



# NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025 | VOLUME 12

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Greetings everyone. In this 12<sup>th</sup> volume of SDI's newsletter, we are happy to share on updates and the happenings for the first quarter of 2025. We are embarking on our transformation initiatives as we move forward to implement the new vision, mission and objectives of SDI.

To be able to achieve SDI's new vision to be a high-impact research institute, a key priority is to focus on solutions-oriented research and impact analysis of implementation of development initiatives and projects in Sarawak. Towards this goal, we have initiated the process to establish a formal channel with the State government through the State Secretary's Office to present research findings and recommendations that can be taken up directly as inputs for policy and improvements in project planning and implementation. We believe such independent evaluations will add greater value to the outcomes and benefits of the projects.

Another key priority is strategic communication where our Communication Division will focus on communication plans and strategies to enhance understanding, participation and buy-in of development initiatives under PCDS 2030 among targeted stakeholders. To keep members informed on State initiatives under the PCDS 2030, we have a short sharing on recent happenings on Carbon Economy in Sarawak.

Under research, we have some updates on the "Greater Together: Mapping of Paddy Production Ecosystem in Batang Lupar Granary Area, Sri Aman", which was awarded by the Sri Aman Development Agency (SADA) to SDI. I am also pleased to share that we have completed the "Cultural Resource Mapping (CRM) – Exploratory Project in Kuching Division" and the publication on "Sarawak Civil Service (SCS) – Administration and Development: Reflections and Reminiscences over 60 Years". More details on the projects are available for reference in the write-ups.

Several in-house activities are planned for the next few months, namely an upcoming talk on the "Implementation of the Environment Ordinance, 2023", a sharing of research findings from our own in-house study on "Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI): A Case Study in Kuching", and a Members' Meet and Chat program. We will share more detailed information on some of the activities once available. We look forward to members' support and participation at these events.

This year also marks SDI's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary since its inception in 1995. The secretariat is currently working on the preparations for the celebration. We welcome ideas from members for the celebration.

Last but not least, we wish all our Muslim members, *Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Maaf Zahir Batin*.

Happy reading.

Lelia Sim  
CEO

## NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Message from the CEO

PCDS 2030 Segment

New Research Project

On-going Research/Projects

Completed Projects

Upcoming Talks /Activities

Courtesy Call on  
Corporate Member

Special Announcement: SDI's  
30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Selamat Hari Raya  
Aidilfitri



# NEW *Vision & Mission*

## VISION



To be a high-impact research organisation for a progressive and inclusive society

## MISSION



To provide inputs for policy formulation and implementation in Sarawak through comprehensive research and consultative stakeholder engagement

