Hosted by

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
SARAWAK

In collaboration with

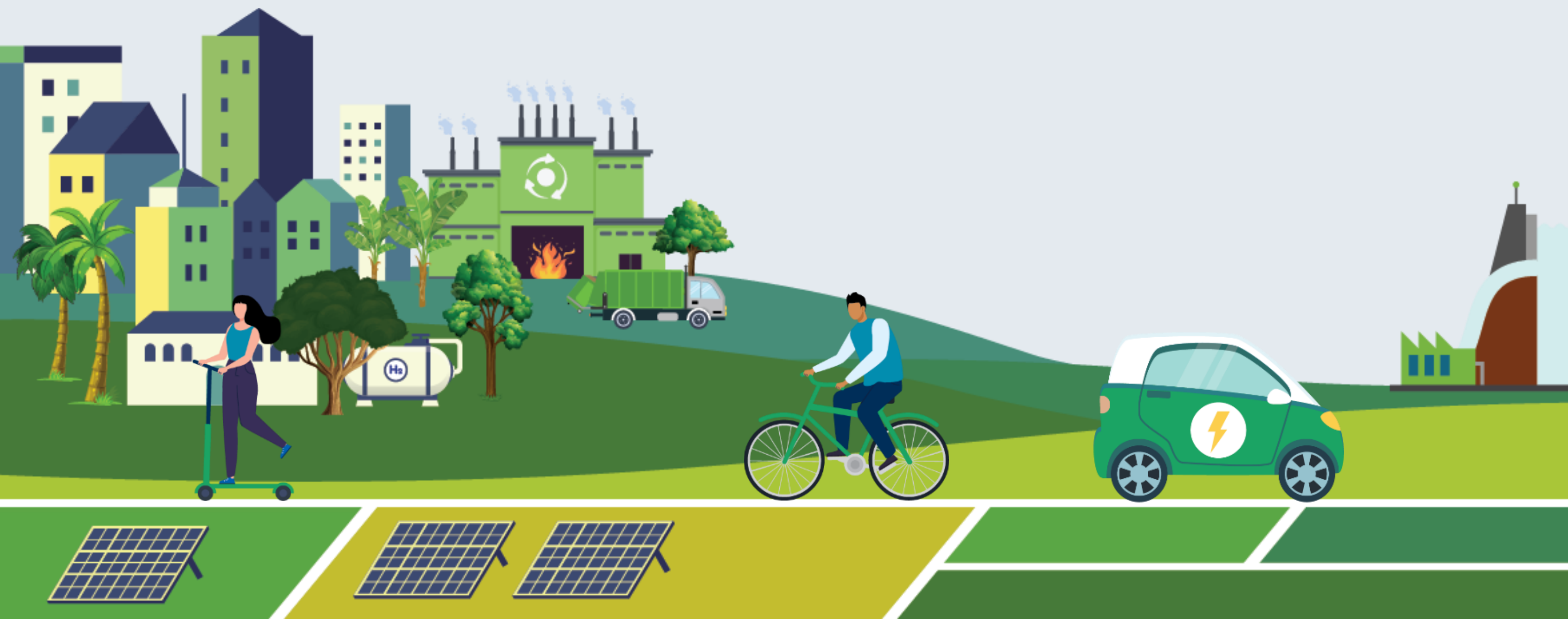
Accelerating Climate Action in Sarawak

An Open Day for the Sarawak Net Zero Strategy and Carbon Plan

Documented Outcomes

7 – 8 October 2025

Sheraton Kuching



Contents

Overview

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Accelerating climate action in Sarawak marks a pivotal moment in the state's climate journey. As the world prepares for the 30th annual Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30) in Belém, Brazil, Sarawak is stepping forward to present the Sarawak Net Zero Strategy and Carbon Plan (NZCP)—a strategic guidance and implementation roadmap to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

This event is designed to raise awareness and socialise the Strategy among public and private sector stakeholders, laying the groundwork and building momentum for its launch on the global stage at COP30. Bringing together leaders, experts, and changemakers to explore Sarawak's pathways to net zero, sectoral targets, and the mechanisms underpinning its Carbon Plan, this event aims to deepen understanding of climate action, foster collaboration, and mobilise support for Sarawak's transition to a low-emission future.

