

**KEYNOTE SPEECH**

**“BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE THROUGH GREEN GROWTH”**

**BY**

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**PREMIER OF SARAWAK**

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE**

**2023 WORLD GREEN & SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT**

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**[Salutations]**

**Honourable Dato’ Sri Prof. Dr. Sim Kui Hian**

Deputy Premier and Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government, Sarawak

**Honourable Dr Haji Hazland Abang Hipni**

Deputy Minister for Energy and Environmental Sustainability, Sarawak

**Tan Sri Abdul Majid Khan**

Chairman, KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific (KSI)

**Tan Sri Michael Yeoh**

President, KSI

**Mr Faroze Nadar**

Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network Malaysia & Brunei

**Mr Albert Oung**

Founder and President, World Green Organisation

Ladies and gentlemen and distinguished guests,

Assalamualaikum and good afternoon to all.

1. It is a great pleasure to be here this afternoon. Many thanks to KSI, UNGC and World Green Organisation for inviting me to deliver the keynote address at the 2023 World Green & Sustainability Summit on “**Building a Better Future Through Green Growth.**”

2. This topic is timely and important to me and my government. In the aftermath of the pandemic, we introduced a 10-year economic recovery masterplan, that is the Post Covid Development Strategy 2030 or PCDS 2030. The PCDS 2030 clearly outlines our aspiration: Sarawak will be a developed State by 2030.

3. Today, Sarawak is implementing the first phase of PCDS 2030 under the 12th Malaysia Plan 2021-2025. I am committed to shaping a sustainable future for Sarawak. A future that rests on three pillars, namely, economic prosperity, social inclusivity and environmental sustainability. The PCDS 2030 is anchored on 6 economic sectors and 7 enablers. Many of them are interwoven with the green economy.

4. Allow me to start by touching on our emphasis on Renewable Energy. Sarawak aspires to become a regional powerhouse in renewable energy.

## **HYDROGEN ECONOMY**

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. One of the key initiatives is stimulating the hydrogen economy. We have two major hydrogen manufacturing projects, namely H2biscus and H2ornbill that are expected to be operational in Bintulu Petchem Industrial Park in 2027. These two projects are the

cornerstone of Sarawak's green hydrogen economy. Sarawak will be the first hydrogen-driven economy in Southeast Asia.

6. Sarawak Economic Development Corporation through its subsidiary SEDC Energy is collaborating with Japanese companies Sumitomo Corporation and Eneos on the H2ornbill project that will develop large-scale production of green hydrogen.

7. SEDC Energy is working with three South Korean companies, namely Samsung Engineering, Posco and Lotte Chemicals in developing a green hydrogen derivative facility. These companies will actively develop the entire cycle of the H2biscus project including direct investment, construction, transportation, and utilisation.

8. The H2biscus project is expected to produce 7,000 tonnes per annum of green hydrogen for domestic use; 600,000 tonnes per annum of blue ammonia; 630,000 tonnes per annum of green ammonia; and 460,000 tonnes per annum of green methanol for export. We are looking to export to Japan and Singapore.

9. The potential for the hydrogen economy is limitless. For example, SEDC Energy is also developing a hydrogen production plant and refuelling station to support the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) project. The hydrogen production plant in Rembus, Kota Samarahan, is expected to be completed in 2025.

10. The KUTS project will cost about RM6 billion and when it is ready, it will use a hydrogen-powered autonomous rapid transit (ART) system. It will be a hybrid of train, bus and tram. KUTS ART Phase 1 will involve two lines, namely Samarahan and Serian lines that will cover a total of 53 km in southern Sarawak.

## **EXPORTING SARAWAK RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Ladies and gentlemen,

11. As I have mentioned earlier, Sarawak plans to be a regional powerhouse in renewable energy. We aim to generate 15% of income from foreign markets through the RE sector.

12. To achieve this, we are increasing interconnectivity with other regions through 1,400 kilometres (km) of new transmission line of 500 kilovolts (kV) including 600 kilometres (km) of undersea cable across the South China Sea.

13. One of our initiatives is for Sarawak to potentially export hydropower to Singapore through submarine cables. As you may know, Singapore requires significant energy supply for its industries. Sarawak may be able to provide Singapore with our green and RE generated from our hydroelectric dams. This initiative supports Singapore's aspiration to reduce the carbon footprint of the power sector by importing 30% of its electricity from low-carbon sources by 2025.

14. Last year, I met with the Government of Singapore to discuss collaboration on renewable energy and the hydrogen economy. Our initial engagements with Singapore have been positive and we are conducting a survey to explore the potential of power connection between Sarawak and Singapore.

