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## Better internet, telco coverage

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*Dr Joachim (second left) listening to a briefing during his tour at the exhibition.*

**KOTA KINABALU:** A total of RM3.1 billion has been allocated under the National Digital Network (Jendela) to increase internet and telecommunications coverage, especially in rural areas, as Sabah embraces Industrial Revolution 4.0 (IR4.0).

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor said technology is continuously advancing, driving development in every sphere including facility management.

“IR4.0 is changing how people live, work, and communicate. From schools to the workplace we can already see how digitisation and automation have taken hold.

“We are conscious too that the era of IR4.0 and post-pandemic demand new ways of planning and approach in managing assets for the benefit of end users.

“The International Standards Organisation demands effective and efficient delivery of facility management that supports the objectives of the organisation, to consistently meet the needs of interested parties and applicable requirements as well as aims to be sustainable in a globally-competitive environment.

“Going forward it is timely for us to seek new ways of doing things, including asset management,” he said, at the 3rd Facility Management Asia Conference (FMAC) 2022 at Le Meridien, Tuesday. His speech was read by Deputy Chief Minister cum Industrial Development Minister Datuk Dr Joachim Gunsalam.

Hajji said the Covid-19 pandemic had challenged us to embrace change in order to survive and keep ourselves relevant.

Hence, in the same breath facility management calls for strategic and non-strategic assets to be managed well that includes satisfying new types of needs to support a well-functioning workplace.

Hajji has high hopes that FMAC 2022 jointly organised by the Malaysian Association of Facility Management (MAFM) and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) themed “IR4.0 in the New Normal: The Future of Facilities Management” would address Facility Management issues, challenges and strategies driving this discipline and its resilience post-pandemic.

“I believe FMAC 2022 will benefit us in terms of new knowledge shared towards efficient management of assets and facilities, as part of our efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals for our organisations and by extension, for the country where we come from.

“I hope too that FMAC 2022 today will enlighten many of you and with notable speakers from various parts of the world, I am confident that you will benefit from FMAC 2022 through the presentations, forums, academia sessions and exhibitions,” he said.