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CEO's Message

Greetings.

I am pleased to inform that we are continuing the Digital Transformation Talk series with presentations by members under the Brown Bag Talks, highlighting new technologies that are taking the world by storm such as text-to-image AI platforms and large language models like ChatGPT. Through these presentations, we hope to share the opportunities, risks, and challenges associated with these technologies. Besides digital transformation, we also had a presentation on 'Women and Leadership' in conjunction with the International Women's Day. Recordings of the session are available on the website for members who missed the sessions.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to members who have shared their knowledge at these Brown Bag talks. I hope to see more members share on their knowledge and expertise in many other fields related to the on-going development in Sarawak.

SDI is in the midst of looking into its new strategic direction in line with the PCDS 2030. A small brainstorming session together with board members and members will take place on 11th May 2023 to seek input, feedback and ideas on the proposed strategic direction. Further updates on the output and outcome of the session will be shared with members at a later date.

In line with the PCDS 2030 focus areas, SDI will share more information relating to the new areas, for example, Green and Blue Economy with members through this newsletter. We hope these information will provide greater insight into these new areas that the State is embarking on. We also welcome suggestions from members on other areas to be looked into as well.

I would like to thank Miri Port Authority for their sharing. We believe it has provided us with a glimpse into their new endeavours, development as well as achievements.

Thank you all for your continuous support and we look forward to another rewarding year.

Happy reading.

Past Activities

SDI Brown Bag Talk: AI meets Art - The Rise of Text-to-Image AI Platform

3pm | 21st February 2023 | ZOOM application

Presenter: Associate Professor Dr. Johari Abdullah, Lecturer, Faculty of Computer Science and IT, UNIMAS

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Johari started the talk with explanations on various components of AI and the three types of AIs. Following that, he delved into the relationship between AI and art, where AI is used in the arts domain, and compared the former's role to the latter's.

In the final segment of the talk, Dr. Johari explained and demonstrated several text-to-image AI platforms, namely Dall-E 2, Midjourney, and Stable Diffusion, and discussed emerging issues associated with the technologies; namely copyright and ethics in the creative industry.



You can view a recording of the online talk on [SDI's Facebook](#) page.

SDI Brown Bag Talk: Women And Leadership: A Contextual Perspective

3pm | 8th March 2023 | ZOOM application

Presenter: Professor Dr. Ida Fatimawati bt Adi Badiozaman, Executive Dean of Research, Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus

The special Brown Bag Talk was held in conjunction with the International Women's Day. Prof. Dr. Ida began by sharing definitions of leadership and the five different levels of leadership, specifically from the perspective of women. She then showcased on the importance of gender diversity in the workforce and the significance of women in senior leadership, stating higher returns on equity, sales, and invested capital for organisations with higher percentages of female board directors as compared with those with the lowest percentages. She concluded with examples of eight powerful women and two case studies of women in leadership.



You can view a recording of the online talk on [SDI's Facebook](#) page.

Heard of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)?

What is Carbon Capture and Storage?

Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) is a way of reducing carbon emissions, which could be key to helping to tackle global warming. It's a three-step process, involving: capturing the carbon dioxide produced by power generation or industrial activities, such as steel or cement making; transporting it; and then storing it deep underground.

How does CCS actually work?

01

Capturing the carbon dioxide for storage
The CO₂ is separated from other gases produced in industrial processes, such as those at coal and natural-gas-fired power generation plants or steel or cement factories.

02

Transport
The CO₂ is then compressed and transported via pipelines, road transport or ships to a site for storage.

03

Storage
Finally, the CO₂ is injected into rock formations deep underground for permanent storage.



Where are carbon emissions stored in CCS?

Possible storage sites for carbon emissions include saline aquifers or depleted oil and gas reservoirs, which typically need to be 0.62 miles (1km) or more under the ground. As an example, a storage site for the proposed Zero Carbon Humber project in the UK is a saline aquifer named 'Endurance', which is located in the southern North Sea, around 90km offshore. Endurance is approximately 1 mile (1.6km) below the seabed and has the potential to store very large amounts of CO₂. Similarly, in the US there are multiple large-scale carbon sites such as the Citronelle Project in Alabama. This saline reservoir injection site is about 1.8 miles (2.9km) deep.

Is storing carbon as part of CCS safe?

According to industry body the Global CCS Institute, CCS is 'a proven technology that has been in safe operation for over 45 years'. It adds that all components of CCS are proven technologies that have been used for decades on a commercial scale.

