

**SPEECH BY**  
**THE RIGHT HONOURABLE DATUK PATINGGI (DR) ABANG ZOHARI**  
**BIN TUN DATUK ABANG HAJI OPENG**  
**CHIEF MINISTER OF SARAWAK**  
**IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE "SIGNING CEREMONY OF**  
**TRIPARTITE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**BETWEEN SEDC ENERGY SDN BHD AND SUMITOMO**  
**CORPORATION AND ENEOS CORPORATION"**

**DEWAN ASAJAYA**  
**GRAND MARGHERITA HOTEL,**  
**KUCHING 23 OCTOBER 2020**

**[SALUTATION]**

1. First of all, I would like to thank Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) for inviting me to grace this afternoon's signing ceremony on the "Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)" between SEDC Energy Sdn. Bhd. and its strategic partners from Japan namely, Sumitomo Corporation and Eneos Corporation. Congratulations to Tan Sri Datuk Abdul Aziz and SEDC for achieving this wonderful milestone and I am indeed happy to be given the honour to be with all of your in this auspicious occasion.

2. As the Chief Minister of Sarawak, I would like to welcome our guests from Japan namely Mr Hajime Mori, who is the Executive Officer and General Manager of Energy Division at Sumitomo Corporation and also Mr Miyata Tomohide, the Senior Vice President and Managing Executive Officer for Central Technical Research Laboratory, Hydrogen Business and Fuel Cell Customer Support of Eneos Corporation.
3. Even though today's MoU signing ceremony has been done virtually via Zoom under the new norms but I am indeed delighted to see that SEDC together with its strategic partners from Japan, are still able to move forward in their pursuit of developing a hydrogen production plant in Bintulu. This development augurs well for the future of Sarawak because the strategic partnership between SEDC and its Japanese partners will pave the way for us to venture further into the hydrogen economy agenda that is progressively being pursued by developed countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. In today's fast changing world, we are facing a lot of challenges in developing our economy and to enhance our renewable energy capacities in line with the green economic policy actively being adopted worldwide. Our common problem of carbon emission resulting from the

use of fossil fuels is indirectly driving up the costs of living affecting all strata of our society and this need to be effectively addressed.

5. While some countries have already taken the mitigating steps in reducing the pressures of relying too much on fossil fuel but the challenge is how the rest of the global community can take part in developing renewable energy which include production of clean hydrogen that will help in nature conservation, sustainable power generation and reduce carbon emission that causes global warming.
6. We cannot view the production of renewable energy as a form of damage control on the environment but the fact of the matter is that the next source of power supply for mankind must come from common things that we all have in our backyard such as natural water supply, the sun and even from the wind.
7. Like what Tan Sri Aziz has mentioned earlier, Sarawak is aiming to leverage on the abundance of raw materials that we have including the cheap electricity tariffs produced by our own hydropower dams which enables us to actually produce the hydrogen gas with cost effectiveness in mind

where the production system itself must be viable in order to achieve sustainability in the long haul.

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. I would like to record our appreciation to Sumitomo Corporation and Eneos Corporation for being the first strategic partners of SEDC in a collaboration for the development of Sarawak's first and very own hydrogen plant in Bintulu.
9. Earlier in July this year, I have the opportunity to officiate at the ground-breaking ceremony of the Sarawak-owned methanol plant at the Sarawak's Petrochemical Park (PetChem) in Bintulu. Once completed and fully operational, our Petchem plant is expected to create many job opportunities for our local folks and on top of it, it has the potential of contributing an additional RM16 to RM20 billion per annum to Sarawak's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
10. The timing of today's MoU between SEDC, Sumitomo and Eneos is just nice because the large-scale hydrogen production facility in Bintulu can be completed and be ready by 2023 to meet the needs of potential buyers as

the use of hydrogen-power vehicles is expected to pick up by then. The state-of-the-art plant itself can be scalable and to be further expanded for hydrogen production of 10,000 tons per year as the need arises.

11. Presently, both Australia and our neighbour, Brunei have already exported hydrogen to Japan using "toluene" as the carrier. Hydrogen is added to toluene to create methylcyclohexane [C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>14</sub>], a liquid that can be shipped safely in containers at room temperature to Japan where hydrogen is extracted at their dehydrogenation plant. As the project is are still under research and development (R&D), there would be further development especially on cost reduction measures.

Ladies and gentlemen,

17. Before I conclude, I would like to thank SEDC for their unwavering spirit and determination in making Sarawak one of the leading renewable green energy producers in the country. I must tell you that it is not an easy feat because the development of renewable energy is still in the early stage and there will be competitors. The pursuit of renewable energy development initiatives will continue to be in the uptrend and as mankind endeavours to

