Markets reported.

Revenue jumped 55.03% to RM2.89 billion from RM1.86 billion due to higher aluminium price and production output from its new Phase 3 Samalaju smelter which achieved full commissioning in mid-October, the group said in its filing to Bursa Malaysia on November 26, 2021.

The group has proposed a third interim dividend of one sen per share, which will be paid on December 3, 2021.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2021, the group's net profit also more than doubled to RM744.63 million from RM314.61 million in the same period last year, as revenue rose 40.68% to RM7.63 billion from RM5.42 billion.

The group said the improvement in metal price and increased production output from the Phase 3 smelter have contributed to the significant increase in revenue and profit.

The group expects to achieve satisfactory results for the full year.

It said the recovery in global demand for aluminium in the first three quarters of 2021 was driven primarily by economic re-opening and supportive fiscal stimulus policies, and as a result, aluminium price remained buoyant during the quarter.

However, the positive sentiments from higher aluminium price were partially offset by the increase in its operating costs stemming from higher raw material prices, increase in consumable prices and persistently elevated logistics costs.

Press Metal added that power rationing in China poses further uncertainties to global supply chains and raw material prices.

On top of this, it said the group was faced with reduced workforce during the Movement Control Order period which had an impact on its overall operating efficiency.

"We foresee that these operational challenges will continue to be present in the near term," it said, but added: "Moving forward into 2022, with anticipated increase of production volume, we target to

expand into new markets for our value-added products."

The group also said it wants to place high emphasis on strengthening its position within the low-carbon aluminium space while also accentuating the environmental, social and governance culture into its people and throughout its operations.

In a separate bourse filing, Press Metal said its 80%-owned subsidiary Press Metal Bintulu Sdn Bhd (PM Bintulu) has received notices of additional assessment from the Inland Revenue Board (IRB) for the years of assessment 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 amounting in aggregate to RM106.06 million.

"The IRB has imposed the additional income tax payable based on its view that certain income does not fall under pioneer status exemption approved by Malaysian Investment Development Authority.

"Based on legal advice obtained from our tax solicitors, PM Bintulu is of the view that there are reasonable grounds to challenge the notices of additional assessment raised by IRB," the group said.

Corruption Risk Management Workshop



RECODA held a two-day Corruption Risk Management (CRM) Workshop from 15 to 16 December, 2021, which was a follow up effort from the Organisational Anti-Corruption Plan (OACP) developed a year prior.

While the OACP provides an overall master plan for good governance, transparency and public accountability, the CRM Workshop was more focussed on battling the acts of corruption.

Led by RECODA's Integrity Unit, some 20 officers and heads of sections brainstormed to identify corruption risks and measures to mitigate them.

These measures involved improving rules and regulations as well as strengthening business processes.

RECODA CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni, in his closing remark, called for RECODA personnel to adhere to the highest ethical standards as he cautioned that any evidence of corrupt practices would ruin its public image.

The outcome of the CRM Workshop will be incorporated into RECODA's framework for the MS ISO 37001:2016 Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS), which is designed to help organisations prevent, detect and respond to bribery incidences. The standard also includes compliance to laws, regulations and other voluntary commitments.

RECODA is participating in the ISO 37001 ABMS pilot project in Sarawak, along with the Chief Minister's Office and four other State Government departments.



RECODA Milestones: 2010 - 2011

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.

Sarawak delegation led by Sarawak's 4th Chief Minister, promotes Tanjung Manis Halal Hub in London, in conjunction with the inaugural Oxford Global Islamic Branding and Marketing Forum



Earth breaking ceremony for Tokuyama's polycrystalline silicon factory in Samalaju



Sarawak Energy Bhd signed four Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) Term Sheet Agreements with four SCORE investors - OM Materials Sarawak Sdn Bhd, Asia Minerals Ltd, Press Metal Bhd and Tokuyama Malaysia Sdn Bhd



Bakun HEP begins generating electricity

2010

MARCH

OCTOBER



Bakun Dam impoundment begins

2011

FEBRUARY

APRIL



Groundbreaking ceremony for Press Metal Bhd's Samalaju facility

JUNE



Sarawak Energy Bhd and Sarawak Hidro Sdn Bhd signed the 30-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the full output of the Bakun hydroelectric facilities

OCTOBER

To be continued in the next
READCODA Issue

Turning crisis into renewable energy opportunities

OCIM Sdn. Bhd. President and CEO Steve Choi Sung Kil speaks candidly about robust global demand in solar energy in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Steve Choi cuts a stoic figure. We met him dressed impeccably at OCIM's Kuching office, which overlooked the iconic Cats Statue along Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman just a stone's throw away from the Waterfront.

The interview with the OCIM Sdn Bhd President and CEO was originally slated to focus mainly on the South Korean polysilicon manufacturer's plans to expand its plant in the Samalaju Industrial Park in Bintulu.

Midway through, the soft-spoken 47-year-old broke into a smile when asked just how the renewable energy sector managed to stay robust during this tumultuous period.

The diversion in topic was a welcome one. Choi, a Seoul native, appeared eager to delve into how OCIM's manufacturing output managed to be on the upswing despite the challenging macro environment.

And it's no small point of pride. Over the past year, growth in solar photovoltaic (PV) manufacturing is on the uptick despite a downturn in much of the global manufacturing industries.

In fact, the Renewable Energy Investment Tracker Report from Bloomberg reported US\$174 billion of global investment in just the first half of this year in clean power, including solar power, which is the highest on record.

"So, under this pandemic, many businesses have been impacted badly. But in terms of renewable energy, it has actually increased in demand by about 20% to 30%," said Choi, who was appointed as OCIM President and CEO in

2020, just prior to the Covid-19 outbreak.

