

BORNEO POST

First Digital Internet of Things Sandbox in East Malaysia

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KOTA KINABALU: The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti) and Sabah Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (KSTI) launched the first Digital Internet of Things (IoT) Sandbox in East Malaysia.

Sabah Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Datuk Yakub Khan said the Digital IoT Sandbox was part of the flagship programmes under the Sabah Maju Jaya development plan to promote the culture of science, technology and innovation (STI) among the communities in Sabah.

He said the Digital IoT Sandbox in Sabah, which was the eighth in Malaysia, was a result of joint cooperation between KSTI, Mosti, Malaysian Research Accelerator for Technology and Innovation (MRANTI), Sabah Economic and Innovation Creative Centre (Scenic) and Sabah Net.

Digital IoT Sandbox will become a platform for innovators and digital entrepreneurs to create products and test their feasibility," he said at the launching of the initiative here on Tuesday.

He said the Digital IoT Sandbox would serve as a platform for innovators to create solutions or **products to problems in Sabah** and subsequently drive the economic growth of industries.

This initiative will become a **game changer** to encourage the science, technology, innovation and economy (STIE) ecosystem and enhance the commercialization of local innovative products."

In addition, he said E-descentres would be upgraded in phases to Digital Economic Centres in rural areas.

Yakub said the Digital IoT Sandbox located at Wisma Bandarpya was divided into four spaces – Showcase Space, Maker



Yakub (centre) witnesses the exchange of MoU between Dzulaira (right) and Zainudin (left).

Space, Thinking Space and Pitch Space – that focused on five main fields, namely agriculture, tourism, industries, renewable energy development and urban management.

Among the impacts that will result from the Digital IoT Sandbox within three years are 20 proof-of-concept through so capacity building activities involving the community, 30 per cent increase in employment in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR4.0) and becoming a full collaborative ecosystem to strengthen Sabah's economy.

Meanwhile, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said the IoT Sandbox was expected to change the lives of Sabahans through the usage and development of technology.

"It will stimulate the development of IoT and directly contribute to the growth of innovative economy in Sabah," he said in his speech, which was delivered by Mosti secretary-general Oatuk Zai Qal Abidin Abu Hassan.

Dr Adham added that

digitalization would benefit, among others, services, agriculture, mining and tourism sectors.

The application of IoT in the industrial sector in Sabah is expected to contribute RM9.8 billion to the gross national income by 2025.

"IoT Sandbox will serve as an integrated centre for IoT-based solutions, equipped with support services and facilities such as feasibility test, product development and IoT services."

He said the application of IoT was aligned with the Federal Government's initiative to embrace IR4.0 in the main sectors nationwide.

Through IoT, companies are able to automate their operations and directly reduce their labour cost.

"It will also decrease wastage and improve service delivery and competitiveness. With lower production cost, as well as enhance transparency with customers."

He added that the IoT Sandbox was an initiative of the National Technology and Innovation

Digital IoT Sandbox will become a platform for innovators and digital entrepreneurs to create products and test their feasibility.

Datuk Yakub Khan

Sandbox (NTIS) under Mosti

The event also saw the signing of memorandum of understanding (MoU) between KSTI and Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Sabah branch, as well as KSTI and MRANTI.

The cooperation between MRANTI and KSTI will focus on the commercialization support for local technology practitioners and generate new economic opportunities for people in Sabah by creating highly-skilled jobs.

Meanwhile, KSTI and UiTM will organize an international dialogue in collaboration with Asia China Education and Culture (ACEC) Association upon inking the MoU. UiTM will also serve as an intermediary to connect KSTI with its domestic and international strategic partners to enhance the quality of Sri-based programmes.

Also present were Assistant Minister of Sabah Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation Dato' Sri Rudly Awah, KSTI permanent secretary Zainudin Aman, MRANTI chief executive officer Dzulaira Abu Bakar, Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre (MaGIC) acting chief executive officer Khalid Yashaiya and UiTM Sabah branch Rector Associate Professor Datuk Dr Abdul Kadir Rosline.

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IoT to boost Sabah's economic growth

KOTA KINABALU: Economic development in Sabah could be potentially accelerated with digitalisation, especially the State's key economic sectors, said Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba.

Citing an example, he said the use of Internet of Things (IoT) technology in the smart agriculture and aquaculture sector could improve the skills of local farmers and increase their yields.

"Through IoT technology, farmers have access to real-time information or real-time data to track weather forecasts, air quality, humidity levels, amount of light, temperature, soil conditions and much more data to ensure healthier crop growth.

"The IoT usage in the industry in Malaysia is also expected to contribute RM9.8 billion to the gross national income in 2025," he said in a speech in conjunction with the launch of the Sabah Sandbox Digital IoT pilot programme here, Tuesday.

His speech was read by Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry (Mosti) Secretary-General Datuk Zainal Abidin Abu Hassan and the ceremony was officiated by Sabah Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Yakub Khan.

Through IoT, local Sabah companies could automate operations and this would reduce labour costs, waste and improve service delivery, increase competitiveness by lowering manufacturing costs, and increase transparency with customers, he said.

"IoT will also accelerate the adaptation of emerging technologies such as artificial



Zainal Abidin (seated, left) and Yakub (seated, second left) during the press conference after launching East Malaysia's first digital Sandbox Internet of Thing (IoT) at Sabah International Convention Centre.

intelligence and robotic technology and further open up space for monetisation of data," he said.

He added that the Sabah Sandbox Digital IoT would create an industrial IoT ecosystem to encourage the development, dissemination and use of IoT technology, and strengthen Sabah's position as an IoT centre of excellence to generate economic growth.

"I believe this can also attract experts in various fields to come together and generate ideas and inspiration for state development in various related sectors," he said.

At a press conference after the cere-

mony, Yakub said the Sabah Sandbox Digital IoT was the eighth one-stop IoT technology centre of its kind in the country and the first in East Malaysia.

He said the centre, which would be located at Wisma Bandara, here, would gather experts in IoT technology to provide guidance and assistance to locals and Sabah industry players.

"It is like a technology laboratory to help develop innovation and help up to the marketing level, it will boost the development of innovation to shape Sabah's economy and encourage research and development in science, technology and innovation," he added.

Better Sabah Internet connectivity by year-end

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah is expected to have better Internet connectivity by year end with the National Digital Infrastructure Plan (Jendela) on track for completion as scheduled.

State Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Yakub Khan gave his assurances that the Jendela project will be completed by the end of 2022.

"For now, it is on schedule and we will wait until the end of the year. Hopefully

it can solve the Internet situation in Sabah," he said, adding the State's current Internet coverage stands at 85 per cent.

It is understood that Sabah is expected to achieve 91 per cent Internet coverage by the year end, with the aim of 100 per cent coverage by 2025.

Yakub was asked during a press conference whether the current poor Internet coverage in Sabah would hamper the

initiatives to digitalise economic sectors through the newly-launched Internet of Things (IoT) Sandbox programme launched Tuesday.

Yakub acknowledged that Internet disruption would occur in several areas due to upgrading works as 3G networks have been disabled and upgraded to 4G.

"There will definitely be disruptions in the midst of the (transition) process," he said.