### PCDS 2030 SEGMENT

Let's Talk

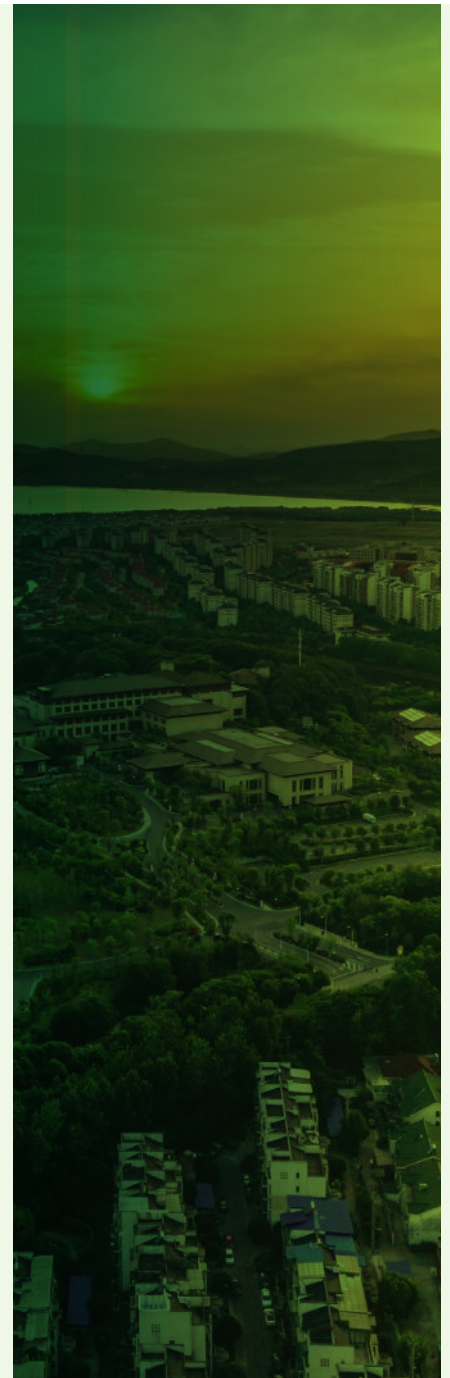
# PCDS 2030

After the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Sarawak's Post-Covid19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030 was developed as the roadmap to guide Sarawak to be a high-income and thriving society by the year 2030. With three pillars, six economic sectors, and seven enablers, numerous initiatives and plans were set up to pave the way to Sarawak's transformation.

With another five years to 2030, many in Sarawak have yet to be fully aware and actively participate in the initiatives set out in the Strategy. Among the reasons for this is due to the level of information on concepts within PCDS 2030 that are often conveyed in technical terms and jargons, not suited for a wide range of audiences.

SDI recognises the need for a more effective and relatable approach to express relevant information on PCDS 2030 to targeted audiences to improve the participation of different segments of people in Sarawak. SDI's Communication Division has developed a communication strategy to assist the government in conveying the initiatives and opportunities available under PCDS 2030 to targeted stakeholders.

For this year, the stakeholders identified are government officers involved in project implementation, private sector players – including chambers of commerce and industry associations, and community leaders across various divisions in Sarawak.



# What's New in Sarawak's Carbon Economy

Sarawak is emerging as a leader in the carbon economy, balancing economic growth with environmental stewardship. With its abundant natural resources and forward-thinking policies, Sarawak continues to position itself as a regional hub for sustainable energy and carbon management.

Sarawak's commitment to renewable energy is equally impressive as it targets 15 gigawatts of hydropower capacity by 2035, enabling electricity exports to neighbouring countries. Among the press reports was a potential collaboration with Australia under the Investment NSW (New South Wales, Australia) on bringing cutting-edge technological expertise and advanced capabilities in green technologies to Sarawak.<sup>1</sup> Another recent announcement was on a blue carbon initiative led by the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) in collaboration with Worldview Climate Solutions (WCS) to cover approximately 10,000 hectares of coastal and mangrove ecosystems in Paloh and Serdeng areas of Tanjong Manis. The project aims to rehabilitate the degraded mangrove forests while creating opportunities for eco-tourism and sustainable fisheries. The project design is expected to be submitted for carbon license application before April 2025, with a license expected to be issued within two years, and after that, marketing the carbon credits from the area.<sup>2</sup>

Another announcement is the upcoming Asia Carbon Conference 2025 to be organised on 29-30 May in Kuching by MEESTy Sarawak.<sup>3</sup> The conference aims to bring together thought leaders, policymakers, and industry experts to explore innovative mechanisms that promote sustainable business practices while unlocking economic potential. Among the topics to be covered are on Government initiatives and sustainability policies, global carbon market integration, carbon taxation and state mechanisms in Asia, role of biomass and biochar in emission control, perspectives from traders and brokers, strategies of fuel producers in emission reduction, energy certificates and renewable energy credentials, developing an integrated ASEAN carbon marketplace and sample regional case studies.