"Yes, this pandemic has caused a downturn to a lot of industries. However, it actually accelerated the demand of renewable energy, which was followed by widespread commitment to the global zero carbon emission plan by 2050."

Solar energy, on average, is 90% cheaper than in 2009, he said. As a result, this year's solar module installation volume has increased from 16GW to 200GW, and OCIM expects continuous increase in demand until the year 2030.

Choi added that the election of Joe Biden as US President also had a positive effect due to the reinstatement of the Paris climate accord and other pro-renewable energy policies.

"Personally, I think people are thinking that this pandemic is also somewhat related to global warming. There's floods and storms and all sorts of strange weather patterns. It's either too hot or too cold. Or it's snowing where it shouldn't," said Choi.

"At the same time people are experiencing what they've never experienced, which is the pandemic. So, these fears cause people to reassess the impact of global warming, I believe. It's not something we can ignore. We have to reduce carbon emissions," he added.

Choi foresees solar power becoming more affordable and accessible for businesses.

Solar energy prices have gone down by almost 90% compared to 2009 while nuclear power energy prices rose 30% due to additional risk management





OCIM's manufacturing output managed to be on the upswing despite the challenging macro environment, says Choi.



Choi foresees solar power becoming more affordable and accessible for businesses.

costs. Currently, solar energy is only representing 4% of global power demand.

“It still has a lot of potential to develop and increase,” Choi said, adding that the entry cost will be further reduced to make solar power viable.

“Solar cost is already below coal energy cost in several countries of EU and some states in the US. It still needs to be further priced down in order to meet the demand in development countries and replace coal power costs.”

Malaysia is also seeking to reduce its carbon footprint, with the government targeting renewable energy to take up 31% of the total power capacity mix by 2025 and 40% by 2035. Sarawak is generating nearly 5GW of hydroelectric power including the coming Baleh dam in 2026.

“This is a great marketing advantage using green generated power and producing polysilicon for solar panels. OCIM is expecting competitive advantage compared to our competitors who are using coal generated power,” Choi said.

OCIM Expansion

Established in 1959, South Korea-based OCI traditionally produced petrochemicals and carbon materials and is now increasingly involved in green energy solutions.

Its OCIM facility in Sarawak currently produces 30,000 metric tonnes of polysilicon annually for the global

market and this equates to 10.0 GW of solar power generation.

OCIM announced recently that it is investing about US\$50 million (RM228 million) to expand the production capacity of its polysilicon plant in Samalaju Industrial Park through a ‘debottlenecking’ initiative.

This is understood to be increasing output while lowering costs without building on additional infrastructure. Debottlenecking is the process of improving efficiency by quantitative process optimisation.

“Instead of building another air conditioner to cover a larger room, maybe we install a fan instead. That is an example of debottlenecking,” Choi explained.

OCIM’s expansion plan has started since the beginning of 2020, and construction work is currently in

progress and is expected to be completed by the third quarter next year.

The purpose of the expansion is to reduce production cost and supply additional volume from OCIM’s customers. “We expect lower production cost through this expansion and increasing sales revenue,” Choi said.

“We have had several experiences with debottlenecking exercises before. We will make full use of some idle equipment in the Korea plant. That equipment will arrive this month and we are ready to install into the existing Samalaju plant.”

Once completed, OCIM’s polysilicon total production capacity will be more than 35,000 metric tonnes per year, which is a 5,000-metric-tonne increase of the existing capacity.

A proposal to expand to 60,000 metric tonnes with the total additional investment of US\$800 million (RM3.2 billion) is yet to be confirmed.

“This is still under discussion with potential partners,” Choi said. “If we relocate from Gunsan Korea (30,000 metric tonnes) to Sarawak, our capacity will reach almost 70,000 metric tonnes per annum.”

On joint venture plans with downstream solar panel companies: “We are open to discuss any business opportunity with our partners, including solar-related companies and other green chemical product manufacturers.”

The pandemic however, did curb product production at the Samalaju, with logistical issues affecting supply of materials.

“The pandemic affected a lot of the lifestyle changes in the Samalaju



OCIM’s polysilicon plant in Samalaju is expanding its production capacity.

Industrial Park,” said Choi. “We are trying to maintain the operating ratio with limited manpower to comply with SOP regulations and management needs to pay more attention to maintain safety within the facility.”

“As you may know, logistical costs have also risen dramatically since 2020 and some of SIP members are facing some difficulty exporting to the EU and US markets due to high logistical costs. Securing raw materials and export goods are also very challenging now and hopefully the situation will return to normal soon.”

Competition and long-term plans

OCI is acknowledged as one of the world's top polysilicon producers. In fact, most of its competitors are Chinese firms, with Chinese solar manufacturer Tongwei the largest in 2020, with an

annual production capacity of 96,000 tonnes.

Asked on the long-term strategy to head-off competition from China, considering its advantage in terms of volume and low-cost electricity from coal-fired power plants, Choi pointed to cost management and reliance on technological expertise.

“As I have shared earlier, we have a long-term cost reduction road map to compete with Chinese competitors through our further debottlenecking exercises and expansion.

“Currently, the Chinese government is also focusing on reducing carbon emission. So, in the near future, the coal fired power plant will either reduce or the price will be increased. We have confidence to compete with our competitors with green generated electric power from Sarawak.

“We have the technology and

experience. If the power price point is good enough, we are very confident that we are able to compete.”

On his personal long-term plans, Choi said he's grown fond of Sarawak.

