



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

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#### **LAUNCH OF SARAWAK TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION (STI) SANDBOX TO DRIVE REGIONAL INNOVATION**

*Sarawak Pioneers Technology Advancement with New Regional Sandbox Programme*

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**21 OCTOBER 2024, Sarawak** – The Sarawak Technology & Innovation (STI) Sandbox was launched on the 17 Oktober 2024, marking a significant milestone in the region's push towards becoming a global hub for technological advancements.

This sandbox commemorates the 14th sandbox under the National Technology & Innovation Sandbox (NTIS) initiative, spearheaded by the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MOSTI) in collaboration with Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation (SDEC), Startup Borneo, and Tabung Ekonomi Gagasan Anak Sarawak (TEGAS), with support from Malaysian Research Accelerator of Technology and Innovation (MRANTI). The STI Sandbox will serve as a key platform for local and global innovators to test, develop, and commercialise cutting-edge technologies.

The Premier of Sarawak, The Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Abang Haji Openg was quoted as saying: "The STI Sandbox initiative leverages diverse technologies that are essential for driving innovation, productivity, and competitiveness in our region".

## **Driving Growth Through Innovation**

The STI Sandbox Pilot Programme plays a crucial role in fostering innovation across sectors such as **AgriTech, smart cities, cultural industries, and green technologies**. It aims to position Sarawak as a prominent food security hub through the adoption of AgriTech and AquaTech solutions, enhancing productivity as well as supporting Sarawak's Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030.

MRANTI Chief Ecosystem Officer, Safuan Zairi: "The STI Sandbox is a vital step towards fast-tracking technological breakthroughs and commercialising high-impact local innovations. By providing innovators with a dynamic environment for real-world testing of latest technology solutions and innovation, MRANTI is proud to support Sarawak in its mission to become a frontrunner in 4IR transformation and sustainability".

In addition, the smart city initiatives under the programme will improve urban planning and public system efficiency, contributing to Sarawak's goal of becoming a leading investment destination by 2030.

## **Boosting Key Sectors and Sustainability**

The STI Sandbox initiative proposes creation of 2,000 jobs in the Cultural & Creative Industries (CCI) and increasing investment in research and Intellectual Property registration in the fields of arts, culture, and tourism, all of which are projected to contribute significantly to Sarawak's GDP growth. In green technology, the programme aims to raise income levels amongst talents, as well as, right size labour requirements by integrating sustainability into various industries, with an emphasis on productivity and cost reduction.

## **A Collaborative Effort**

Through collaboration with industry leaders, investors, and technology experts, the Sarawak Technology and Innovation Sandbox optimises the testing process for innovative solutions. The programme provides seamless access to testbeds across the region, eliminating logistical barriers and facilitating the successful commercialisation of new technologies.

SDEC Chief Executive Officer, Dato Ir. Ts. Sudarnoto Osman said: “Through the STI Sandbox, we are able to better foster collaboration between local talent and global experts, driving the digital economy forward and positioning Sarawak as a key player in Southeast Asia’s technology ecosystem. This initiative will accelerate growth and create new opportunities for all”.


## **Looking Ahead**

The STI Sandbox initiative will play a pivotal role in achieving the Sarawak government’s vision of transitioning from a traditional economy to a modern, tech-driven powerhouse by 2030. It supports the region’s economic recovery post-pandemic and aligns with the Sarawak Digital Economy Blueprint 2030, doubling the state’s GDP and creating over 195,000 jobs. For more information, visit <https://sandbox.gov.my>.

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Prepared by,

**MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**  
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Pics:  Sarawak Technology Innovation (STI) Sandbox Pix

## **ABOUT NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION SANDBOX (NTIS)**

The National Technology and Innovation Sandbox (NTIS) was first announced as part of the Short-Term Recovery Plan (PENJANA) in June 2020 and subsequently launched on 19 August, 2020 by the Prime Minister. A programme that allows researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs to test their products and services in a live environment and qualify for grants to bring those products and services to market. NTIS relaxes certain regulatory requirements to accelerate the development of innovation from the R&D stage to being commercially ready. With an RM100 million allocation, it was tasked with fast-tracking the nation's aspiration to become an innovation-driven economy.

Spearheaded by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), with MaGIC as the lead secretariat, NTIS aims to create high-skilled job opportunities to increase Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Gross National Income (GNI) and social inclusion, as well as to enhance the participation, investment and collaboration in research by the private sector.

The vision of NTIS was first conceived with two goals. First is to champion local innovation and to create a smoother pathway for Malaysian technology to get to market. Second, is to use NTIS as a testbed for disruptive technologies that would enable Malaysia to solve some of our grand challenges that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

## **ABOUT TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION PARK MALAYSIA (TiPM/MRANTI)**

Technology Innovation Park Malaysia (TiPM), or otherwise known as Malaysian Research Accelerator for Technology and Innovation - MRANTI, a convergence of Technology Park Malaysia (TPM Corp) and the Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre (MaGIC) is Malaysia's central research commercialisation agency that fast-tracks the development of technology innovations from ideas to impact.

TiPM/MRANTI serves as a connector, incubator and catalyst to enable commercialisation and scaling-up of early-stage ideation up to mature entities. It also offers access to innovators and industry players to world-class integrated infrastructure, programmes, services, facilities and a suite of resources.

In doing so, TiPM/MRANTI aims to expand Malaysia's funnel of innovation supply, and unlock new R&D value by ensuring effective transitions in the commercialisation lifecycle. It will also link academia with industry and the public sector to streamline market-driven R&D efforts for mission-based outcomes.

TiPM/MRANTI is headquartered at MRANTI Park, an extensive 686 acre 4IR innovation hub in Kuala Lumpur, supporting the growth of smart manufacturing, biotech, agritech, smart city, green tech and enabling technology clusters, poised to support Malaysia's vision of being a Global Nucleus for Science and Innovation.

Exciting updates to follow! For more information, please visit <http://mranti.my/>

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