Additionally, the implementation of the Environment (Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Emission) Ordinance, 2023 and the drafting of the upcoming Sarawak Sustainability Blueprint will enhance Sarawak's economic prospects and also reinforce its role as a sustainable energy pioneer.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.theborneopost.com/2025/03/19/new-south-wales-keen-to-share-renewable-energy-expertise-with-sarawak/>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2025/03/19/sarawak-moves-forward-with-blue-carbon-initiative-in-conservation-effort?form=MG0AV3&form=MG0AV3>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.sarawaktribune.com/asia-carbon-conference-fosters-robust-carbon-market-ecosystem/?form=MG0AV3&form=MG0AV3>

## NEW RESEARCH PROJECT



## GREATER TOGETHER: MAPPING OF PADDY PRODUCTION ECOSYSTEM IN BATANG LUPAR GRANARY AREA, SRI AMAN

The official signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) took place on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025, with the Sarawak government represented by the Acting Resident of Sri Aman Division and witnessed by YBhg. Dato Sri Hajah Rohani Abdul Karim, Chairman of the Sri Aman Development Agency (SADA). On 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025, the client officially instructed

SDI to commence the study. Following this, SDI prepared the Inception Report and submitted it on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The research team began a familiarisation visit to the study area in March, followed by the primary data collection phase, which is scheduled to conclude in April 2025.



**ON-GOING RESEARCH PROJECTS**

**RESEARCH TEAM MEMBER//PARTNER/ COLLABORATOR**

**STATUS**

01

**MASTER PLAN FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE RESETTLEMENT AREAS 2050: BATANG AI, BAKUN, MURUM AND BENGOH**

RTM under Chemsain for Economic Planning Unit Sarawak

Refinement of proposed actions, development plans and resettlement model

02

**MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (MPI): A CASE STUDY IN KUCHING**

Collaborate with Society for Kuching Urban Poor (SKUP)

The preliminary findings across the domains have been drafted and will be deliberated with relevant agencies for further feedback and input

**COMPLETED PROJECTS**

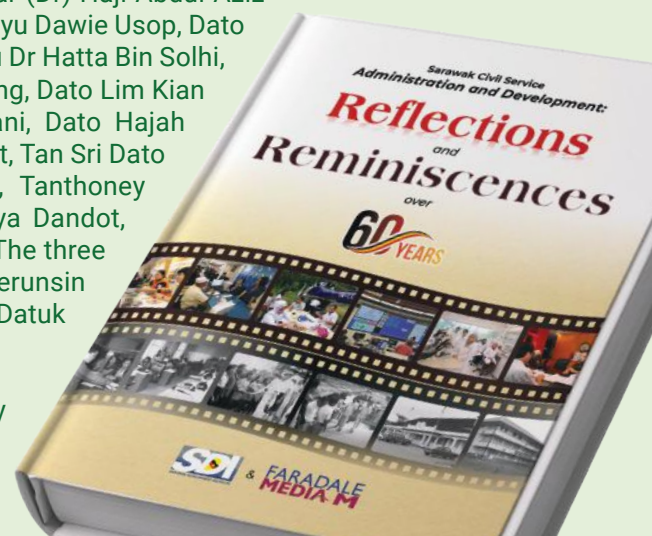
**PUBLICATION ON  
 "SARAWAK CIVIL SERVICE (SCS) – ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT: REFLECTIONS AND REMINISCENCES OVER 60 YEARS "**

The publication project was proposed in 2021 and was fully funded in the subsequent year by the Administration Unit, Department of the Premier of Sarawak. The publication was undertaken by Faradale Media-M Sdn. Bhd, while SDI coordinated the project. A publication committee, chaired by Datu Patrick William Nyigor was formed to advise on the publication. The committee also included Datu Dr Hatta Solhi and Dr Peter Kedit.

The 264-page publication comprises three parts: the transformation of the Sarawak Civil Service, stories of 25 prominent individuals in civil service reminiscing on their experience, insights and challenges faced, and a pictorial showcase of changes taking place in Sarawak, e.g. infrastructure, social and economic development.