“I've been in Kuching for two and a half years and living with my family. We feel very comfortable and happy living here. Wonderful and peaceful lifestyle, delicious food, and nice, friendly people around. My kids also love studying at the international school here and we can't wait for schools to re-open.

“We have not gone back to Korea since the pandemic broke out and we really hope to have the opportunity to visit our parents and relatives back home as soon as the pandemic situation improves.”



“We have the technology and experience. If the power price point is good enough, we are very confident that we are able to compete,” says Choi.

Meet the people session at Long Jeoh, Ulu Baram



RECODA has gone to the ground to engage with the people of Long Jeoh, in Ulu Baram to brief them on the benefits of a planned road project.

Highland Development Agency (HDA) Board Member and Baram MP Anyi Ngau, who was accompanied by HDA Regional Director Semuel Belawan, visited in July, 2021 the rural community in the hilly terrain, where the main livelihood comprises of mixed farming.

The community were briefed on the proposed 30km Long Jeoh road upgrade project, which will also link nearby Long Selawan. The infrastructure project will be implemented by HDA, under RECODA.

The mostly Kenyah community plants peppers, Terung Asam eggplants and other crops.

“There is great potential for the area to be developed and the community to organise their mix cropping in the area to raise their income,” said Semuel.

RECODA donates to Kapit Health Office



With the Covid-19 pandemic is still ongoing, RECODA has on July 16, 2021 donated a cheque to the Kapit Divisional Health Office as a token of appreciation and support as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The cheque was presented by Upper Rajang Development Agency (URDA) Regional Director Joseph Belayong Punan (left) to Kapit Health officer Dr Valerie Kimberly Paterson at the Land & Survey Department office in Kapit.

RECODA also participated in a land compensation ceremony for 14 development projects in the Kapit Division under URDA, which was officiated by Deputy Chief Minister and URDA Chairman Tan Sri Datuk Amar Dr James Jemut Masing. A total of 663 villagers received compensation.

Ongoing Lawas projects inspected by NRDA Chairman Awang Tengah



Several ongoing socio-economic and infrastructure projects in Lawas were inspected in a work visit in August, 2021 by Deputy Chief Minister and Northern Region Development Agency (NRDA) Chairman Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan.

Accompanied by Deputy Minister of Rural Development and Lawas MP Dato' Henry Sum Agong, Awang Tengah checked on the construction progress of a new dormitory at SK Ulu Merapok, the village expansion schemes (SPK) of Kuala Lawas, Belipat, Kampung Serdang and Belangsat, a new road



from Kampung Noor Islam to Ferry Point and the Kuala Lawas Anjung Usahawan.

During the trip, Awang Tengah reminded consultants and contractors to structure their working plan well to ensure all projects are delivered on time.

Additionally, Bantuan Khas Sarawakku Sayang (BKSS) cash aid was handed out to the needy while compensation cheques were presented to residents affected by the Pa Kepulu Water Project and the New Kuala Lawas Bridge.

HDA, Miri Land & Survey meet with land compensation claimants

The Highland Development Agency (HDA) on August 20, 2021 met with Long Silat land compensation claimants in Miri in a discussion jointly organised with the Miri Land & Survey Department.

In the discussion chaired by HDA Deputy Chairman and Mulu State Representative Dato Gerawat Gala, residents and community leaders from the settlement in the Upper Baram region were informed about the policies and issues related to their claims.

They were also briefed on the benefits of the ongoing 8km Long Silat road project, which will provide safe travel to the surrounding communities after its expected completion next year.



Construction of Pandaruan Rumah Temuai concludes with new roof



A new Rumah Temuai in the Pandaruan Land District, in Limbang, will provide accommodation for visitors to the surrounding rural communities.

With the installation of a new roof completed in August 2021, the final touches are being made to the single-storey infrastructure, also known as a Native Rest House, which has been under construction since late 2020. The rainwater harvesting tank and drainage cover are also completed.

Completed jobs include roadworks, door panels, lightings, fans, rainwater downpipes and drainage. The project is implemented by the Northern Region Development Agency (NRDA).

HDA engages with Long Lama residents on road projects

A meeting was held on September 20, 2021 between the Highland Development Agency (HDA) and community leaders from Rumah Duri, Sungai Pudan, Rian and Sebatu at Long Lama, Baram to brief them on the road projects in the area. Present were State Assemblyman for Telang Usan Dennis Ngau and HDA Regional Director Samuel Belawan.



HDA Site Visit to the Proposed Mulu Power Plant and Water Treatment Plant



In a site visit in October, 2021 to the proposed Mulu power plant and water treatment plant located adjacent to the Mulu National Park, Highland Development Agency (HDA) Deputy Chairman YB Dato Gerawat Gala was briefed by Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources advisor Datu Sajeli Kipli on how the surrounding communities will soon have access to clean water and power under the proposed Mulu New Township.

HDA hands out compensation cheques to community members of Long Wat, Long Atip



Crop compensation cheques were handed out in September, 2021 to community members affected by Highland Development Agency (HDA) road projects in Long Wat and Long Atip in Baram, in a ceremony witnessed by State Assemblyman for Telang Usan Dennis Ngau.

RECODA adopts new methods to overcome challenges in delivering infrastructure projects

The Regional Corridor Development Authority (RECODA) had to come up with new implementation models and technical solutions to ensure projects are delivered in a timely manner and within cost, even in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

At the “Challenges and Opportunities of Infrastructure Development in Borneo” online symposium on September 10, 2021 RECODA CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni said the state statutory body faced key challenges in the implementation of its projects.

