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Tech, innovation to solve Sabah`s problems: KSTI

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KOTA KINABALU: Sabah would like to see more of technology and innovation being used to solve the state's problems according to Permanent Secretary of Sabah Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry (KSTI) Datuk Zainudin Aman.

He said Sabah is facing different challenges compared to others and for that reason cooperation from its people is imperative in making the leap.

"To close the technological gap, human capital capacity and development programmes need to be done more organically from time to time and instead of a "one-time off" approach," he said in his launching speech of the three day Borneo Tech Summit at (BTS) Sabah International Convention Centre on Monday.

BTS is a supplementary to a host of KSTI programmes like Sandbox, Toon Boom Animation, STEM, and Makerspace Day created this year.

"We have invited industry experts from Peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak and neighbouring Philippines to share the latest on technology developments and how Sabah can best benefit from the partnership.

"KSTI hopes that our startups take the opportunity from the Borneo Tech Summit as much as possible not only to gain knowledge but for networking purposes. "We hope that Sabah can produce as many (startups) as possible and we will provide a program that can help their journey," he said.

He added that KSTI wanted to set an example for strategic cooperation through the Quadruple Helix collaborative approach where none of the four main entities - government, corporate, community and grassroots (higher education institutes) - are left behind.

Meanwhile, Sabah Creative Economy and Innovation Centre (SCENIC) General Manager Viviantie Sarjuni said the pandemic has shown the urgency of diversifying the economy and its acceleration through technology.

"What if using augmented or virtual reality technology could build a pandemic proof tourism based business model?

"Maybe that is too ambitious but we can always start in simple but effective ways to accelerate the income of business owners, solving pressing issues in Sabah.

"All these initiatives will then create job opportunities for the grassroots. We are so hopeful for this ecosystem to grow," she said.

Co-organizer, Sabah Net Sdn Bhd CEO Chin Kah Yi said they wished to see all players in the ecosystem connect for the sake of the local digital economic capacity.

"With such an elevated environment, technology adoption and innovation shall be more transparent, inclusive and competitive.

"This, in turn will shorten the learning curve, expediting the go-to-market plans of local startups," he said.



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SUMMARIES

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