15. Sarawak has the potential to generate 20,000 megawatts (MW) of hydropower if more dams are built. Therefore, the potential to export electricity will also be enhanced. Sarawak Energy Berhad (SEB) owns the dams in Bakum, Murum and Batang Ai. We are currently constructing the Baleh Dam, capable of generating 1,285 megawatts MW and will be commissioned by 2027. SEB is already exporting electricity to West Kalimantan, Indonesia and will be exporting to Sabah by 2024. Besides Singapore, we are looking into exporting electricity to Brunei as well.

16. We are in the midst of studying the concept of cascading dam to produce power modelled on the Tasmanian and Nordic countries and cascading dam in River Danube, Europe.

## **INVESTING IN RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR THE FUTURE**

Ladies and gentlemen,

17. I have touched on hydrogen and hydropower but that is only half of the renewable energy sector that we are investing in.

18. Another project worth mentioning is the Batang Ai floating solar farm by SEB and a leading solar energy company, Trina Solar. This is the first large-scale floating solar project to be constructed on a hydro dam in Sarawak. Essentially, we are hybridising renewable energy technologies and optimising the grid connection. It will harness both sunlight and hydro reservoir resources.

19. The Batang Ai floating solar farm represents how Sarawak can use innovation in the RE sector to reduce carbon emissions and meet the rising energy demands while conserving Sarawak's nature.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Ladies and gentlemen,

20. I would be remiss if I did not speak on climate change. There is no need to talk about global warming as if it is happening 20 to 30 years from now. It is already here. The frequent and extreme weather events from scorching heatwaves to massive hurricanes

is the norm now. It is no longer global warming but global boiling in the words of the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres.

21. This is why we have set ambitious goals. We aim for a renewable energy capacity mix of at least 60%, focusing primarily on hydropower and broadening alternative sources. This focus will directly cut down our carbon footprint.

22. Furthermore, by transitioning our mobility fleet to electric, we intend to decrease carbon dioxide emissions by 600,000 tonnes annually. Given that transport plays a major role in greenhouse gas output, electrification stands out as a vital measure to lower emissions and enhance air quality.

23. Recognising the imperative need for a consolidated approach to climate issues, the Sarawak Government is set to establish the Sarawak Climate Change Centre. This centre will act as the primary nexus for the coordination, management, and guidance of all climate-related and carbon trading endeavours within Sarawak.

24. The establishment of this Centre is crucial, given the magnitude of Sarawak's carbon plan. It aims to provide a cohesive and strategically aligned approach to address the multifaceted challenges and opportunities presented by climate change and carbon trading.

25. Beyond these outlined strategies, it is worth noting Sarawak's intrinsic advantages in the realm of renewable energy. Our abundant sunshine paves the way for solar energy harnessing, and our biomass resources hold immense potential for electricity and heat generation. We are poised on the cusp of an era of innovation, embracing cutting-edge technologies such as carbon capture, utilisation, and storage.

26. Our forest reserves, coupled with depleted oil and gas offshore areas, serve not just as resources but as vital carbon sinks and potential storage sites. The RM4.5 billion carbon capture and storage project in the Kasawari gas field, right off Bintulu by Petronas

is a prime example. This is not just an investment; it is a transformation of the upstream oil and gas industry. We must also not overlook the potential of our offshore, once-depleted petroleum fields. They stand as optimal choices for storing the captured CO<sub>2</sub>, turning past resources into future solutions.

## **CONCLUSION**

Ladies and gentlemen,

27. Sarawak stands as a beacon of stability, directing its vision towards nurturing a sustainable future. Our commitment leans towards fostering a green economy. As we steer our path towards sustainability, we have prioritised improving the ease of eco-friendly business initiatives. This involves crafting the right policies and regulations tailored for a green economy.

28. Our blueprint, PCDS 2030, has outlined numerous opportunities centred around sustainable growth. Investors, environmentalists, and financial institutions are invited to collaborate in transforming Sarawak's green economic landscape. The shift towards a sustainable economy in Sarawak will undoubtedly demand profound investment and innovative financing solutions.

29. We are open to partnerships focusing on the greener supply and value chains across all sectors. Rest assured, our policies are fortified to uphold integrity, transparency, and governance — all aligned impeccably with ESG principles and the larger goal of sustainability.

30. Before I wrap up, my gratitude to KSI for this platform. I urge all delegates to wholeheartedly support both Malaysian and Sarawak's endeavours in moulding a sustainable economic future.

31. To conclude, I wish everyone a fruitful summit. Initiatives like this are paramount in spearheading Malaysia's sustainable journey. Together, let's envision and enact a greener, prosperous future for our nation. Thank you.