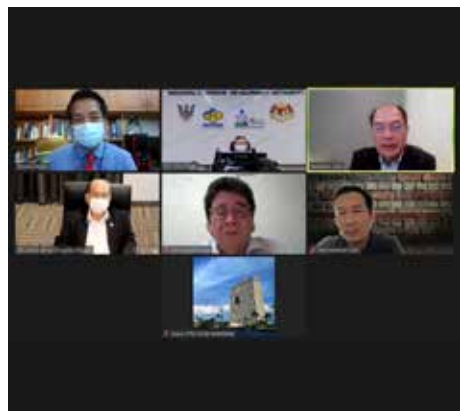
One key challenge was the timeline, where projects needed to be implemented on a fast-track basis. This is despite the geographical factor, where most of the projects are located in rural and remote areas.

“We need to be innovative and creative in the way we plan and implement projects because we are not implementing projects on a conventional basis. And to go through these areas remains very challenging,” Ismawi said.

Transportation and logistics challenges have constrained access to project sites and the ability to move raw materials, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic.

HDA briefing on Water Supply and Electrical Infrastructure Projects in Bario and Telang Usan

RECODA briefed on October 5, 2021 Deputy Chief Minister and Highland Development Agency (HDA) Chairman Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, Mulu State Assemblyman Dato Gerawat Gala and Telang Usan State Assemblyman Dennis Ngau on the latest updates regarding the water supply and electrical infrastructure projects in Bario and Telang Usan, including the cost advantages of adopting slow sand filtration system.



Cheque compensation ceremony by YB Tuan Kennedy Chukpai Ugon



Cheques for the compensation of crops affected by the farm road Bakun Resettlement Scheme (BRS) were handed out on October 13, 2021 in a ceremony graced by State Assemblyman for N.66 Murum YB Tuan Kennedy Chukpai Ugon (fifth from right).

Residents of Daleh Long Pelutan receive crop compensation cheques



State Representative for Telang Usan and Highland Development Agency (HDA) Board Member YB Dennis Ngau (fourth from left) presenting crop compensation cheques at Daleh Long Pelutan, Baram on October 19, 2021 to residents affected by road projects linking Daleh Long Pelutan, Long Miri and Uma Bawang.

HDA Crop Compensation Cheques for residents in Long Banyok

Crop compensation cheques were presented in a ceremony in Long Banyok, Baram on October 20, 2021 by State Assembly Representative for Telang Usan and Highland Development Agency (HDA) Board Member YB Dennis Ngau (sixth from left) to residents affected by a road project linking Long Lama and Logan Sibong.



Bringing connectivity to Long Jeeh and Long Selawan, in Ulu Baram



A productive dialogue session was jointly held on November 19, 2021 by the Highland Development Agency (HDA) and the Land & Survey Department regarding crop and land compensation for local communities affected by a proposed 14km road project linking Kalei Road Junction to Long Jeeh and Long Selawan, in Ulu Baram.

Village representatives were pleased with the outcome of the dialogue, as connectivity will be brought on by the new road and two 49-metre bridges that will cross the nearby Sungai Kalei and Sungai Oten.

Groundbreaking of Anjung Usahawan Long Tuan



Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg, Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan and Transport Deputy Minister Datuk Henry Sum Agong gracing the groundbreaking event of Anjung Usahawan Long Tuan, at Trusan on October 30, 2021. Abang Johari, who is also chairman of RECODA, was also briefed on the ongoing socio-economic and infrastructure development projects being carried out in the northern region of Sarawak, overseen by the Northern Region Development Agency (NRDA).

Chief Minister's Work Visit to Sungai Asap, Belaga



Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Abang Openg dropped by RECODA's exhibition booth at the Lamin Adet Bangen Kimet Community Hall, at Uma Baha during a work visit to Sungai Asap, Belaga on November 28, 2021.

Abang Johari, who is also chairman of RECODA, was briefed on ongoing and proposed road projects that will link 15 communities and settlements in the Sungai Asap area.

Abang Johari was accompanied by Assistant Minister for Utilities (Rural Electricity) Datuk Liwan Lagang, State Representative for Murum YB Kennedy Chukpai Ugon and RECODA CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni.

RECODA joins online meeting to address poverty nationwide



RECODA joined an online meeting hosted by the Economic Planning Unit on July 1, 2021, which discussed the best strategies to tackle poverty nationwide. In the online meeting chaired by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, RECODA CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni provided feedback on the best strategies to address poverty and improve the well-being of the rakyat.

Also joining the discussion were representatives from the Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU), Department of Statistics Malaysia, Sabah Economic Development and Investment Authority (SEDIA), East Coast Economic Region Development Council (ECERDC) and the Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA), among others.

OM Holdings' Sarawak smelter resumes operations

OM Holdings Ltd has resumed in July, 2021 its operations which had been suspended since May 28, 2021 after several COVID-19 cases were reported at its smelter complex in Sarawak, The Edge Markets reported.

The company plans to ramp up its production in stages, given the constrained manpower environment and its focus on prioritising employee safety.

"As a result of the temporary suspension at the plant, the company had declared force majeure on all its sales contracts and its power purchase agreement until the plant is able to resume and achieve a steady state of operations," it said in a filing with Bursa Malaysia on July 5, 2021.



Briefing to Tok Pa on ongoing projects in Sarawak



RECODA on July 8, 2021 briefed Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed on new and current projects implemented within the SCORE.

In an online meeting, RECODA CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni briefed Mustapa on the implementation status of SCORE projects under the 12th Malaysia Plan (2021-2025).