What is Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)? What is the difference between CCUS and CCS?

As well as CCS, there is a related concept, CCUS, which stands for Carbon Capture Utilisation (or sometimes this is termed 'usage') and Storage. The idea is that, instead of storing carbon, it could be re-used in industrial processes by converting it into, for example, plastics, concrete or biofuel.

Where is CCS being used already?

According to the Global CCS Institute's 2019 report, at that time there were 51 large-scale CCS facilities globally. 19 of these were in operation, 4 under construction and the remainder in various stages of development. 24 of these were in the Americas, 12 in Europe, 12 in Asia-Pacific and 2 in the Middle East.

Adapted from: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/stories/energy-explained/what-is-ccs-how-does-it-work>

Miri Port Authority

Miri Port poised to be the catalyst of economic development in the northern region of Sarawak

Miri Port Authority (MPA) is poised to take its position as the catalyst for the economic development and growth of northern Sarawak, especially that of Miri division and its immediate hinterland with the decision and announcement made by YAB Premier of Sarawak that the Kuala Baram access channel be deepened to a certain depth to enable bigger vessels to call direct at Miri Port terminal.

In line with the Sarawak Government’s aspiration to achieve a developed state by 2030, the Post Covid-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030 has identified the proposed dredging of Kuala Baram access channel as a project to reinvigorate Miri Port as the northern gateway to Sarawak. The project is categorised as a “quick win” for having high impact and high readiness for implementation.

Envisioned to be a world-class port by 2030 and beyond, Miri Port has long embarked on its quality and transportation journey in order to achieve excellence in all its endeavours.

Being a system-driven organization, Miri Port was the first port in Malaysia and the first State agency in Sarawak to achieve the prestigious Quality Management System MS ISO 9002 certification way back in 1997. It has developed and implemented other related management systems at the workplace in order to ensure certified and reliable service delivery be rendered to its customers. These include the Occupational Health and Safety (OSH) Management System MS ISO 45001 and Environmental Management System MS ISO 14001.

In its quest to achieve organizational excellence, Miri Port has accomplished several achievements including achieving excellence in Financial Management with a 5-Star Rating Score of 97.38% and 99.10% marks by Jabatan Audit Negara respectively in 2019 and 2020. In 2022, Miri Port achieved its first ever highest profit of more than RM2.0 million since its establishment about 40 years ago.



YAB Premier of Sarawak presented the 10th Premier of Sarawak Environmental Award (PSEA) Award 2022



PSEA Certificate and Trophy

Miri Port, too, had won countless awards at the local, national and international levels. These include the Champion Award for 10th Premier of Sarawak Environmental Award (PSEA) 2022, the Corporate Excellence Award by the Asia Pacific Entrepreneurs Awards (APEA) 2021, the Highly Recommended Port Authority Excellence Award 2020/2021 by Des Prix Infinitus Media, the Safety and Health Award 2021 by the Ministry of Human Resource Malaysia, and the latest which is the Port Authority Excellence of the Year Award by Malaysia Excellence Business Awards (MEBA).



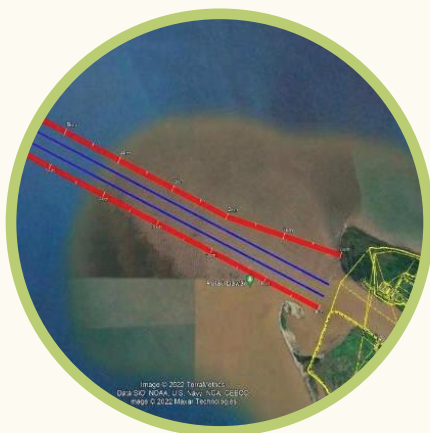
Serawa, the General Manager receiving the Port Authority Excellence of The Year Award on behalf of MPA



Certificate and Trophy for The Port Authority Excellence of the Year Award



As the way forward, Miri Port is ready to implement the project to dredge the Kuala Baram access channel to a 5m depth. This is scheduled to commence soon and will be completed by 2026. With the deepened access channel, it is anticipated that Miri Port cargo handling activities and revenue to be generated, will be increased by many folds.



The training bunds (=) for a total length of 6km on both sides be constructed to protect the access channel (=) from sedimentation.



