



13th SOGCE

SABAH OIL, GAS & ENERGY
CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION **2026**

25 & 26 JUNE

Sabah International Convention Centre, Kota Kinabalu,
Sabah, Malaysia

2026 POST SHOW REPORT

FUELING THE FUTURE: DRIVING ENERGY INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

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13th SOGCE 2026

Post-Show Report

The Sabah Oil, Gas & Energy Conference and Exhibition (SOGCE) returns to its 13th session in June 2026. The following presents the event's Post-Show report.

The 13th Sabah Oil, Gas & Energy Conference and Exhibition (SOGCE)

was successfully organised on 25th & 26th June 2026 at the Sabah International Convention Centre, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia Borneo.

The theme of the 13th SOGCE was "Fueling the future: Driving energy innovation for sustainable growth". The conference was attended by 325 delegates from oil, gas & energy companies and related companies, policy makers, including Speakers, Moderators, some invited guests and final year university students.

- **85% rated the contents and relevancy of programme are in line with the theme and was very good**
- **100 % rated the overall conference have met their expectations**
- **85% rated the overall structure and format were very good**



Speakers for both plenary and individual paper, their quality of papers and delivery style and relevance were rated in between good and very good.

Delegates managed to get useful contacts, exchange of ideas, gather information and that the conference fulfilled their objectives and the conference was of high value to them.

The rationales for attending the conference were rated high on contents of session, networking, as well as required by their respective companies.

What was most beneficial to the delegates are the oil, gas & energy industry updates, networking with stakeholders and sharing session from industrial players, the contents and good discussions of it.



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The 13th SOGCE was officiated by The Honourable Datuk Seri Panglima Joachim Gunsalam, Deputy Chief Minister I and Minister of Works & Utilities, Sabah

On exhibition, 95% were participated by Oil, Gas & Energy companies whereas the remaining by relevant associations; and aviation partners which are relevant for oil & gas companies to travel to Sabah with special rates. There were 2,746 visitors. On visitors, 94% were from oil and gas companies, and other related companies.

Our visitors comprised of Manager up to C- Suites such as: Chairman, President, Executive Director, Managing Director, Group Chief Executive, CEO, Director, Sales & Operation Manager, Group Managing Director, Sales & Marketing Executive, Country Sales Leader, Senior

Technical Sales Manager, Senior Economist, Business Development Manager, General manager, Head, Business Development, Procurement, CEO, Sales Engineer, Sole Proprietor, Capability Manager, Maintenance Engineer, Lead, energy Sector, and many others. We do invite University students so as to get them introduced to and explore this industry more In-depth.

94% of exhibition visitors come from the oil, gas & energy fraternities and those along the supply chain, and the reasons to attend are keeping updated with the industry, gather information of products and services, seeking strategic business

partnerships, finalising purchasing decisions, sourcing of products and services, evaluating the show for future participation and sourcing for distributors

68% of exhibitors generated relevant and quality leads

70% of exhibitors achieved their goal of promoting brand awareness, generate leads and improve brand recognition



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**94% of exhibition
visitors are from oil,
gas & energy
companies and most
of them attend to keep
up with industry
trends, gather
information and
develop business
partnership.**

Highlights

POST SHOW REPORT 2026

POST SHOW REPORT 2026 The main features of the 13th SOGCE 2026 include conference and exhibition, Knowledge Hub, Future Leaders' Hub, SOGCE Networking Golf, SOGCE- Energy Career Aspirations Networking Series (ECANS) and Energy4Me for secondary, high-school and university school students programmes, Pocket Talks by Shell Malaysia and myriads of pre-arranged meetings among SOGCE guests and student visits

Elements of Conference Exhibitors

- Opening Ceremony/Speech
- Signing ceremonies
- Keynote Addresses
- Speaker Session
- Plenary Sessions
- Lunch, Coffee-breaks & SOGCE Networking Cocktail

Speakers/ Moderators

- PETRONAS
- Sabah Energy Corporation
- Boston Consulting Group
- Energy Industries Council – APAC
- Energy Commission of Sabah
- Reservoir Link Energy Bhd
- TotalEnergies EP Malaysia
- Sabah Electricity Board
- MoneySave P2P Crowdfunding Malaysia
- Energy Dot Com Sdn Bhd
- Shell Malaysia Upstream
- Velesto Energy Berhad
- SEMARAK Training
- TalentCorp Malaysia
- Malaysia Petroleum Resources Corporation
- North Borneo University
- Malaysian Oil, Gas & Energy Services Council
- Nawie Oilfields Services
- Puncak Kinabalu Oil & Gas Sdn Bhd
- Unsur Hebat Sdn Bhd
- CETCO Energy Services
- Rockfield Technologies Australia Pty Ltd
- Labuan Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), Sabah
- MMC Oil & Gas Engineering Sdn Bhd
- State Home Affairs & Research Office, Chief Minister's Department, Sabah
- Fragomen Malaysia
- Technological Association of Malaysia
- Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation

3C Metal
Allianz Communication Pte Ltd (Singapore)
Alpha Testing Services Sdn Bhd
Altus Oil & Gas Malaysia Sdn Bhd
Borneo Focus Engineering Sdn Bhd
Botanickel Sabah Sdn Bhd
BSL Containers Sdn Bhd
CAC Gas Asia (Singapore)
Cakrawala Engineering Services Sdn Bhd
CCI France Malaysia
Coolrich Engineering (M) Sdn Bhd
Cristar Group Sdn Bhd
dP Fluiteq Sdn Bhd
Diamond Offshore Sdn Bhd
Drawbridge Technologies (M) Sdn Bhd
Dynamic Ocean
Embassy of Belgium – Wallonia
Energy Industries Council
Enviro Axis Sdn Bhd
Enviros Group
EO Tricology Sdn Bhd
Federation of Sabah Industries
Flemings Safety (Bintulu) Sdn Bhd
Flexi Flex Hydraulics Sdn Bhd
Fragomen Malaysia Sdn Bhd
Geveke Oil & Gas Malaysia Sdn Bhd
Green Energy Association of Sabah
Headhunter Hydraulics and Bolting Solutions SB
IEC Telecom
Industrial Scientific Corporation Pte Ltd
International Shipcare Sdn Bhd
Iraya Energies Sdn Bhd
Jabatan Pembangunan Sumber Manusia
JR Auto Oil Seals Sdn Bhd
Labuan Oil & Gas Pavilion
Labuan Shipyard & Engineering Sdn Bhd
Leader Group
Legenda Bumimas Sdn Bhd
Langfang Blue Water International Trading Co., Ltd (China)
Lingkungan Contractor Sdn Bhd
LJ Resources Enterprise (L) Sdn Bhd
Long Water (Labuan) Sdn. Bhd
Malaysia Aviation Group
Malaysia OSV Owners' Association (MOSVA)
Malaysia Petroleum Resources Corporation