Ismawi also spoke briefly on signature projects being implemented by RECODA. These include the proposed 89-km Northern Coastal Highway, which connects Limbang and Lawas to the border of Sabah, and the proposed roads linking Miri-Marudi, Marudi-Mulu (Kuala Melinau) and Long Panai-Long Lama, Miri.

These roads, Ismawi said, will not only complement development in the surrounding areas but also spur more economic growth. Other signature projects in the offing include the proposed Lawas Deep Water Port Complex and the New Lawas Airport.

Discussion with EPU on leveraging BIMP-EAGA, IMT-GT for growth

RECODA joined a virtual meeting on July 14, 2021 chaired by YBhg Dato' Ahmad Zamri bin Khairuddin, Director of the Regional Development Division from the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) in the Prime Ministers' Department, to share input on the proposed National Strategic Action Plan.

This was held to provide a better understanding on the issues and challenges facing the Corridor Authorities in their participation in the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) and Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT).

The meeting included a presentation by Asia Development Bank (ADB), represented by Bernard Tai, on the National Strategic Action Plan for Subregional Cooperation (2021-2025). The proposed plan's main goal is for Malaysia to be able to effectively leverage IMT-GT to achieve its national development agenda.



Online sharing session with Putrajaya, CEOs of economic corridors



RECODA joined other economic corridor authorities in an online sharing session on July 19, 2021 with newly appointed Senior Deputy Secretary-General (TKSUK) of the Prime Minister's Department, Dato' Jamil Rakon.

Jamil, 59, who was previously the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Human Resources, hosted a video call with CEOs of authorities that manage five of the country's economic corridors, namely: the East Coast Economic Region (ECER), the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER), Iskandar Malaysia (IM), the Sabah Development Corridor (SDC) and the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE), which is managed by RECODA.

RECODA CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni briefly described the state statutory body's evolving roles, which now include the implementation of not only Federal projects, but also state-funded infrastructure and socio-economic development projects.

OM Sarawak donates laptops, PPE to Bintulu Division Health Office

OM Materials (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd (OM Sarawak), an associate company of ASX and Bursa-listed OM Holdings Limited (OMH), has donated laptops and personal protective equipment (PPE) to the Bintulu Division Health Office on July 21, 2021, reported The Borneo Post.

The donated items, consisting of laptops, disposable coveralls, latex gloves, medical gowns and hand sanitizers were handed over to Bintulu Division Health officer Dr Melvin Chung.

The items will be used to facilitate the Covid-19 vaccination programmes and various active case detection activities within the Bintulu Division.

The company previously donated about RM1.4 million worth of PPE to the healthcare frontliners to support the Sarawak government's efforts in curbing the spread of the pandemic last year.



MIDA remains focused on attracting high-quality investments into Malaysia

The Government, via the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), remains focused on attracting high-quality investments from foreign and domestic companies into Malaysia through various investment strategies and policy initiatives amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Bernama reported.

MIDA chief executive officer (CEO) Y.Bhg Dato' Arham Abdul Rahman said the continued aggressive strategy to attract high-level investments from both foreign and domestic investors is exhibiting promising results, with Malaysia recording a total of RM80.6 billion worth of approved investments in the manufacturing, services and primary sectors in the first quarter of 2021 (January-March), a surge of 95.6% from the same period last year.

"These approved investments involved 993 projects and are expected to generate 32,557 job opportunities. Malaysia remains a competitive investment location for foreign investors despite the multiple headwinds on the global front," he said.

DCM: S'wak remains attractive place for investment despite pandemic

Sarawak remains one of the most attractive places for investment in Malaysia despite the Covid-19 pandemic, said Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan.

He said although the state has secured RM15.7 billion worth of approved investment in 2020, the State Government will continue to engage with foreign investors on their proposed investments in green hydrogen, electric vehicles, glass, glass fibre and so on.

"I am also pleased to inform that four multinational corporations in Sama Jaya have begun their expansion plans worth RM6.31 billion," The Borneo Post reported.

"This is testament of the investors' full confidence in the Sarawak Government's ability to manage our economy as well as the way we manage the pandemic," he said at the launch of the Chief Minister's Industry Excellence Awards 2021 (CMIEA) held over Zoom on August 12, 2021.

National Employment Council has created 320,000 jobs, says Tengku Zafrul



The Government has helped create 320,000 jobs so far through the National Employment Council (NEC) initiative, Finance Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz said.

He said in an effort to help the target groups find jobs, RM2 billion was allocated for the PenjanaKerjaya programme under Budget 2021, for which PenjanaKerjaya 2.0 had helped more than 141,000 people secured jobs, The Edge Markets reported on August 6, 2021.

The NEC was established with the target of creating 500,000 jobs and skills training placements through strategic collaboration between government agencies and industry players.

RECODA hosts virtual engagement with TalentCorp

It's all about bridging talent supply and demand through collaborative partnership. RECODA on August 11, 2021 hosted a virtual engagement with TalentCorp on contributing to Malaysia's talent landscape in support of the government's development agenda.

TalentCorp Group CEO Thomas Mathew and Group COO Siva Kumeren A. Narayanan briefed our CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni on the national agency's various job and training programmes.

On the discussion table are potential collaborations with RECODA to support stakeholders in Sarawak on upskilling their employees, developing a talent supply database and exploring graduate trainee programmes.

Fruitful online meeting with Samalaju Industrial Park investors



A fruitful meeting was held with investors from the Samalaju Industrial Park on August 25, 2021, chaired by RECODA CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni.

This meeting which is held regularly between RECODA and the investors, represented by their key management, is to thrash out things to further improve the industrial park as well as issues affecting the operations of the respective investors.