Initial land formation together with access channel dredging works

On-going Research Projects

Cultural Resource Mapping: Exploratory Project in Kuching Division

The CRM is currently at its software development stage by the University of Technology Sarawak team under the leadership of Associate Professor Dr. Tariq Zaman from ASSET. As part of the development process, two focus group sessions were conducted with heritage experts and regular users to provide feedback on a prototype of the Crowd-sourced Heritage Automation Mapping Platform for Sarawak (CHAMPS) digital platform, and to investigate and incorporate various grassroots values into CHAMPS.

Other areas such as design cues, interface elements, and graphical design were also discussed. The next phase of the project would entail appointment of Heritage Experts as well as marketing and promoting the project in preparation for public input.



Master Plan for Community Development in the Resettlement Areas 2050

The project is commissioned by the Economic Planning Unit, Sarawak and led by Chemsain Konsultant Sdn. Bhd. Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) and SDI are part of the research consultant team. SDI's role and tasks will cover the socio-economic demography of the resettled population, the impact of the resettlement and provide inputs for future actions, focussing specifically on the resettlement in Batang Ai and Bengoh resettlement areas. UNIMAS will focus on the Bakun and Murum resettlement areas.

The study will provide a detailed analysis and examination of the resettlements that have been undertaken in Sarawak and the lessons learned will be incorporated into a proposed new resettlement model. The study is expected to be completed in 12 calendar months. To date, the project has completed its inception and first interim reports stages.



Sarawak's Civil Service and its Role in Nation Building: Reflections and Reminiscences of Sarawak Civil Servants

The book project aims to collect the experiences and reflections of 30 senior Sarawak civil servants, as well as explore the various milestones and transformation of the Sarawak civil service covering the different eras of history, starting from the Brooke era till the formation of Malaysia. Undertaken by Faradale Media-M Sdn. Bhd., it is currently at the interview and writing phase, with detailed interviews being done with the targeted interviewees. The project is estimated to be completed in June 2023.

Completed Research Projects

Baseline Study on Sago Starch Production and Downstream Activities in Betong and Mukah Divisions

January - December 2022

The draft final report was submitted to Craun Research in December 2022. The findings of the research were presented to the client in February 2023.



Assessing Local Population Needs in Relation to Services Provided by the Digital Community Centres (DCC) in Sarawak

January - December 2022

The draft final report was submitted to the Sarawak Multimedia Authority (SMA) in December 2022.



Upcoming Activity/Event/Talk

Conference Activity/Event/Talk 2023

SDI BROWN BAG TALK SERIES

IMPLICATIONS OF EMERGING AI TECHNOLOGIES

▶ **Prof. Dr. Narayanan A/L N. Kulathu Ramaier**
Faculty of Computer Science and Information technology,
UNIMAS

6th April 2023
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
via | **zoom**

Scan here to register or
Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/ye29ee3x> to join the talk.

ZOOM link will be emailed after registration. Please contact Evelette Robin at 082-415484 / 416484 or email to eveletterobin@sdi.com.my for more info.

GREATER AZAM CNY Gathering

28th February 2023 | Hotel Serapi



The Greater AZAM CNY gathering was graced by YBhg. Datuk Amar Jaul Samion, Chairman of SDI together with YBhg. Datu William Patrick Nyigor, Chairman of AZAM, Mr. Charles Siaw, Chairman of the AZAM Stakeholders Engagement Committee, and board members of AZAM and SDI respectively. Greater AZAM consists of Angkatan Zaman Mansang (AZAM) Sarawak, Sarawak Development Institute (SDI), Faradale Media-M Sdn. Bhd. and Faradale Holdings. About 40 of Greater AZAM members and staff, and members of the AZAM Toastmasters attended the gathering.

Datuk Amar Jaul in his remarks commended the effort to organize this gathering for all the members, management and staff. He added that both AZAM and SDI together with the subsidiaries play a pivotal role in assisting the government to disseminate, communicate, engage and provide a better understanding of the development initiatives in the state to the grassroots community. He called upon the members to continue to support the organisation and conveyed his utmost appreciation to SDI members who have stayed steadfast with SDI for the past 28 years.

He reminded that Greater AZAM has a crucial role to play in understanding the opportunities arising from a major developmental shift in the economic, social, education, public health and environmental sectors due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He thus shared that SDI is undergoing a strategic direction exercise to better align the institute's mission and objectives, focus areas and activities to the state's development agenda, such as the Post Covid-19 Development Strategy 2030.

The CNY gathering was also celebrated with a lion dance performance, tossing of Yee Sang by the representatives from the Greater AZAM, lucky draws and a karaoke session.