Malaysian Oil, Gas & Energy Services Council Pavilion
Maps & Globe Specialist Distributor Sdn Bhd
Metcal Technologies (M) Sdn Bhd
MNS Services and Sales Sdn Bhd
Nafiela Expert Engineering Sdn Bhd
Nawie Oilfield Services Sdn Bhd
Onyx iES (Sabah) Sdn Bhd
Orthochem (M) Sdn Bhd
P and Associates Sdn Bhd
Pacific Global Technology Sdn Bhd
Pejabat Hal Ehwal Dalam Negeri dan Penyelidikan, Kerajaan Negeri Sabah
Perbadanan Labuan
Powerglo Resources Sdn Bhd
Profound Oil And Gas Sdn Bhd
Puncak Kinabalu Oil & Gas Sdn Bhd and Asia Propel Sdn Bhd
Rembau Cargo & Packing Services Sdn Bhd
Remix Technologies Sdn Bhd
RS Components Sdn Bhd
S&S BorneoTech Sdn Bhd
Sailion Shipping Sdn Bhd
Seaowl Energy Services Sdn Bhd
SEMARAK Training
Setegap Ventures Petroleum Sdn Bhd (Uzma)
SLOP Engineering Sdn Bhd
Standard Marine Agencies Sdn Bhd
Talent Corporation Malaysia Berhad
Terra Energy Borneo Sdn Bhd
Thrive Engineering Solution Sdn Bhd
Thunder Cranes Sdn Bhd
Tiger Oilfield Services (M) Sdn Bhd
TNB Repair and Maintenance Sdn Bhd
TNF Energy Sdn Bhd
Torr Energy Sdn Bhd
TotalEnergies
Towing Marine Energy Pte Ltd (Singapore)
Tuah Energy Sdn Bhd
Turcomp Engineering Services Sdn Bhd
Uniphos Envirotronic Private Limited (India)
Universal Serviced Offices & Management Limited
Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS
United Power & Resources Sdn Bhd
United U-LI (M) Sdn Bhd
Warom Technology Incorporated Company (China)
Worldwide Corrosion Services Sdn Bhd

VIPs & Guest of Honor

- The Honourable Datuk Seri Panglima Joachim Gunssalam, Deputy Chief Minister I and Minister of Works and Utilities, Sabah.
- The Honourable Brig Gen Datuk Haji Al Hambra Tun Juhar, Deputy State Speaker, Sabah State Legislative Assembly
- His Excellency Mr. Morecome Mumba, High Commissioner of the Republic of Zambia
- Datuk Hajah Siti Ayu Haniza Abdul Wahab, General Manager, PETRONAS
- Ir. Ts. Haji Ahmad Jaafar, Deputy Chief Executive Officer/Chief Operating Officer, Sabah Energy Corporation
- Datuk Ir. Abd Nasser Abd Wahid, Chief Executive Officer, Energy Commission of Sabah
- Uday Vir Singh, Managing Director & Partner, Boston Consulting group
- Ts Syed Saggaf Syed Ahmad, Regional Director, Asia Pacific, energy Industries Council
- Jerome Saniez, Managing Director & Country Chair, TotalEnergies EP Malaysia
- Datuk Ir. Ts. Mohd Yaakob Hj Jaafar, Chief Executive Officer, Sabah Electricity Board
- Mohd Azmir Bin Ramli, MD/CEO, SOGDC
- Natalie Fung, President, Federation of Sabah Industries
- Richard Fostier, President, CCI FM
- Tn Hj Suhaib bin Datuk Hj Ismail, Deputy Permanent Secretary, MiNET
- Mustafa Akbar Reza, Senior VP/Head Operations, MPRC
- Simsudin bin Sidek, Deputy Chairman, Labuan Corporation
- Mohamad Damshal bin Awang Damit, GCEO, Qhazanah Sabah Berhad
- Datuk Mohd Pintas Bin Badar, Director, SOGDC

SOGCE Networking Golf

Hosted by MEM, Organised by MOGSC. Part of the proceeds went towards charitable organisation,

- Sabah Cheshire Home
- Sabah Society for the blind
- Bukit Harapan

SOGCE - Energy Career Aspirations Networking Series & Energy4Me Programmes

ECANS is a career development and networking Initiative for students and young professionals in the energy sector.

It aims to:

- Provide insights into industry trends and help participants explore career paths and build relevant skills.
- Foster networking opportunities to encourage collaboration and knowledge-sharing.
- Connect participants with experienced mentors for career guidance and support.

ECANS was participated by 95 participants (68 university students and the rests were mentors, organisers, and volunteers), and this

programme was sponsored by MEM Energy4me is an educational program that educates the public about energy and puts a face on the industry.

Energy is a critical issue worldwide, and SPE believes face-to-face contact is the ideal way to spread the word about energy conservation, the future of the oil and gas industry and its impact on the planet.

Energy4Me was participated by 78 participants (58 secondary students, and the rests were mentors, Organisers and volunteers) and this programme was also sponsored by MEM.

Signing Ceremonies

1. Tanjung Offshore Services Sdn Bhd and Nawie Oilfield Services
2. Puncak Kinabalu Oil & Gas S/B & Asia Propel Sdn Bhd
3. Clariant Oil Services (M) Sdn Bhd & Samudera Integrated Sdn Bhd
4. Cakrawala Engineering Services Sdn Bhd & SCORE
5. Cakrawala Engineering Services Sdn Bhd & VEGA
6. MoneySave & Labuan Chamber of Commerce



Media Coverage

- Daily Express
- Overseas Chinese Daily News
- Borneo Post
- See Hua Daily
- Bernama

Student Visit

- University Malaysia Sabah
- University Teknologi PETRONAS
- University College Sabah Foundation
- Politeknik
- Curtin University
- City University
- UiTM
- North Borneo University College
- UNITAR Sabah
- University Malaysia Sarawak
- St Francis Convent
- Kinabalu International School
- All saints, Likas

Future Leaders' Hub

The Future Leaders Hub is a dedicated platform within the Sabah Oil, Gas & Energy Conference & Exhibition that focuses on developing the future workforce needed to support Sabah's expanding energy sector. The hub brings together universities, training institutions, industry leaders, employers, certification bodies, training providers, students and young professionals.

Through talks, panel discussions, and interactive sessions, the hub highlights career pathways, skills requirements, and training opportunities in the evolving oil, gas and energy landscape.

Core Theme of the Hub

The central theme "Building an Energy-Skilled Sabah: Talent, TVET, Certification & Workforce Transition" reflects the growing need to ensure that Sabah's local workforce is prepared to participate in and benefit from the expansion of the energy industry, particularly as new offshore projects and energy transition initiatives emerge.