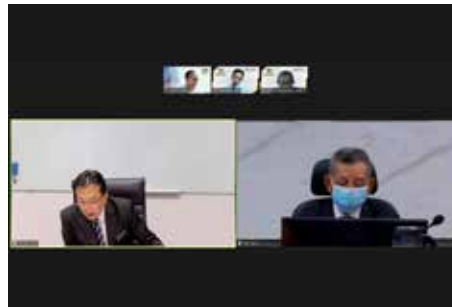
These investors which have been operating at the Samalaju Industrial Park have contributed to the economic growth of the state, particularly in SCORE.

Tok Pa meets up with RECODA, other agencies after swearing-in



Freshly sworn-in Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed reconnected with RECODA, along with other economic corridor authorities and relevant agencies in an online meetup on August 30, 2021 where he called on everyone to revisit strategies and refine some policies for better key deliverables.

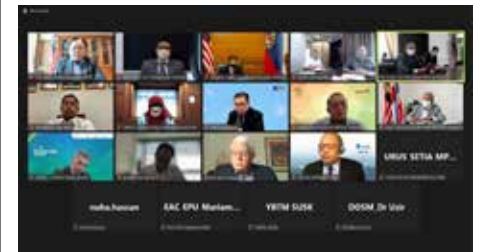
Online meetup between RECODA and Prime Minister's Department



On September 1, 2021 our CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni updated our latest developments to Senior Deputy Secretary-General of the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Jamil Rakon, who assured there will be closer co-operation between Putrajaya and RECODA.

"We are working full speed because the responsibilities given to us are huge and I am very pleased with the support given to us by the Prime Minister's Department, the Economic Planning Unit and the Ministry of Finance, which has been very good," said Ismawi.

RECODA briefs Tok Pa on high impact deliverables



We joined an online meeting on September 1, 2021 with Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed and other relevant agencies to discuss high-impact initiatives this year.

RECODA Corporate Services Director Dr Hadysyam Junaidi briefed Putrajaya on our initiatives, which include holding socio-economic labs to elevate local economic activities and implementing high impact agricultural development projects such as the Agro Park in Igan.

Surge in approved FDI signals confidence of foreign investors in Malaysia, says Azmin

The surge in Malaysia's approved foreign direct investment (FDI) in the first half of 2021 (1H21), which grew by 223.1% year-on-year (y-o-y), signalled the confidence of foreign investors in the country's stable and conducive economic climate and business ecosystem, said Senior Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali.

Mohamed Azmin, who is also the international trade and industry minister, said this robust and impressive performance augured well for Malaysia's path to a vibrant and sustainable economic recovery, The Edge Markets reported on September 14, 2021.

FDI drove the strong and vibrant performance of the manufacturing sector during the period, registering RM58.2 billion in approved investments. Domestic sources, meanwhile, contributed the remaining RM8.7 billion approved investments in this sector, Azmin said.

In terms of total approved investments, Malaysia recorded RM107.5 billion of FDI and domestic direct investment (DDI) in the manufacturing, services and primary sectors, chalking up a massive jump of 69.8% compared to the same period last year.

Online sharing session on improving employment pass process



A meeting was held on September 20, 2021 between RECODA, led by our CEO, Datu Ismawi Ismuni and relevant government agencies which include Immigration Department, Department of Labour Sarawak, Administration Unit of the Chief Minister's Office and Samalaju Investors Industrial Association Bintulu to look into better ways to facilitate these investors in term of work visas and employment passes approval for their foreign workers.

Investment Promotion team visits OCIM, Pertama Ferroalloys & Sakura Ferroalloys

RECODA's Investment Promotion representatives paid a courtesy visit on October 14, 2021 to OCIM Sdn Bhd, Pertama Ferroalloys (Bintulu) Sdn Bhd and Sakura Ferroalloys Sdn Bhd at the Samalaju Industrial Park, where the companies gave a tour of their plants and discussed with us the operational challenges of keeping their businesses afloat during the Covid-19 pandemic.



Recoda to boost Sarawak's rural economy



interiors, highlands and northern areas, Bernama reported on October 24, 2021.

Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan said the establishment of Upper Rajang Development Agency (URDA), Highland Development Authority (HDA) and Northern Region Development Authority (NRDA) would focus on those areas as these districts have their own potential.

He said the uniqueness of these areas required a different approach to attract investors there. Besides

investment, he said the development of infrastructure, roads, electricity supply and telecommunications would be given priority in these areas, he told Bernama in an interview.

Awang Tengah, who is also Sarawak International Trade and Industry, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development Minister, said the state has many other large potential areas including the Samalaju Industrial Zone in Bintulu which housed many multinational companies and has attracted RM28.43 billion in investment to date.

The establishment of three development agencies under the Sarawak Regional Corridor Development Authority (RECODA) will boost the economy in the state's

RECODA briefed by Sarawak Petchem on upcoming methanol production facility



RECODA's Investment Promotion team received a briefing on October 15, 2021 from Sarawak Petchem Sdn Bhd on the construction progress of a 120-acre mega methanol production facility next to the Sarawak Petrochemical Hub in Tanjung Kidurong, Bintulu, which serves as an ideal hub for energy-related development due to its access to feedstock, being the landing point of offshore gas fields and its close proximity to existing gas pipelines.

Samsung among major MNCs interested in investing in state's hydrogen industry

South Korean conglomerate Samsung is among the multinational companies interested in investing in the hydrogen industry in Sarawak, Bernama reported on October 23, 2021.

Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan said he and Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Openg had held a virtual discussion with major South Korean investors such as Samsung, Posco, and Lotte Chemical, apart from Australian investors.