Through a series of high-level panel discussions and thematic dialogues, participants engaged in meaningful conversations on clean energy, carbon markets, climate finance, biodiversity, and circular economy solutions. Added with workshops and opportunities to exchange ideas and demonstrate initiatives, this event is a catalyst for measurable climate action and long-term value creation.

458
Total attendees

37
Speakers & panellists

Attendance breakdown

Category	Delegates
Industry players	232
Government and public sector	165
Research and educational institutions	26
Civil society organisations	18
International organisations	17
Total	**458**

Special, keynote, and opening addresses

Special address

The Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg
Premier of Sarawak

> "Each of us shares the responsibility to guarantee the future of our generation and ensure they inherit a good environment."

- The Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg

Key takeaways

1. Sarawak recognises climate change as a critical issue and is committed to addressing it by leveraging its unique strengths.
2. Key priorities include leveraging Sarawak's natural resources e.g. rainforests and mangroves as carbon sinks and exploring innovative solutions e.g. hydrogen, carbon capture and storage.
3. Energy transition is a key catalyst for change, involving hydro, solar, gas, and biochar/biomass to drive sustainable energy solutions.
4. Human capital, alongside natural capital, is critical for Sarawak NZCP. By integrating these resources, the region is poised to significantly advance green initiatives.

Keynote address

Dato' Mohammad Faiz Azmi,
Executive Chairman,
Securities Commission Malaysia

“Polluters must pay, and they must pay with fairness and transparency.”

- Dato' Mohammad Faiz Azmi

Key takeaways

1 Capital market is a crucial in achieving Sarawak's sustainability goals with plans like the Capital Market Master Plan 4 (CMM4) and the National Sustainability Reporting Framework (NSRF).

2 Capital market can be a key financing avenue—through the listing of Sarawak-based companies on Bursa Malaysia, issuance of sustainability-linked instruments, or blended finance models.

3 Sarawak’s vast natural resources give it a unique advantage in developing quality carbon credits.

4 Malaysia should focus on adaptation. The Mitigation co-benefit, Adaptation for Resilience (mARs) Guide will offer a framework to finance adaptation projects, especially those not commercially viable.

Welcome address

**The Honourable Datuk Dr.
Haji Hazland bin Abang Haji Hipni**
Deputy Minister of Ministry of Energy and Environmental Sustainability Sarawak (MEESty)

> “Sarawak's path to net zero is a shared journey. One that demands courage, commitment and collaboration.”

\- The Honourable Datuk Dr. Haji Hazland bin Abang Haji Hipni

Key takeaways

1 Sarawak’s NZCP provides a framework for transitioning to low-carbon future, encompassing renewable energy, sustainable land use, nature-based solutions, and carbon market readiness.

2 Achieving net zero requires active participation from businesses, research institutions, communities, youth advocates, and individuals.

3 Sarawak, with its rich natural resources, is pursuing nature-based and technical solutions like forest conservation, mangrove restoration, renewable energy, hydrogen, bioenergy, and carbon capture.

4 Sarawak's path to net zero is a shared journey. One that demands courage, commitment and collaboration.

Opening address

Nurul A’in Abdul Latif
Executive Chair,
PwC Malaysia

“

Sarawak must lead. Not only to demonstrate climate ambition, but to unlock green growth opportunities and build long-term economic resilience.

”

\- Nurul A’in Abdul Latif

Key takeaways

1 Sarawak Net Zero Strategy and Carbon Plan is a signal of intent, a framework for collective action, and a platform to mobilise capital, technology, and talent.

2 Sarawak’s net zero journey is shaped with specifics—baselines, targets, timelines, and promotes accountability.

3 Decarbonisation cannot be achieved in silos. We should look for opportunities to aggregate demand, share data, co-invest in infrastructure, and align standards.

4 A just transition means ensuring that benefits are widely shared. As we explore carbon, energy, and finance, we must also prioritise skills, jobs, nature, and local participation.