Attended by 297 high school students from SMK Bandaraya, KK, Sabah Skills Training Centre, NBU, North Borneo TVET College, SMK Lok Yuk Likas, Geomatika College, Keningau, College AITC, Sabah, REDWIN Orchard, Uni KL and Kolej Teknologi Yayasan Sabah. This programme was organised in collaboration with North Borneo University.

Below was the 2-day programme:

1. TVET Advantage - Fast Track to Industry Employability
2. Zero harm, High Demand: Careers in Occupational Safety & Health
3. Sky to Site: The Expanding World of Drone & Surveying Career
4. Shaping the Future of TVET

Knowledge Hub SOGCE 2026

The Knowledge Hub designed to provide exhibitors with a 10-minute platform to present their products, services, and innovations through impactful and concise presentations.

Strategically located within the exhibition hall, the Knowledge Hub offers exhibitors a valuable opportunity to boost visibility and engage directly with industry peers, potential clients, and visitors in a focused and interactive setting. It also enhances the attendee experience by delivering quick insights into emerging technologies, solutions, and business offerings within the oil, gas, and energy sector.

This initiative has already drawn strong interest — particularly among OGSE exhibitors — as it adds value to their participation, while also capturing the attention of visitors. Looking ahead, the programme will be further enhanced to encourage even greater participation from both exhibitors and attendees, making it an integral part of future SOGCE editions.



In Photos

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In Photos

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TVET, Certification & Workforce Transition

Moderator:

 Ts. Faiz Latip
 Founder & Chief Executive Officer
 BERKAK Training

Panel Speaker:

 Ahmad Munir Akram Ahmad Faiz
 Head of Human Capital
 Investment
 PETRONAS

Panel Speaker:

 Noor Azura Hasran
 Head of OGSE Talent &
 Development Unit
 Malaysia Petroleum
 Resources Corporation

Panel Speaker:

 Prof Dato' Sr
 Dr. Azimuddin Bahari
 Vice Chancellor
 North Borneo University





In Photos

POST SHOW REPORT 2026



In Photos

POST SHOW REPORT 2026



In Photos

POST SHOW REPORT 2026



Media & Press

Press Coverage

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dailyexpress
AT THE 13TH SABAH OIL, GAS AND ENERGY CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Robotic fabricating tech for Sabah

Sherril Jeffrey
KOTA KINABALU: Sabah's very own local oil and gas player, Puteri Kinabalu Oil and Gas Sdn Bhd (PROG), aims to bring robotic piping fabrication technology to Sabah.

"The equipment from China is expected to arrive next year for a robotic fabrication system that will serve the company's fabrication yards, namely, one in Beragang, three in Tuguegao and one in Labuan," said PROG Chief Executive Officer, Sherril Jeffrey (pic).

"Perhaps we will be the only one in Sabah with a robotic system for piping fabrication," he said at the 13th Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition (SGCE 2026).



He said PROG always views JV's as a platform for learning and capability building.

On the government's target for 60 per cent local participation in oil and gas work in Sabah, Sherril said he prefers to see that spread across many Sabah companies rather than concentrated in one or two.

"We have a good partnership, I believe we can get and create even bigger projects," he said.

PROG needs projects, he said, but does not want to take all projects.

"We deliberately keep our focus to three areas, namely, gas pipeline installation, mechanical maintenance and fabrication, and other work such as electrical wire servicing, civil work and electrical work," he said.

The announcement following the signing of a memorandum of understanding regarding robotic fabrication capabilities during the recent SGCE 2026, with Sherril saying PROG's goal is to develop a robotic fabrication shop.

He said PROG is able to do what it is today thanks to genuine joint ventures (JVs) rather than contractors designed just to satisfy tender requirements.

The company was born out of a joint venture with TMM, which he described as a likely Malaysia's biggest pipeline installation and maintenance company.

TMM refers to TMM Engineering Services Sdn Bhd, an established Malaysian mechanical engineering, procurement, construction, and commissioning (EPC) contractor.

Sherril said when TMM secured a project on the Sabah-Sarawak pipeline, PROG began by handling civil work including foundations and piling work.

"TMM then helped establish PROG as a new company and trained us in everything from mechanical, structural, electrical and repair procedures to governance and licensing, treating PROG not as a subcontractor but as a genuine partner."

"After five years, TMM stepped back and allowed PROG to grow independently."

"That is the right way, because as a Sabah vendor we cannot be a sleeping partner. We must become an engineering partner, a project management partner and an execution partner," Sherril said.

He said that after five years a local vendor still depends on the same partner to obtain work, the vendor development objective has not yet been achieved.

Sabah O&G firms told to strengthen capacity first

ESTABLISHED local industry player, Masnahai Nawi (pic), said Sabah oil and gas vendors must prioritise building competency before chasing contracts or risk collapsing midway through project delivery.

"To have the opportunity, industry players must have something that they are capable of. If they stand on their capabilities and the technology, then they can find the opportunity," said the Nawi Oilfield Services Sdn Bhd Chief Executive Officer at the 13th Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition (SGCE 2026).

Masnahai, who founded his company in 2015 and has since expanded operations into Indonesia with plans to Saudi Arabia and the Philippines, said the oil and gas sector demanded knowledge above all else at first time requirement, followed by technical competence, commercial acumen and strict adherence to health, safety and environment (HSE) standards.



"Involvement in the oil industry, the first thing is knowledge. It is not like a trading business where you just need money without providing any technical or HSE support," he said.

He said the lack of proper resources and facilities rendered the single biggest procurement barrier for local small and medium enterprises.

"Companies that enter the sector without first securing adequate manpower and equipment often find themselves stranded before they could deliver."

"Participating in any contract without any resources or facilities is like starting in the middle of an empty road," he said.

On the question of whether capability

or opportunity should come first, Masnahai said both had to move together but that building capability was the necessary foundation.

He said he started Nawi Oilfield Services from zero with no guaranteed contracts, choosing instead to strengthen the company's product line and technical base before seeking opportunities.

"I believe we chose the right product line. This is a huge opportunity, not only for Sabah but globally. Thus, we needed to strengthen our foundation first, which is our capabilities and then from there we can showcase the capability to get the opportunity," he said.

Drawing on his own background of more than 20 years in well intervention services with global firms including Schlumberger and Weatherford, Masnahai said he built Nawi Oilfield Services around a focused product line of through-bore services, an area he described as having no local competitor in Sabah at the first time.

He said the company also deliberately began operations outside Sabah, leaving what he called the comfort zone early so it could demonstrate its capabilities in a more competitive environment before returning to grow its presence in the State.

He attributed the company's growth to three elements, his personal technical expertise, the quality of its products and the training of crew members through internal programmes.

"I give you a Kancil or a BMW, which do you prefer? We put that way," he said, referring to the company's emphasis on service quality over just market entry.