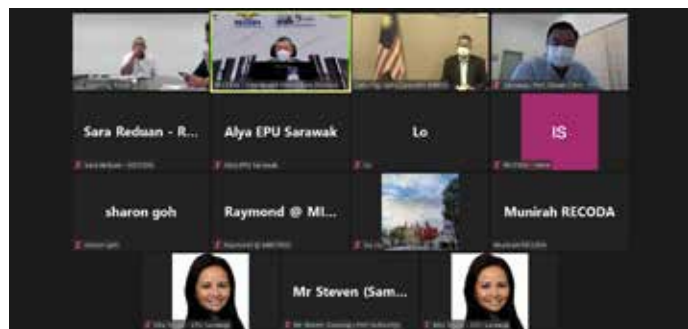
"They are interested to invest in the hydrogen industry and it's quite a big investment," he told Bernama in a special interview here recently.

Awang Tengah, who is also Sarawak's Minister Of International Trade And Industry, Industry Terminal and Entrepreneur Development, said the development of the oil and gas industry in the state will be enhanced to include the exploration, refining, sale and distribution of oil.

On the state's timber sector, he said Sarawak will continue to develop the industry although it is the biggest plywood producer for markets in Japan, South Korea, and China.

For the agriculture sector, the deputy chief minister said several companies, both locally and overseas, have shown interest to invest using the Internet Of Things platform, in line with the state's aim to be a net exporter of agriculture products.

RECODA hosts online meeting with gov't agencies on Samalaju Port services



The Regional Corridor Development Authority (RECODA) hosted an engagement session on November 10, 2021 with related government agencies to discuss port services matters at the Samalaju Industrial Park.

RECODA CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni chaired the online meeting which was participated by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Port Development (MIPD), Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development (MINTRED) Sarawak, Economic Planning Unit (EPU) Sarawak and Samalaju Industrial Port Sdn Bhd (SIPSB).

SIPSB also elaborated on plans to expand port services to increase efficiency to better serve investors.

Selangor International Business Summit 2021

RECODA participated in the four-day 7th Selangor International Business Summit 2021 held at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre which began on November 18, 2021. While here promoting SCORE, we also promoted alongside us three entrepreneurs from Sarawak, Siti Payung from Miri, Berau by Benak Raya from Simanggang and Suzee from Mukah to showcase their products to a whole new market domestically.



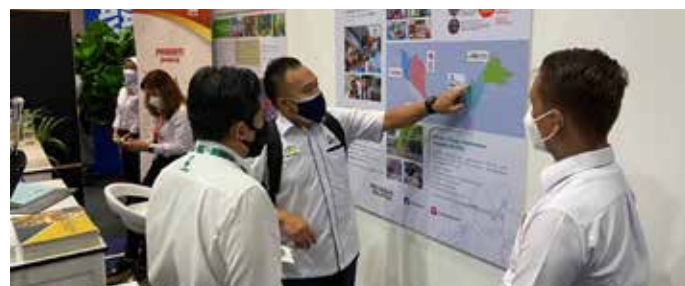
RECODA briefs Corridor Authority Coordination & Monitoring Committee Meeting

RECODA joined other economic corridor authorities on December 1, 2021 in briefing Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed on our efforts to complement state initiatives to address poverty.

Aside from implementing projects and drawing investments, RECODA is also tasked to ensure that Sarawakians enjoy economic opportunities. As such, we are not only implementing socio-economic programmes to uplift the poor, but we are also embarking on socio-economic labs for areas under our regional development agencies – Upper Rajang Development Agency (URDA), Highland Development Agency (HDA) and Northern Region Development Agency (NRDA).

"We are in the midst of planning for socio-economic labs, which will establish the profile and database for each region. This will assist the state in terms of input and strategy," said our CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni.

RECODA participates in 100 Hari Aspirasi Keluarga Malaysia



RECODA participated at the three-day 100 Hari Aspirasi Keluarga Malaysia event at KL Convention Centre starting December 9, 2021 together with the four other economic corridors which started on December 9, 2021 and officiated by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri. RECODA is showcasing its various socio-economic programmes meant to benefit the people of Sarawak. Implementing these programmes is part of our objective besides bringing in investments and creating jobs as well as implementing infrastructure projects.

COURTESY CALLS



Samalaju Investors Industrial Association Bintulu

A delegation from Samalaju Investors Industrial Association Bintulu (SIIAB), led by its new president, Steven Choi paid a courtesy call on our CEO, Datu Ismawi Ismuni on August 23, 2021, where both parties exchanged information on the Samalaju Industrial Park in Bintulu as well as how to attract and retain investments in the state.



Markas Pemerintahan Medan Timur Tentara Darat

Army Intelligence officers from Markas Pemerintahan Medan Timur Tentara Darat, Kem Muara Tuang, led by Col. Sukcha Din Tawan paid RECODA a courtesy call October 5, 2021.



Bintulu Development Authority (BDA) Headquarters

RECODA's Investment Promotion representatives paid a courtesy visit on October 13, 2021 to Bintulu Development Authority (BDA) headquarters, where we held a knowledge sharing session with BDA General Manager Datu Tuan Haji Muhamad Yakup Kari who was briefed on our expanded roles, including our after care services for existing investors in the Samalaju Industrial Park (SIP).

