

NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2023 | VOLUME 5

Message From CEO

Dear members,

In this volume, we are happy to share on some significant discussions and events that have taken place the past three months.

Generative AI, particularly with the introduction of ChatGPT, is a cutting-edge technology that has captured people's attention, opened up new possibilities in diverse fields and raised many questions on integrity and ethics, risks, threats, and impact on humanity. We were fortunate to have our member, Prof. Dr. Narayanan, shed light on all these aspects and the advantages associated with these transformative technologies, while at the same time cautioning us to delve deeper into the implications they hold for society in the future.

A significant event that took place recently was the brainstorming session on SDI's New Strategic Direction. The session brought together our esteemed board members and selected members, providing a platform to discuss and define the institute's vision, mission, objectives, and key focus areas. The valuable insights and contributions shared during this session have been compiled into a report, which is currently being finalized by the Chairman.

Once completed, the report will be shared with the members who attended the session for their feedback and input. We take this opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation to all who actively participated in the session and contributed to the insightful discussions.

It is our pleasure to showcase the remarkable effort of Kuching Port Authority in implementing the Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) for their operations. This system represents a major step forward in enhancing port traffic management, providing a comprehensive and systematic approach that will undoubtedly benefit the business industry and Sarawak in the future.

We hope this newsletter will keep all our members informed about the various activities and programmes taking place within the institute as well as provide relevant and engaging content that reflects the direction, interests and aspirations of Sarawak. Your continuous support and involvement are crucial and most appreciated as we move forward, and we hope to see you all at our upcoming events and activities.

Best wishes,

Lelia Sim

CEO

NEWSLETTER Highlights

MESSAGE FROM CEO

PAST EVENTS

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HEARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE (ESG)?

ON-GOING RESEARCH

MEMBERS' ACTIVITY

STAFF ACTIVITY



Implications of Emerging AI Technologies

by Prof. Dr. Narayanan A/L N. Kulathu Ramaiyer, Lecturer, Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, UNIMAS

A Brown Bag Talk entitled *Implications of Emerging AI Technologies* was held on 6th April 2023 via ZOOM and Facebook Live. Dr. Narayanan predicted that AI will play a significant role in improving our daily lives. He quoted the example of ChatGPT which is a platform operating a large language model for texts, and is becoming increasingly popular for use around the world.

Dr. Narayanan explained how AI technologies can make a big impact on society but cautioned the technology itself lacks human element, and may have adverse effects on society. He further elaborated on how the AI platforms work where a large language model platform is pre-trained on large datasets to process data for very specific tasks. He shared the example of the latest developments in ChatGPT where the current version is able to generate media, text, image, music and more.

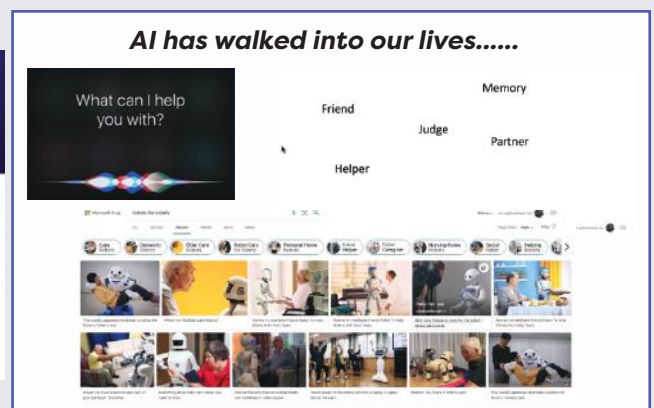
While AI platforms can play the role of friend, helper, judge or partner, Dr. Narayanan cautioned that it can at the same time enable criminal activities, create hate speech, send malware, breach privacy, and pose threats of losing control. He further added that all current AI applications are still considered to be weak AI (Artificial Narrow Intelligence) as they do not have human-like cognitive abilities or awareness and their responses are based on models they are trained on and human input they are fed on.

Some of the questions that were raised by participants during the talk were related to ethics and the impact of current AI technologies. Dr. Narayanan responded that technology is a tool which we can decide whether to use for good or bad intentions. He added that policies and ethical guidelines related to the use of this technology are important to encourage more responsible users.

He concluded that the implications of emerging AI technologies need to be taken into deeper consideration to look at how it will affect humanity. He said that with all the endless possibilities of emerging AIs, there will be a new world order as they pose future threats and have the potential to dehumanise societies.

Everything is no longer the same after 30th November 2022.....

Hujan turun di tanah Borneo,
Masyarakat hidup dengan penuh kegembiraan.
Teknologi baru memberi manfaat yang serba boleh,
Asalkan digunakan dengan bijak dan berhemah.



Courtesy Visit By MEESty Sarawak

SDI received a courtesy visit by three representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Environmental Sustainability (MEESty) Sarawak on 6th April 2023 at the AZAM Conference Room. The purpose of the visit was to discuss future potential collaboration between both organisations.