For the record, the SGCE 2026 is organised by Midas Events Management and supported by the State Government and the Sabah Convention Bureau. Daily Express is the media partner - Sherril Jeffrey

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PPH 8/12/2016 (03/1095) Vol. 165 Kota Kinabalu, Saturday, June 27, 2026 RM1.50 Established 1963

Switching from diesel to LNG

Sherril Jeffrey
KOTA KINABALU: Sabah is exploring the expansion of small-scale liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities to supply domestic consumers and industries, reducing the State's dependence on expensive diesel.

"There are plans for expansion, depending on the right price and the right location," he said at the 13th Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition (SGCE 2026).

He said they have already presented this, but the central question is ensuring Sabah and industries could benefit from the State's own gas resources rather than paying a premium for diesel-gas.

He said CKY is working with Petronas on how to bring domestic LNG, addressing



while balancing the commercial cost factors.

He noted that economies of scale remained a challenge, with large LNG facilities potentially offering more competitive pricing for domestic supply. The viability of any expansion would depend on delivering pricing to end-users.

Sabah has long been associated with high electricity costs tied to diesel generation, particularly in rural and remote areas.

The push for domestic LNG stems from part of a broader strategy under the Sabah Energy Roadmap and Masterplan 2026 to reduce the cost of energy for consumers and investors in the State.

Additionally, he said Sabah is redefining its natural gas allocation away from near total dependence on power generation towards industrial use, in a policy that is already drawing foreign investment into the State.

"This change is deliberate and timely, with international companies already responding to the new direction."

"We see companies from overseas coming in, such as Schlumberger and others, with a lot of gas, which we welcomed."

The reallocation also opened pathways for liquefied natural gas exports and downstream petrochemical investment, as he said the State is actively exploring in cooperation with Petronas.

He said Sabah should not become a net importer of gas, but rather a hub for gas processing and distribution.

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13TH SABAH OIL, GAS AND ENERGY CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION (SGCE)

'Don't be just a name in JVs'

Sherril Jeffrey
KOTA KINABALU: Sabah and gas vendors risk being just a name in joint ventures (JVs) if they do not actively engage in the growing number of companies seeking to develop Sabah's oil and gas resources, he said.

He said many were coming simply to secure a licence, but not to invest in the state's resources, he said.

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Demand-driven education key to energy talent

Sisca Humphrey
KOTA KINABALU: Sabah needs more demand-driven education to develop the energy sector, he said.

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10 | Swak eyes Brunei, spare power link
11 | Samsung to unveil record \$600b Korea investment

RM200m Labuan financing initiative

Lorena Binillo
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He said CKY is working with Petronas on how to bring domestic LNG, addressing

while balancing the commercial cost factors.

He noted that economies of scale remained a challenge, with large LNG facilities potentially offering more competitive pricing for domestic supply. The viability of any expansion would depend on delivering pricing to end-users.

Sabah has long been associated with high electricity costs tied to diesel generation, particularly in rural and remote areas.

The push for domestic LNG stems from part of a broader strategy under the Sabah Energy Roadmap and Masterplan 2026 to reduce the cost of energy for consumers and investors in the State.

Additionally, he said Sabah is redefining its natural gas allocation away from near total dependence on power generation towards industrial use, in a policy that is already drawing foreign investment into the State.

"This change is deliberate and timely, with international companies already responding to the new direction."

"We see companies from overseas coming in, such as Schlumberger and others, with a lot of gas, which we welcomed."

The reallocation also opened pathways for liquefied natural gas exports and downstream petrochemical investment, as he said the State is actively exploring in cooperation with Petronas.

He said Sabah should not become a net importer of gas, but rather a hub for gas processing and distribution.

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Media & Press

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Daily Express
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Demand-driven education key to energy talent

Published on: Fri, Jul 03, 2026
By: Sica Humphrey



Azimuddin and Faiz.

MALAYSIA'S education system must move towards a demand-driven model that better reflects industry needs if Sabah is to build the skilled workforce required to support its expanding energy sector, said delegates at the 13th Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference (SOGCE) 2026 here, recently.

In a plenary session, themed Building an Energy-Skilled Sabah: Talent, Tvet, Certification and Workforce Transition, moderated by Semarak Training Founder and Chief Executive Officer Faiz Latip.

The discussion brought together representatives from higher education, TalentCorp Malaysia and the Malaysia Petroleum Resources Corporation (MPRC) to examine how education, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (Tvet), certification and industry collaboration can strengthen Sabah's future workforce.

Leading the education perspective, North Borneo University Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr Azimuddin Bahari, said talent development must remain the foundation of any effort to redesign Malaysia's education system.

"The rapid transformation taking place across the energy industry means universities can no longer develop academic programmes independently without continuous engagement with employers," he said.

Instead, he said, higher education institutions must work alongside industry and government to ensure graduates possess the competencies needed in an increasingly digital and technology-driven economy.

Azimuddin said the New Industrial Master Plan 2030 identifies talent development as one of Malaysia's strategic priorities, making it essential for universities to align their academic offerings with national industrial aspirations.

"Education providers should shift away from a traditional supply-driven model, where programmes are developed based largely on institutional capacity, towards one driven by actual labour market demand.

"The programmes offered by universities must reflect the needs of industry because the ultimate objective is to ensure graduates are employable and able to contribute immediately to the workforce," he said.

He noted that although Malaysia has a large number of higher education institutions, producing graduates alone would not solve industry shortages unless programmes are continuously updated to meet changing workforce requirements.

Azimuddin said stronger collaboration among government, industry and education providers would help reduce the long-standing mismatch between graduate qualifications and employer expectations.

He cited Germany's dual education system as an example of successful collaboration, where students divide their time between classroom learning and structured workplace training.

The model, he said, enables students to acquire practical industry experience while completing their studies, allowing employers to develop graduates with skills directly aligned to workplace requirements.

Azimuddin said similar approaches adopted in several European countries demonstrate the value of integrating academic learning with hands-on industry exposure throughout a student's education.

He also proposed expanding project-based learning, allowing students to participate in industry projects lasting several months to strengthen both technical knowledge and practical problem-solving skills.

Another priority, he said, is the establishment of stronger industry advisory committees to ensure employers play a direct role in shaping university curricula, competency standards and programme reviews.

Such partnerships would allow universities to respond more quickly to technological developments rather than reviewing programmes only after significant changes have already taken place.

Azimuddin emphasised that technical knowledge alone is no longer sufficient, saying employers increasingly seek graduates with communication skills, teamwork, leadership, professionalism and adaptability.

He said these attributes are best developed through closer interaction between universities and industry rather than through classroom instruction alone.

The discussion also highlighted the growing importance of Tvet in supporting Sabah's future energy workforce, particularly as new technologies reshape traditional occupations.

"Tvet institutions and universities should complement rather than compete with one another by providing multiple pathways into high-skilled employment," Azimuddin said.