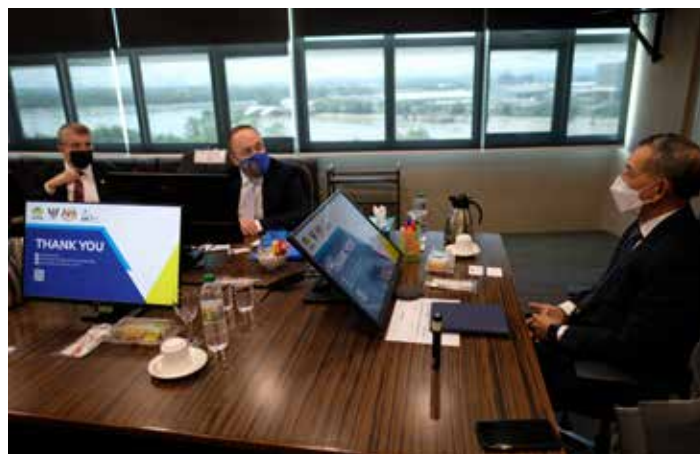


Senior Deputy Secretary-General of PM's Department Datuk Jamil Rakon

RECODA CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni (right) paid a courtesy call on Senior Deputy Secretary-General of the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Jamil Rakon in Putrajaya on October 18, 2021.

Finnish Ambassador H.E. Sami Leino

The Ambassador of Finland His Excellency dropped by for an exchange of ideas on November 8, 2021 with our CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni at RECODA, where the topics of interests included potential investor interest in biomass plants and renewable energy sources. Leino, who was accompanied by Commercial Counsellor Pekka Laitinen, accepted our invitation to return for an extended tour of Sarawak.



Dato Hajjah Hanifah Hajar Taib

RECODA received a courtesy visit on November 5, 2021 from Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Sabah and Sarawak Affairs) YB Dato Hajjah Hanifah Hajar Taib, who was briefed by our CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni on RECODA's role in not only drawing investments to the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) and creating job opportunities for Sarawakians, but also implementing RM4.5 billion in socio-economic and infrastructure development projects in rural areas to bridge the economic divide.



MIDF Sarawak

Malaysian Industrial Development Finance (MIDF) Sarawak Regional Head Hasbullah Sharkawi paid RECODA a visit on November 10, 2021 to chat about potential collaborations to develop homegrown entrepreneurs, including financing schemes to assist small and medium enterprises.



CRCC Asia-Pacific

Our CEO Datu Ismawi Ismuni shares a light moment with Mr Wang Xiaocheng, Deputy Managing Director of China Railway Construction Company (CRCC) Asia-Pacific during a courtesy visit to RECODA on November 12, 2021 where we were briefed on various mega infrastructure projects undertaken by the Chinese state-owned construction and engineering company.





Talent Corp Malaysia

RECODA paid a courtesy visit to Talent Corporation Malaysia Berhad (TalentCorp) in Kuala Lumpur on November 15, 2021 to explore on the possibility of collaborating with the agency to implement initiatives that can meet the demands of the industries in SCORE.

During the meeting, we explored on ways to match the talent pools with the industries where TalentCorp shared its experience and expertise on how this can be done to facilitate RECODA in helping the industries to find the right match of workforce as well as creating right job opportunities for the local graduates.



PERKESO

In a back-to-back meeting, we visited Social Security Organisation or SOCSO in Kuala Lumpur on November 15 to find out more on what we in RECODA can do to collaborate with this agency on employment services support. From the discussion held and chaired by SOCSO Deputy Chief Executive (Operations), John Riba anak Marin, everything looks promising as both parties have agreed on ways how the two agencies can cooperate to ensure local Sarawakians do not miss the many job opportunities that are expected to pick up soon following the transition into Covid-19 endemic stage.



TERAJU

RECODA's Investment Promotion team paid a courtesy visit to TERAJU office in Kuala Lumpur on November 19, 2021 and among the agenda discussed was a collaboration between both parties for the upcoming socio-economic programmes to uplift the livelihood of the people in the SCORE area.



Ambassador of Belgium, H.E. Pascal H. Gregoire

We received a fruitful visit from the Ambassador of Belgium, H.E. Pascal H. Gregoire on November 29, 2021 as he was briefed by our CEO, Datu Ismawi Ismuni on the investment opportunities in SCORE and the various infrastructure projects undertaken by the three regional development agencies.

PPES Works (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd

RECODA received a courtesy call on December 1, 2021 from PPES Works (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd, represented by Managing Director Rozita Mohamad Ibrahim and Liaison Officer Zamirudin Ahmad.



MAMPU Sarawak

RECODA paid a courtesy visit to Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU) Sarawak on December 7, 2021 where we were provided insights by state director Mohamad Anuardi Hajani (fifth from left) on initiatives that bring about innovation and transformation in the public sector.



Consul General of Brunei Darussalam

Noni Zurainah Haji Ismi, Consul General of Brunei Darussalam, was briefed on the Northern Coastal Highway (NCH) project during her visit on December 10, 2021. She was also enlightened on the roles of RECODA which include attracting investment to SCORE, creating jobs and implementing infrastructure projects in the region.



Pertama Ferroalloys Sdn Bhd

Yuki Nakamura, the General Manager of Pertama Ferroalloys Sdn Bhd, which is a major manganese alloy and ferrosilicon manufacturer based in Samalaju Industrial Park, Bintulu paid a visit to us on December 20, 2021.



RECODA Sports & Recreation Club



Merry Christmas

In the Christmas spirit of charity and giving, RECODA Sports and Recreation Club (KSRR) distributed gifts to all of its 95 members just a few days before the year-end celebrations on 21 December, 2021.



Hiking at Selabat

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Nature enthusiasts took time from work to hike a four-hour trail up Bukit Batu Selabat, in Muara Tebas on October 17, 2021.



Sang it Out Loud

It's my life! KSRR members shout it out loud at a karaoke gathering on April 10, 2021.