Presentation, dialogue, and panel discussions

Presentation by World Bank

Balancing innovation and coordination: Institutional solutions for effective climate action in Malaysia's Borneo states

Key takeaways

1 For the first time globally, the World Bank has completed a Climate Change Institutional Assessment (CCIA) complemented by dedicated sub-national assessments on Sarawak and Sabah.

2 There is a significant opportunity to build institutional capacity by institutionalising training and fostering knowledge sharing partnerships.

3 Developing a more cohesive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework could inform more balanced decisions, capture cross-sectoral impacts, and better inform climate policies.

4 Greater transparency and citizen engagement can turn climate policies into trusted, collective action.

Panel Discussion 1:

Accelerating climate action – Delivering on net zero and the Road to Belem at COP30

Moderated by

Professor Dr Ong Kian Ming

Pro Vice-chancellor for External Engagement, Taylor's University

H.E. Daniella Ortega de Menezes

Ambassador of Brazil to Malaysia and Brunei, Embassy of Brazil

Datuk Dr Ching Thoo a/l Kim

Secretary General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability, Government of Malaysia

Alongkorn Ponlaboot

Advisory Board Chairman to the Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Thailand

Taisei Matsuki

Senior Climate Change Specialist, World Bank

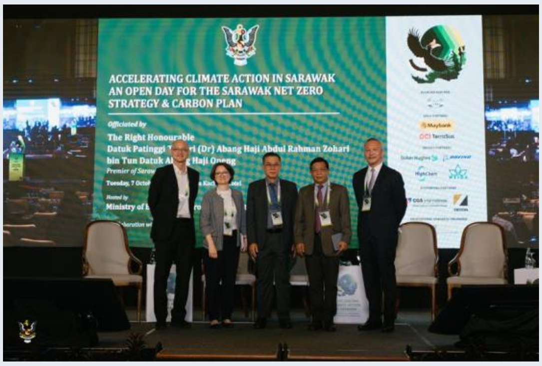
Key takeaways

1 Brazil's hosting of COP30 in Belem signals its commitment to forest protection and inclusive climate action. Key priorities include multiculturalism, energy transition, and forest conservation.

2 Malaysia is preparing to launch the updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0), with contributions from Sarawak and Sabah, and additional focus on adaptation.

3 Tropical forests remain economically undervalued despite providing vital ecosystem services. To address this, the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF) is proposed to incentivise countries to reduce and prevent deforestation.

4 There is a growing call for ASEAN to play a more prominent and unified role in COP negotiations, reflecting the region's shared climate challenges and potential for coordinated action.



Dialogue:

Transitioning Industrial Clusters, an initiative to decarbonise industries and maximise potential for green growth

Moderated by

Edwina Chin
Global Government and Public Sector Sustainability Lead, PwC Singapore

Dr Wong Wai Khuen (Max)
Senior Principal Assistant Director, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry Malaysia

Ikmal Hisham Maharon
Head of Strategic Planning Division, Economic Planning Unit Sarawak

Calvin Woo
Director, Malaysia Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution (MyDigital) on Transitioning Industrial Clusters

Maria Claudia Borras
Chief Growth & Experience Officer, Baker Hughes

Key takeaways

1 Transitioning Industrial Clusters (TIC) is a platform to coordinate efforts with three topline goals: GDP contribution, job creation, and emission reduction.

2 TIC complements national policies, tackling compliance challenges through four pillars: partnerships, technology, talent, and governance.

3 Financing and talent remain top priorities for industry, alongside adapting to mechanisms like carbon pricing and CBAM.

4 Developing future talent requires a coordinated strategy with universities and industry, focusing on green jobs, AI, TVET, and train-and-place models to close the skill gaps.

Panel Discussion 2:

The Business of Carbon – Unlocking the carbon market potential

Moderated by

Emily Gerrard
Principal Lawyer,
Comhar Group

Dr Renard Siew
President, Malaysia Carbon Market Association

Suhaini binti Haron
Senior Director Corporate Development & Strategy, Malaysia Forest Fund

Key takeaways

1 ASEAN is building an integrated and interoperable carbon market ecosystem by harmonising standards and encouraging public-private partnerships.