Looking further upstream, he expressed concern over the country's Stem pipeline, noting that relatively few students continue into science-related streams despite growing demand for engineers, technologists and other highly skilled professionals.

"Building the future workforce cannot begin at university level alone but must start in primary and secondary schools by encouraging greater interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics," he said.

Teachers, he said, play a critical role in making Stem subjects engaging and inspiring students to pursue careers in technical and scientific fields.

Throughout the discussion, Faiz observed that education reform must keep pace with industry transformation, noting that technological change is occurring far more rapidly than in previous decades.

"Closer collaboration between universities, employers and government agencies would ensure academic programmes remain relevant as workforce requirements continue to evolve," he added.

Azimuddin concluded that preparing Sabah's future energy workforce requires sustained cooperation across the entire education ecosystem, from schools and universities to industry and policymakers.

"Developing talent should remain a long-term national commitment if Sabah is to realise its ambition of becoming a leading energy hub while providing meaningful employment opportunities for future generations," he said.

Daily Express
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Robotic piping fabrication tech for Sabah

Published on: Thu, Jul 02, 2026
By: Sherell Jeffrey



Sharki said when TMM secured a project on the Sabah-Sarawak pipeline, PKOG began by handling civil work including foundation work and grass cutting.

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah's very own local oil and gas player, Puncak Kinabalu Oil and Gas Sdn Bhd (PKOG), aims to bring robotic piping fabrication technology to Sabah.

The equipment from China is expected to arrive next year for a robotic fabrication system that will serve the company's fabrication yards, namely, one in Beringgis, three in Sipitang and one in Labuan," said PKOG Chief Executive Officer, Sharki S Hussin.

"Perhaps we will be the only one in Sabah with a robotic system for piping fabrication," he said at the 13th Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition (SOGCE 2026).

The announcement followed the signing of a memorandum of understanding targeting robotic fabrication capabilities during the recent SOGCE 2026, with Sharki saying PKOG's goal is to develop a robotic fabrication shop.

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"Perhaps we will be the only one in Sabah with a robotic system for piping fabrication," he said at the 13th Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition (SOGCE 2026).

The announcement followed the signing of a memorandum of understanding targeting robotic fabrication capabilities during the recent SOGCE 2026, with Sharki saying PKOG's goal is to develop a robotic fabrication shop.

He said PKOG is able to be where it is today thanks to genuine joint ventures (JVs) rather than arrangements designed just to satisfy tender requirements.

The company was born out of a partnership with TMM, which he described as likely Malaysia's biggest pipeline installation and maintenance company.

TMM refers to TMM Engineering Services Sdn Bhd, an established Malaysian mechanical engineering, procurement, construction, and commissioning (EPCC) contractor.

Sharki said when TMM secured a project on the Sabah-Sarawak pipeline, PKOG began by handling civil work including foundation work and grass cutting.

"TMM then helped establish PKOG as a new company and trained us in everything from operations, method statements and repair procedures to governance and licensing, treating PKOG not as a subcontractor but as a genuine partner.

"After five years, TMM stepped back and allowed PKOG to grow independently.

"That is the right way. Because as a Sabah vendor we cannot be a sleeping partner forever. We must become an engineering partner, a project management partner and an execution partner," Sharki said.

He said that if after five years a local vendor still depends on the same partner to obtain work, the vendor development objective has not yet been achieved.

He said PKOG always views JVs as a platform for learning and capability building.

On the government's target for 60 per cent local participation in oil and gas work in Sabah, Sharki said he prefers to see that share spread across many Sabah contractors rather than concentrated in one or two.

He noted that there are currently around 300 participants in the industry, each with their own expertise, but said he does not see many of them moving up to larger projects.

He said good collaboration can change that, citing several collaborative works his company did with other companies.

"If we have a good partnership, I believe we can get and execute even bigger projects," he said.

PKOG needs projects, he said, but does not want to take all projects.

"We deliberately keeps our focus to three areas, namely, gas pipeline installation, mechanical maintenance and fabrication, so that other scopes including valve servicing, civil work and electrical work can go to other local companies.

"The more opportunities given to Sabah vendors and contractors, the stronger Sabah will become. We do not want to be spectators in our own land. We want to be coordinators. We want to be champions in our own land. In other places champions among contractors have already been created, so why not this time for Sabah?" he said.

He called on Sabahan firms with more than 10 years of experience as main contractors to train newer players and said the industry needs to unite.

He said with almost 20 years of experience in the industry, Sabah vendors may simply be lacking confidence rather than capability.

"PKOG currently works with three to four contractors under our contracts and help them across three fronts.

"The three most important things are, we help from the execution side, we help from the equipment side and we help from the financing side. Then we will see more Sabah contractors who are competitive," he said.

He said rather than the industry standard of 30-day payment cycles, PKOG pays its subcontractors every 15 days, allowing them to submit invoices on that cycle and settling payment immediately once all documentation is approved.

"Sabah needs to believe that they are capable of becoming main contractors," Sharki said.

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Ensuring success of Sabah Energy Roadmap at the 13th Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition

Published on: Sat, Jul 04, 2026
By: Sisca Humphrey



KOTA KINABALU: Sabah's long-term energy ambitions under the Sabah Energy Roadmap and Master Plan 2040 (SE-RAMP 2040) will depend on execution discipline, talent development and stronger alignment between government, industry and academia.

The special industry dialogue, titled Government-Industry-Academia Collaboration Roundtable: Aligning Policy, Industry Needs & Talent Pipelines to Accelerate Sabah's Energy Ambitions Toward 2040, was moderated by MMC Oil & Gas Engineering Sdn Bhd CEO Sharifah Zaida Nurlisha Syed Ibrahim.



State Home Affairs and Research Office (Chief Minister's Department) Principal Assistant Secretary Mohd Zaid Yusof said Sabah's policy framework is designed to balance investment facilitation with safeguarding local employment through immigration and labour control mechanisms.

He said the State's approach is grounded in constitutional provisions that prioritise Sabahans in the labour market where suitable local talent is available.

"For as long as there is unemployment, there should not be a work pass issued to anyone, so that is the fundamental of why we are safeguarding these areas," he said during a panel discussion at the 13th Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition (SOGCE), here, recently.

Mohd Zaid said efficiency in inter-agency coordination is essential to avoid delays that can affect investment and project delivery.

He emphasised that administrative speed is a key factor for industry competitiveness, saying "Time is money".

He said Sabah has benchmarked work pass processing at around 14 working days and continues to pursue further improvements through digitalisation and closer collaboration between agencies.

Mohd Zaid also said the State Government is strengthening its workforce development ecosystem through Pomigas (Petroleum, Oil and Gas Information Management and Application System).

Pomigas is an online talent and industry matching platform developed in collaboration with Petronas to build a structured database of skilled Sabahans, connect employers with local talent and align training institutions with industry demand for the oil, gas and energy sectors.