The discussion, led by SDI's CEO, began with a presentation on the Institute's background as well as a proposed communication plan for PCDS 2030. Dr. Kho Lip Khoon, Head of Environmental Sustainability, together with Ms. Elizabeth Anak Nyomek and Ms. Sharifah Mordhiah Syed Mohd Hussien, Administrative Officers in MEESty, presented more details on the newly-established ministry.



During the discussion, various proposals emerged regarding potential collaborations between the Ministry and the Institute. One such proposal involves developing a practical capacity building programme on environmental sustainability (ES) for the Sarawak Civil Service and an awareness programme on ES for communities and the general public.

The objective is to provide civil servants with a comprehensive understanding of ES, enabling them to effectively implement ES-related projects or programmes. For local communities and the general public, this initiative aims to enhance their understanding and knowledge on ES and how it relates to their daily lives.

From the discussion, it was emphasised that there is a need for targeted information on specific topics such as carbon economy, net-zero emissions, conservation, sustainable practices, and other aspects of ES. To address this need, it was suggested that a user-friendly publication be produced which can easily be accessed online, and catering to a wider audience.

SDI's New Strategic Direction Brainstorming Session With Members



This event was held on 11th May 2023 at Pullman Hotel Kuching with 16 members attending, including the Chairman and corporate members of SDI. Its objective was to explore and set new directions for SDI in terms of its vision, mission and key priority areas.



The session began in the morning with welcome remarks by YBhg. Datuk Amar Jaul Samion, Chairman of SDI, followed by a presentation on 'Think-Tanks in Malaysia and Current Situational Analysis of SDI' by CEO of SDI. Thereafter, was a session on reviewing the vision, mission and objectives of SDI, which was moderated by Dr. Haji Saudi bin Narani, a member of SDI.



In the afternoon was a session to brainstorm on the proposed priority focus areas, namely Public Policy and Governance, Social Inclusivity, Economic Prosperity and Environmental Sustainability, where members were divided into four groups to discuss and provide input on the four proposed priority focus areas. The session was moderated by Dr. Yuen Kok Leong.

The event ended with presentations from the four groups, a question and answer session, and closing remarks by the Chairman. The input and output provided by members present at the brainstorming had been compiled for synthesising by the Secretariat and a draft report have been submitted to the Chairman. Once finalised, the report will be shared with all members.

Upcoming Events

Public Talks

PUBLIC TALK



A Global South Perspective on Digital Inclusion and Resilience

Prof. Heike Winschiers-Theophilus

Computer Science Department,
Namibia University of Science and Technology, Namibia



📅 24th July 2023 | Monday

🕒 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

📍 AZAM Conference Room, Jalan Crookshank,
93000 Kuching



Scan here to register  or
Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/6sv5dacd> to join the talk.

Please contact Evelette Robin at 082-415484 / 416484 or email to eveletterobin@sdi.com.my for more info.



Technologies, Tools, and Techniques for Online Design-Based Activities with Children



Prof. Heike Winsiwers-Theophilus
Computer Science Department,
Namibia University of Science and
Technology



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tariq Zaman
School of Computing and Creative Media,
University of Technology Sarawak



Dr. Naska Goagoses
Postdoctoral Researcher and Lecturer,
Carl von Ossietzky University of
Oldenburg

25th July 2023 | Tuesday

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Auditorium, Institut Pendidikan
Guru Kampus Batu Lintang, Jalan
College, 93200 Kuching, Sarawak



Scan here to register or
Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/3zsdetdf>
to join the talk.

Please contact Evelette Robin at
082-415484 / 416484 or email to
eveletterobin@sdi.com.my for more info.



KUCHING URBAN TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (KUTS): AN UPDATE



Ts. Mazli Bin Mustaffa
Chief Executive Officer,
Sarawak Metro Sdn. Bhd.

28th July 2023

9:30 am

via | ZOOM

(More details to be announced later)

Feature on SDI Corporate Member

Kuching Port Authority



What is VTMS?

Vessel Traffic Management System or VTMS is a system that manages and control marine traffic. The components in the VTMS are as follows: Radar, AIS (Automatic Identification System) Base Station, Marine Camera, Radar Tower, Datalink, VHF (Very High Frequency) Radio and Antenna, and Control Centre.

VTMS provides real time information on navigation conditions essential for ports in coordinating and monitoring overall vessel traffic flow in designated area so as to provide navigational safety, regulating the movement of vessels carrying dangerous goods, processing inspections and control of reported hazardous and dangerous goods, control of marine incident and to monitor the movement of vessels within the selected waters in order to reduce the risks of navigation as well as to minimize illegal dumping of waste.

VTMS represents the adoption of digital technology to facilitate marine traffic control. Its uniqueness lies in enabling direct communication between Kuching Port and the ships which until now was not possible.

The coverage for Kuching Port's VTMS is about 20 nautical miles of Sarawak River. The control room is located at Senari Terminal. This will enable Kuching Port to manage maritime traffic to both of its terminals, schedule pilotage for all ships approaching the mouth of the Sarawak River and navigating through the river up to Senari and Pending terminals. Kuching Port's VTMS will be operational in the third quarter of 2023. This project is fully funded by the Sarawak Government via the Ministry of Infrastructure and Port Development.