2 Carbon project developments tend to face high upfront cost, slow certification, limited market liquidity, uncertain demand signals, requiring strong regulatory and policy support.

3 Integrity and credibility in carbon markets require transparent and consistent rules, standardised baselines, independent audits, grievance mechanism, and safeguards to build investor and community trust.

4 Looking ahead to COP30, priorities include scaling ASEAN carbon frameworks, aligning standards for integrity, and expanding markets to drive green jobs, growth, and nature-based solutions.

Panel Discussion 3:

Powering Progress – Financing the net zero transition

Moderated by

Patrick Tay
Economics and Policy, PwC Malaysia

Kim Gabrielli
CEO, Worldview International Foundation

Charis Yeap
Southeast Asia Regional Lead on Green Finance & Carbon Pricing Mechanisms, UK FCDO

Sharmaine Tan
Regional Sustainability and Policy Lead for Southeast Asia, Boeing

Ranita Abdullah
Head of ESG Strategy and Solutions, Maybank Group Global Banking

Key takeaways

1 Supply crunch, data availability, unclear bankability, and lack of enabling policies often slow capital flow, especially as lenders continue to prioritise creditworthiness.

2 Emerging opportunities in climate finance include blended finance models, public equity financing, and the transition from voluntary to compliance carbon markets.

3 Nature-based solutions e.g., mangrove projects, are now increasingly investable with significant emission reduction potential—though challenges remain in implementation and community engagement.

4 Public-private partnerships and regional collaboration are vital to share expertise and cost of energy transition—especially in areas of green tech and carbon markets.

Panel Discussion 4:

Integrating climate with nature and biodiversity to strengthen co-benefits and manage trade-offs in a just transition

Moderated by

Perpetua George
Sustainability and Climate Change, Nature Lead, PwC Malaysia

Dato Dr Yeo Tiong Chia
CEO, Sarawak Biodiversity Center

Dr Lydia Cole
Conservation Ecologist, University of St Andrews

Chin Sing Yun
Centre for Agriculture and BioSciences International Malaysia

Key takeaways

1 Respecting traditional knowledge is essential for meaningful engagement. When communities see conservation as beneficial, they become active stewards of the land.

2 Effective conservation requires holistic land planning that reconciles competing demands—such as agriculture, infrastructure, and natural habitats—through inclusive and ecosystem-based approaches.

3 Transparent governance, credible verification, and inclusive monitoring are key to preventing misuse and maintaining high standards in conservation.

4 Fair distribution of benefits, legal recognition of rights, and capacity building enable communities to lead in sustainable ecosystem stewardship.

Panel Discussion 5:

Fuelling the Future – Charting Sarawak's path as a clean energy leader

Moderated by

Kamarul Bahrin
Journalist and News Anchor

Mohamad Irwan Aman
General Manager, Sarawak Energy Berhad

Mariana Michael
Head of Health, Safety, and Environment, PETROS

Dr Patricia Seevam
General Manager for Transformation and Energy Transition, Shell

Dr Tan Inn Shi
Deputy Dean of Research and Development, Curtin University

Key takeaways

1 Energy companies in Sarawak have set decarbonisation plans using low-carbon technologies, floating solar, and leveraging gas as a transitional energy source.

2 People remain the greatest asset in enabling the energy transition. The transition should actively engage workers by emphasising transferable skills between the oil and gas sectors and the new energy industries.

3 Communication and awareness on energy transition must focus not only on costs but also on risks. This must be coupled by capacity building and community engagement.

4 Energy transition in Sarawak requires a shared, inclusive vision that embraces change and agility, while integrating traditional knowledge and ecosystem thinking.

Panel Discussion 6:

Waste-to-Wealth – Rethinking resources in a circular economy

Moderated by

Richard Baker
Sustainability and Climate Change, PwC Malaysia

Prof Dr Sooyeon Kim
Senior Director, Sustainable Value Creation Division, OCI TerraSus

Bernard Yong
General Manager, Weida Group

Izzan Fathurrahman
Research Associate, Stockholm Environmental Institute

Key takeaways

1 Circular economy is complex—recycling and waste management are far more intricate than they appear, involving challenges like material compatibility, processing difficulties and ecosystem constraints.