He said the platform is part of wider efforts to improve upskilling and ensure more Sabahans are prepared for technical and professional roles in the sector.



Malaysian Oil, Gas and Energy Services Council (MOGSC) President Zahris Sham Abu Musa said the

success of SE-RAMP 2040 will ultimately depend on consistent execution and strong stakeholder alignment throughout its 15-year implementation period.

"At the end of the day, it all depends on the execution and the alignment of the stakeholders," he said, adding that policy continuity is critical regardless of changes in government.

Zahris said Sabah has the necessary resources and technology to advance its energy agenda, but stressed that implementation gaps and coordination challenges could limit outcomes.

He proposed a model linking work pass approvals to companies' commitments to develop Sabahan talent, where firms would be assessed based on structured programmes to train and promote local workers.



Technological Association of Malaysia President Tunng Chee Kuan said talent remains the most critical enabler of Sabah's energy transformation warning that infrastructure and investment alone are insufficient without a skilled workforce.

"You can have everything, but if your talent is not there, everything is just nothing," he said.

He said future industry needs will require cross-disciplinary capabilities combining engineering, artificial intelligence, digital systems, sustainability, project management and commercial skills, driven by rapid technological change.

Tung said the shift away from traditional silo-based engineering is already underway, making curriculum reform and stronger STEM and TVET participation urgent priorities.



Fragomen Malaysia Director Khalisha Sharifah, speaking from an immigration advisory and workforce mobility perspective, said efficient talent movement is increasingly a key consideration for investors in the energy sector.

She said companies frequently raise concerns over processing times for work passes, particularly for urgent deployment of technical specialists.

While acknowledging Sabah's safeguards to protect local employment, she suggested exploring simplified mechanisms to facilitate mobility for West Malaysians and Sarawakians working in Sabah, alongside protections for Sabah workers.

"We're still Malaysian," she said, highlighting the importance of enabling domestic knowledge transfer and technical collaboration.

Khalisha also proposed a fast-track approval pathway for urgent and critical technical roles, similar to arrangements in other parts of Malaysia where qualifying applications can be processed within three to five working days.

In response, Mohd Zaid said Sabah's immigration safeguards remain anchored in its legal framework, but the State Government is committed to continuous improvement through closer collaboration with industry, academia and federal agencies.

He said initiatives such as Pomigas reflect ongoing efforts to strengthen talent matching, improve workforce planning and reduce inefficiencies, while maintaining regulatory oversight and supporting long-term investment growth.

Mohd Zaid Sabah's approach seeks to balance protection of local employment with the need to remain competitive and attractive to investors in the energy sector.

Daily Express
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Oil and gas still key to energy transition, says Energy Industries Council

Published on: Wed, Jul 01, 2026
By: Samantha Suli



Syed Saggaf said hydrocarbons continue to attract substantial investment, particularly in regions where energy security, liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports and growing domestic demand remain strategic priorities.

KOTA KINABALU: The global energy transition is entering a more pragmatic phase, with oil and gas continuing to play a critical role in meeting rising energy demand while ensuring energy security and affordability, according to Energy Industries Council (EIC) Asia Pacific Regional Director Ts Syed Saggaf Syed Ahmad.

He said the global conversation on decarbonisation has evolved beyond the assumption that renewable energy can rapidly replace conventional fuels.

"Instead, recent global investment trends indicate that countries are increasingly balancing climate ambitions with the need for reliable and affordable energy.

"Oil and gas remain a major part of global energy investment," he said at the Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition (SOGCE).

Syed Saggaf said hydrocarbons continue to attract substantial investment, particularly in regions where energy security, liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports and growing domestic demand remain strategic priorities.

Drawing on EIC's global project database, which tracks more than 17,000 energy projects valued at an estimated US\$17 trillion, he said investment patterns show governments and industry are prioritising practical energy solutions rather than relying on a single technology.

He cited natural gas as one of the clearest examples, describing it as a key transition fuel.

"Gas has become the key bridge fuel," he said, noting that LNG infrastructure, gas-fired power generation and supporting gas networks are expanding as countries seek flexible electricity systems capable of complementing renewable energy.

He stressed that the energy transition should not be viewed as a simple replacement of fossil fuels with renewables.

Instead, he said energy systems that have evolved over decades require equally long-term investment in infrastructure, technology, regulation and financing to ensure a stable transition.

"The challenge before us is not choosing between security, affordability or sustainability. It is finding practical pathways to achieve all three simultaneously while meeting the growing energy needs of our societies," he said.

Syed Saggaf said this balancing act — commonly referred to as the "energy trilemma" — has become increasingly important amid geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions and rising electricity demand driven by industrialisation, electrification and the rapid expansion of data centres.

While renewable energy projects continue to expand globally, he noted that many markets are now constrained not by generation capacity but by ageing transmission infrastructure, insufficient substations and limited grid connectivity.

As a result, investment is increasingly flowing into energy storage, grid modernisation and gas infrastructure to strengthen system reliability.

He also challenged the perception that oil and gas companies risk becoming obsolete during the energy transition, arguing that the industry's engineering expertise, project management capabilities, manufacturing capacity and operational experience position it to become a major contributor to emerging energy sectors, including hydrogen, carbon capture and storage (CCS), renewable energy and energy storage.

"The energy transition should therefore not be viewed as a replacement of one industry by another," he said.

Rather, he described it as an opportunity for oil and gas companies to diversify their portfolios while leveraging decades of technical expertise to accelerate new energy developments.

Looking ahead, Syed Saggaf said the Asia-Pacific region is increasingly shaping the global energy landscape as investment opportunities continue to expand across both conventional and low-carbon energy sectors.

"The future of energy will not be defined by a single fuel, a single technology or a single solution. It will be defined by diversity," he said.

He added that companies embracing multiple energy pathways, rather than focusing exclusively on one technology, will be best positioned to succeed as the region navigates an increasingly complex and competitive energy landscape.

Daily Express
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Invitation to officiate Sabah Oil, Gas & Energy Conference & Exhibition 2026

Published on: Mon, Jun 22, 2026



KOTA KINABALU: Dolly Jimayol, Organising Chairperson of the Sabah Oil, Gas & Energy Conference & Exhibition (SOGCE) 2026, paid a courtesy call on Deputy Chief Minister I and Minister of Works and Utilities, Sabah, Datuk Seri Dr. Joachim Gonsalves, recently to extend an invitation for him to officiate the opening ceremony be held on at the Sabah International Convention Centre (SICC), Kota Kinabalu at June 25 – 26, 2026.

The event will bring policymakers, industry leaders, investors, technology providers, entrepreneurs, academia and future talents under one dynamic platform aimed at shaping Sabah's energy future.