VTMS Control Room



VTMS radar tower installation in progress at Senari Terminal.

What is ESG?

Environmental, Social and Governance or ESG refers to a set of criteria used to evaluate or assess the sustainability and ethical impact of an organisation's or company's behavior. This concept has been in practice since the 1960s as socially responsible investing.

The environmental criteria of ESG may include a company's influence on the quality of environment such as climate change, pollution and waste management. The social criteria may include a company's engagement with its customers, community, working practice, labour and human rights.

The governance criteria may include the company's leadership and management structure, board composition, shareholder rights, and business practices.

Why ESG?

ESG assists investors and stakeholders to evaluate/assess a company's behavior and opportunities, as well as its potential impact on society and the environment. In addition, past research suggests that companies with strong ESG performance may be more likely to operate successfully over the long term due to factors such as better risk management, stronger stakeholder relations, and a focus on creating sustainable value.

ESG in 2023 and around the World

Said simply, it may feel like ESG is everywhere in 2023. More companies and investment funds are adopting programmes or policies that are keyed to various ESG measures as they look to drive profitability and improve access to capital. Regulators across the globe are busy writing and implementing new disclosure regimes. Investors are pushing for information as they develop and refine ESG-based investing strategies.

The pressure will continue to build as a broader set of stakeholders (including shareholders, regulators, employees, customers and community members) expect companies across geographies and industries to take action on a wide set of ESG-focused concerns. Navigating risk and opportunity will require calibrated solutions that balance these competing priorities, and which are aligned with long-term sustainability and profitability.

This article was adapted from the following sources:

- 1.<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/e/environmental-social-and-governance-esg-criteria.asp>
- 2.<https://www.msci.com/esg-101-what-is-esg/evolution-of-esg-investing>



Cultural Resource Mapping

The Cultural Resource Mapping project aims to catalogue the various tangible and intangible heritage present in Kuching Division. It is powered by a digital platform called the Crowd-sourced Heritage Automation Mapping Platform for Sarawak (CHAMPS), which will be used to collect and display publicly sourced heritage information. So far, heritage experts from various communities and organisations have been nominated to assess public entries to CHAMPS.

The CHAMPS software development process is still underway and is expected to finish in Q3 of this year. A focus group session with design students from the University of Malmö, Sweden was conducted in early May 2023 to finalise some design elements to the CHAMPS digital platform. The next phase, marketing and promotion would include things like social media marketing and roadshows in order to promote public participation in CHAMPS prior to and after its public launch in Q3 of 2023.



Masterplan For Community Development in the Resettlement Areas 2050

The project is at the stage of Interim Report 2 preparation. The fieldwork on gathering primary data from the respondents as well as other stakeholders was completed in June 2023. During the fieldwork, our researchers visited all identified settlements in the Batang Ai Resettlement Scheme (BARS) and Bengoh Resettlement Scheme (BRS).

Besides the resettlement schemes, the team also visited three villages in Ulu Bengoh to seek their reasons for opting out of the resettlement process. SDI with other team members of the project presented the Interim Report 1 to the Technical Committee in May 2023.

Data analysis and report writing is underway. Interim Report 2 is due for submission to the Economic Planning Unit Sarawak in August 2023.



Greater AZAM Raya-Gawai Gathering

A Raya-Gawai Gathering for members of the Greater AZAM was held on 13th June at Dewan Sri Mahligai, Jalan Crookshank. The guests of honour include YBhg. Datu William Nyigor, Chairman of AZAM Sarawak; YBhg. Datu Hii Chang Kee, Deputy State Secretary (Operation) & Board Member of SDI; YBhg. Dato Hajah Norhyati Binti Mohd Ismail, Deputy Chairman of AZAM Sarawak; and Mr. Charles Siaw, Chairman of AZAM Stakeholders Engagement Committee.

This occasion was held to celebrate the Aidilfitri and Gawai Festivals with over 70 guests comprising staff and members within the Greater AZAM, AZAM Young Souls, AZAM Toastmasters, and the media fraternity.

In his remarks at the gathering, YBhg. Datu William Nyigor pointed out the significance of the gathering which was to celebrate and promote social harmony and unity, not only among members of AZAM Sarawak and SDI, but also among the staff of the Greater AZAM and its partners. Other activities held at the gathering included a *ketupat*-weaving contest, blowpipe contest, lucky draws, and a karaoke session to conclude the event.



ASFa Iftar Get Together

The AZAM Sarawak, SDI, Faradale Media-M, and Faradale Holdings (ASFa) staff enjoyed an *iftar* (breaking of fast) meal together during the Ramadan season at Grand Margherita Hotel on 10th April 2023.

On top of enjoying the various types of food and drinks served, an ice-breaking activity was arranged to allow attendees to get to know their fellow members better to further liven the evening's event. *Duit Raya* was given to members who participated in the activity.



Welcome to SDI's New Senior Research Officer

SDI welcomes Dr. Yuen Kok Leong, as a new Senior Research Officer this June. Dr. Yuen obtained his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD in Anthropology – Policy and Development) from Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak and his Master of Social Science in Anthropology and Sociology from *Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia*.