2 Circular economy initiatives go beyond recycling, requiring integrated strategies that cover the entire product life cycles and industrial ecosystem.

3 Consistent, clear and convenient policy frameworks are essentials for driving circular economy adoption, including incentives, regulatory support, and collaborative platforms.

4 The success and benefits of circular economy should be measured not just in economic terms, but also by social and environmental benefits like job creation and resource conservation.

Side events and workshops

Side Events

Key takeaways

Trade, Investments and Human Capital Development in the Context of Net Zero Transition

Professor Dr Ong Kian Ming
Pro Vice-Chancellor for External Engagement, Taylors University

Opportunities to grow Sarawak's skilled workforce include increasing scholarship availability, allocating funding for upskilling, and introducing specialised work visas to attract talent.

To transition more workers into the formal sector, efforts could focus on expanding the manufacturing base and increasing both the quantity and quality of green jobs.

Valuing Nature: Considerations for Developing High-Integrity Natural Capital Markets

Dr Lydia Cole
Conservation Ecologist, University of St Andrews

Restoration efforts must be adapted to local ecosystems and cultural practices. Imposing generic standards risks ecological failure and social disconnect.

True ecological resilience requires long-term monitoring (30–50 years), not short-term restoration projects. High-integrity credits must reflect this permanence.

Side Events

Key takeaways

Equatic Carbon Removal Technology and Sarawak Demonstration Plant

Gaurav Sant
Founder and Chief Technology Officer, Equatic

Seawater-based carbon capture and storage (CCS) solution is less energy-intensive than traditional subsurface storage methods and offers a more geographically accessible option.

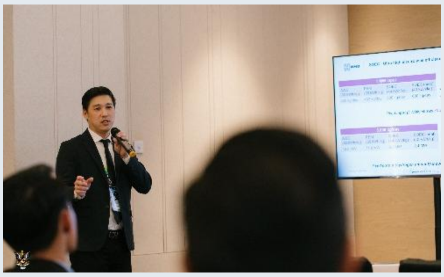
With pilot plants already operating, and a demonstration plant expected by 2025, the technology is progressing toward commercial scale.

Advancing Low-Carbon Fuels Development in Sarawak: Leveraging Malaysia's Value Chain and Global Collaboration

Brandon Tan
Malaysia Marine and Heavy Engineering

The world is rapidly shifting toward low-carbon fuels like e-methanol, ammonia, and hydrogen. This signals a clear opportunity Sarawak to act now or risk being left behind.

Sarawak offers low-cost renewable electricity—an essential factor since electricity makes up 70% of hydrogen production costs—and has an established value chain ready to scale.



Workshops

KenalESG Programme

by Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry

58 participants from 45 companies were trained on identifying ESG opportunities, integrating ESG consideration, and preparing sustainability reporting

Transitioning Industry Clusters (TIC) Workshop

by MyDigital

A practical workshop on the Transitioning Industry Clusters initiative brought together:

- 20 participants from 15 committed signatories from Samalaju Industrial Park
- 38 participants from 28 prospective organisations

Shifting Horizons Gallery

Shifting Horizons Gallery

Energy Demand Experience

As part of the *Shifting Horizons Gallery,* an interactive, gamified platform 'Energy Demand Experience' was showcased. Developed by PwC and Microsoft, the platform demonstrates how demand-side management can reduce costs and carbon emissions.

Media coverage

Media coverage

[Bernama]

[Sarawak Tribune]

[Utusan Sarawak]

[Sarawak Tribune]

[The Borneo Post]

[Buletin TV3]

[Business Today]

[Oriental Daily]

[TVS Sarawak]

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Thank You

We extend our sincere gratitude to all contributing parties for their invaluable collaboration, strategic input, and unwavering support throughout the planning and launch of this pivotal event.

This collective commitment is a vital asset in successfully driving Sarawak Net Zero Strategy and Carbon Plan towards 2050. We look forward to achieving these ambitious goals in partnership.