Media & Press

POST SHOW REPORT 2026

Media Coverage

Daily Express
Sabah's first and only daily newspaper

Sabah O&G firms told to strengthen capacity first

Published on: Thu, Jul 02, 2026
By: Shireen Jeffrey



Masnawi, who founded his company in 2019 and has since expanded operations into Indonesia with plans for Saudi Arabia and the Philippines, said the oil and gas sector "demanded knowledge above all else as a first entry requirement, followed by technical competency, commercial acumen and strict adherence to health, safety and environment (HSE) standards."

ESTABLISHED local industry player Masnawi Nawi said Sabah oil and gas vendors must prioritise building competency and facilities before chasing contracts or risk collapsing midway through project delivery.

"To have the opportunity, industry players must have something that they are capable of, if they stand on their capabilities and the technology, then they can find the opportunity," said the Nawi Oilfield Services Sdn Bhd Chief Executive Officer at the 13th Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition.

Masnawi, who founded his company in 2019 and has since expanded operations into Indonesia with plans for Saudi Arabia and the Philippines, said the oil and gas sector demanded knowledge above all else as a first entry requirement, followed by technical competency, commercial acumen and strict adherence to health, safety and environment (HSE) standards.

"To involve in the oil industry, the first thing is knowledge. It is not like a trading business where you just send things without having any technical or HSE support," he said.

He said the lack of proper resources and facilities remained the single biggest procurement barrier for local small and medium enterprises.

"Companies that enter the sector without first securing adequate manpower and equipment often find themselves stranded before they could deliver.

"Participating in any contract without any resources or facilities is like starting in the middle of an empty road," he said.

On the question of whether capability or opportunity should come first, Masnawi said both had to move together but that building capability was the necessary foundation.

He said he started Nawi Oilfield Services from zero with no guaranteed contracts, choosing instead to strengthen the company's product line and technical base before seeking opportunities.

"I believe we chose the right product line. This is a huge opportunity, not only for Sabah but globally. Thus, we needed to strengthen our foundation first, which is our capabilities and then from there we can showcase the capability to get the opportunity," he said.

Drawing on his own background of more than 20 years in well intervention services with global firms including Schlumberger and Weatherford, Masnawi said he built Nawi Oilfield Services around a focused product line of through-tubing services, an area he described as having no local competitor in Sabah at the time.

He said the company also deliberately began operations outside Sabah, leaving what he called the comfort zone early so it could demonstrate its capabilities in a more competitive environment before returning to grow its presence in the State.

He attributed the company's growth to three elements, his personal technical expertise, the quality of its products and the training of crew members through internal programmes.

"I give you a Kancil or a BMW, which one do you prefer? We put it that way," he said, referring to the company's emphasis on service quality over just market entry.

For the record, the SOGCE 2026 is organised by Midas Events Management and supported by the State Government and Sabah Convention Bureau, Daily Express is the media partner.

Daily Express
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'Focus on next generation skills' advice

Published on: Fri, Jul 03, 2026
By: Samantha Sult



Vir Singh concluded by urging all stakeholders to play their part. Governments must build talent pipelines and investor ecosystems, operators must bring new partnership models and capital, and operators must use technology to improve performance.

KOTA KINABALU: The energy industry's future competitiveness will depend not only on attracting investment and adopting artificial intelligence (AI), but also on developing the next generation of skilled workers, said Boston Consulting Group (BCG) Managing Director and Partner Uday Vir Singh.

Speaking at the Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition (SOGCE), Vir Singh said governments, investors and operators must act together to address three interconnected challenges: growth, AI-driven transformation and workforce capability building.

"The future isn't about one of these priorities in isolation. We as a community have actions along all these three dimensions, be it growth, be it AI, be it building capabilities," he emphasised.

Vir Singh warned that years of underinvestment are beginning to affect industry performance and could constrain future growth if not addressed.

"There needs to be heavy investment that needs to come back to growth," he said, citing opportunities across upstream energy, power and gas. However, he argued that traditional approaches will not be enough.

"We need to consider it with new paradigm, partnerships and investor models as we move on," he stressed.

At the same time, he challenged a common perception among executives that artificial intelligence has yet to generate meaningful value.

"I have spoken to a lot of senior leaders and one theme comes back over and over again — that AI is not delivering meaningful value," he said. To illustrate his argument, he pointed to productivity gains achieved by Amazon over the past decade.

He noted that a worker who handled about 175 packages 10 years ago now manages approximately 3,870 packages.

However, he stressed that technology alone is not the differentiator. Drawing on BCG research, Vir Singh said only around 5pc of companies are successfully capturing value from AI at scale, while the remaining 95pc are still struggling to move beyond experimentation.

"The difference lies in how organisations approach transformation. Most companies focus narrowly on technology use cases and products currently available in the market.

"The most successful organisations instead start by imagining how work will be performed a decade from now.

"How will a piece of work be delivered in 2035? How will the world look like in 2035? So working backwards from that and then thinking about what does it take, what changes do I want to make in my business, in my processes, in my organisation, in my capabilities," he explained.

While AI presents significant opportunities, Vir Singh also highlighted what he sees as one of the industry's biggest risks: the erosion of human judgment and expertise.

Using generative AI tools as an example, he noted that experienced professionals can quickly identify incorrect outputs because of decades spent developing technical knowledge and practical judgment.

In this regard, he highlighted that the challenge for companies is ensuring that younger workers continue to develop critical thinking and technical judgment even as AI takes over more routine tasks.

The issue becomes even more urgent when viewed against the industry's workforce needs. Vir Singh said the global energy sector will require an additional 15 million workers over the next decade, while many experienced employees are expected to retire within the next five to 10 years.

"These experienced workers who hold the knowledge and skills in their hands, they are going to walk out in the next five to 10 years," he said. "Who is going to replace them?"

To meet that challenge, he called for greater investment in universities, talent programmes and workforce development initiatives.

"We need to invest in those people through universities, through talent programmes, and make it work," he said.

Vir Singh concluded by urging all stakeholders to play their part. Governments must build talent pipelines and investor ecosystems, investors must bring new partnership models and capital, and operators must use technology to improve performance.

For Sabah and the wider energy industry, he said success will depend on advancing all three priorities simultaneously — growth, AI and capability building.

"That is going to help the energy sector make that step change in performance to be the next frontier, not only for Sabah and Malaysia, but also for the world," he said.

Daily Express
Sabah's first and only daily newspaper

Six deals drive Sabah energy growth

Published on: Sat, Jun 27, 2026
By: Larry Radon, Mohd Amerul Anas



Josephine receives a memento from Dolly with others look on.

KOTA KINABALU: SIX memoranda of understanding (MoUs) were signed during the 13th Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition 2026 (SOGCE 2026), underscoring growing industry collaboration and efforts to strengthen Sabah's oil, gas and energy value chain.

The agreements covered strategic partnerships in well decommissioning, fabrication and engineering procurement capabilities, chemical services, valve management solutions, instrumentation technologies and business development initiatives.