Among the prominent individuals interviewed were Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr) Haji Abdul Aziz Bin Dato Haji Hussain, Datu Aloysius Dris, Professor Datu Dr Andrew Kiyu Dawie Usop, Dato Dr Chai Khin Chung, Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr) Haji Hamid Bin Bugo, Datu Dr Hatta Bin Solhi, Datuk Amar Jaul Samion, Jayl Langub, Dato Sri Joseph Kong Ted Chong, Dato Lim Kian Hock, Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Mohamad Morshidi Bin Abdul Ghani, Dato Hajah Norhyati Binti Haji Mohd Ismail, Datu Ose Murang, Dr Peter Mulok Kedit, Tan Sri Dato Sri Haji Safri Awang Bin Zaidell, Datu Stephen Jussem Dundon, Tanthoney Komarusamy, Dato Teo Tien Hiong, Tan Sri Datuk Amar Wilson Baya Dandot, Liman Numpang, William Tang Tieng Kee and Dato Sri Yao Ping Hua. The three former State Secretaries (deceased) included were Tan Sri Datuk Gerunsin Lemat, Datuk Amar Haji Abang Yusuf Bin Abang Puteh, and Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Bujang Bin Mohd Nor.

The publication has gone to print and is expected to be ready by early April 2025.



**CULTURAL RESOURCE MAPPING (CRM) –  
 EXPLORATORY PROJECT IN KUCHING DIVISION**

The CRM project was completed in December 2024, as per agreement with the Ministry of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Sarawak (MTCP). The project, which aimed to catalogue the tangible and intangible cultural heritage in Kuching Division was powered by a digital platform called CHAMPS which was developed by University of Technology Sarawak (UTS). The project also aimed to consolidate all available cultural and heritage information in an accessible and user-friendly format.

Sixty entries have been uploaded to CHAMPS. A majority of them consist of entries originating in Kuching District (40 entries), while Bau District contributed 12 entries and Lundu District contributed 6 entries. The browser version (desktop and mobile browser) of CHAMPS can be viewed at [www.champs.com.my](http://www.champs.com.my). The app is also available for download under the title of CHAMPS Sarawak at the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store until further notice.



**UPCOMING TALKS/ ACTIVITIES**

**1**

**PUBLIC TALK**

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT (REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GASES EMISSION) ORDINANCE, 2023**

Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025 | 10.00 a.m.

Virtual Talk via **zoom**

**Mr. Anthony Malang**  
 Environment Control Officer  
 Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB)

Register here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/ywwd2s5t>

swkdevelopmentinstitute

**2**

**swk Meet Chat & Connect**

Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025 | 4.00 p.m.

Gallery Floor, Tun Jugah Tower,  
 18, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak

Please confirm your attendance at the gathering by or before Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

Patricia Noyal  
 082-415484 | [admin@sdi.com.my](mailto:admin@sdi.com.my)

Register here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/mn5u2ue8>

swkdevelopmentinstitute

This is a new platform for informal engagement sessions between the secretariat, members and potential members. Among the objectives are to provide networking opportunities for exchange of ideas, build professional relationships among members and interested individuals, provide mentorship and collaboration opportunities, as well as create interest among interested individuals to apply for membership.

**3**

**SHARING RESEARCH FINDINGS FROM MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (MPI): A CASE STUDY IN KUCHING**

Dr. Yuen Kok Leong, Senior Research Officer, will be sharing the research findings for further input with relevant stakeholders from the government, academia and civil society organisations. The details of the sharing session will be announced once available.

## COURTESY CALL ON CORPORATE MEMBER

A delegation of officers from the Institute, led by Madam Rosalind Wong, General Manager, paid a courtesy call on Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), a corporate member of SDI on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at Menara SEDC. The delegation was welcomed by executives from SEDC's Corporate Strategy Department, headed by Mr Billy Christian David. The purpose of the visit was to exchange updates on the latest transformation plans and focus areas of both SDI and SEDC. Mr Billy shared that their current primary focus is on energy initiatives and indicated topics for future collaboration such as on circular economy and entrepreneurship.



## 48<sup>TH</sup> BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The 48<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> March at the Meeting Room of the new office premise at Tun Jugah Tower. The directors in attendance discussed and provided their insights on the transformation plan and upcoming activities of the Institute for the year.



## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: SDI'S 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SDI will be celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year and we are inviting members to share their memories with SDI e.g. participation/ involvement in any activities and programmes over the past 30 years. We hope to feature the members' sharing on a monthly basis leading to the anniversary celebration at the end of the year. Send your sharing here at <https://tinyurl.com/338d7shh> or scan the QR code. We look forward to your sharing.