It was witnessed by Deputy Chief Minister I cum Works and Utilities Minister Datuk Seri Dr Joachim Gonsalves.

The first MoU between Tanjung Offshore Services Sdn Bhd and Nawie Oilfield Services to pursue strategic partnership opportunities in well decommissioning projects.

The agreement was signed by Tanjung Offshore Services Chief Executive Officer Azman Yakim and Nawie Oilfield Services Chief Executive Officer Masnawi Nawi, witnessed by Tanjung Offshore Services Chief Operating Officer Alahad A Hussein and Nawie Oilfield Services Chief Financial Officer Mohd Farhan Aslan.

The second involved Puncak Kinabalu Oil & Gas Sdn Bhd and Asia Propel Sdn Bhd, focusing on the development of in-state oil and gas fabrication as well as engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning (EPC) capabilities in Sabah.

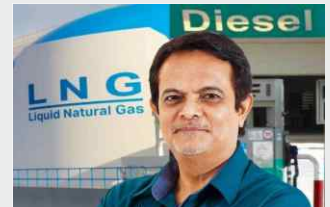
The MoU was signed by Puncak Kinabalu Oil & Gas Managing Director Azlan Mataddin and Asia Propel Managing Director Prakash Naidu, witnessed by Puncak Kinabalu Oil & Gas Chief Executive Officer Sharhi Hussin and Asia Propel Director Zulkaini Mansor.

Another key collaboration saw Clariant Oil Services (M) Sdn Bhd and Samudera Integrated Sdn Bhd formalising a partnership for the provision of integrated chemicals and services under a shared contract arrangement.

Daily Express
Sabah's first and only daily newspaper

Switching from diesel to LNG

Published on: Sat, Jun 27, 2026
By: Shireen Jeffrey



Abdul Nasser said COG is working with Putranas on how to leverage domestic LNG utilisation while balancing the commercial case for exports.

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah is exploring the expansion of small-scale Liquefied Natural Gas facilities to supply domestic consumers and industries, reducing the State's dependence on expensive diesel.

The agreement was signed by Clariant Oil Services General Manager Amran Abdul Hamid and Samudera Integrated Director Muhammad Taufiq Masmud, witnessed by Clariant Oil Services Area Manager Karles Gusting.

In the fourth signing, Cakrawala Engineering Services Sdn Bhd entered into a strategic partnership with Score to enhance total valve management solutions by combining global expertise with local industry presence.

The agreement was signed by Cakrawala Engineering Services Operations and Services Manager Zulfirdaus Aadan and Score Director Daniel Tait, witnessed by Cakrawala Engineering Services Commercial and Financial Manager Hilmi Hamir and Score Asia Sales Manager Mohd Khairi.

Cakrawala Engineering Services also signed a separate agreement with Vega aimed at expanding level and pressure instrumentation solutions across Malaysia.

The MoU was signed by Zulfirdaus on behalf of Cakrawala Engineering Services and Mohd Shah Ridzwan representing Vega, witnessed by Hilmi Hamir and Vega Business Development Manager Ameer Hafeez.

The sixth and final agreement involved financial technology company MoneySave and the Labuan Chamber of Commerce, reflecting efforts to strengthen business collaboration and support commercial development initiatives.

The agreement was signed by MoneySave Chief Executive Officer Vincent Soh and Labuan Chamber of Commerce President Daniel Daughy, witnessed by Labuan Corporation Deputy Chairman Simsin Sidek and Labuan Chamber of Commerce Treasurer Erich Nicholas.

The six agreements highlighted the growing momentum within Sabah's energy industry and reflected the conference's role as a platform for forging partnerships, expanding business opportunities and advancing industry capabilities.

SOGCE 2026 brings together policymakers, investors, industry leaders and technology providers from across the region to discuss key issues including energy security, digital transformation, decarbonisation, renewable energy integration, investment opportunities and talent development.

The MoU exchanges are expected to contribute towards strengthening local participation in the oil and gas sector while supporting Sabah's aspirations to develop a more competitive, resilient and sustainable energy ecosystem.

Media & Press

Media Coverage

Daily Express
Newspaper (1911-2011) (1911-2011)

Sabah firm leads way in complex work

Published on: Sun, Jun 28, 2026
By: Shereef Jeffrey



Shereef S Hussin, CEO of Puncak Kinabalu.

SABAHAN oil and gas companies are growing beyond the State's borders, crediting the Sabah Government's policy to raise local vendor participation to 60 per cent, while calling for stronger implementation to build capable Sabah champions.

"The policy is quite reasonable for Sabahans and every Sabahan should take this opportunity," said Nawie Oilfield Services Chief Executive Officer Masnahwi Nawie.

"Sabahan players must not take it for granted and must not just be agents," he added. Masnahwi was among Sabahan companies met at the 13th Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition held at the Sabah International Convention Centre, which featured 90 exhibiting companies from across Malaysia, Singapore, India and China.

The event is organised by Midas Events Management and supported by the Sabah Government and the Sabah Convention Bureau. Daily Express is the media partner.

Masnahwi said the core challenge is a lack of exposure among Sabahans to the oil and gas industry.

He said his company, also known as NOS, was established in Kota Kinabalu in 2019 and operates in through-tubing well intervention, a complex upstream discipline in which it is the first and only Sabah-based firm and the first such company in Malaysia.

Having built a track record first in Peninsular Malaysia before returning to Sabah, NOS has since secured contracts in Indonesia and is pursuing work in the Philippines and Saudi Arabia.

Masnahwi said the proliferation of civil and downstream contractors in Sabah had led to unhealthy competition and the Alibaba practice of fronting, and urged Sabahan firms to move into more complex operations.

"Oil and gas is a very big division. Our players must be creative and understand what division they are capable of," he said.

Another Sabahan owned-company, Puncak Kinabalu Oil and Gas Sdn Bhd Chief Executive Officer Sharki S Hussin welcomed the 60pc policy but said implementation remained the critical test.

"The policy on paper is great, but we have not yet seen whether the 60pc will become a reality," he said.

"What we are looking for is for the Sabah Government to create capable Sabah champions who lead projects, not just participate in them," he added.

Shariki said the Vendor Development Programme had so far benefited mostly small-service contractors in Sabah and called for policy that would position capable Sabahan firms at the helm of large-scale projects. He said Puncak Kinabalu, founded in 2018, had grown from a small gas pipeline maintenance outfit into a company with four fabrication facilities in Beringgis, Sipitang and Labuan, a workforce of 200 and maintenance contracts including the Kimanis Power Plant.

"We started very small but we believed that with our joint-venture partners, we could be competitive," he said.

Another Sabahan company, Cakrawala Engineering Services Sdn Bhd Managing Director Suzie Rosse said the policy opened a bright path for Sabah's young workforce.

"The policy is giving us very good benefits, especially for local Sabahans who have just ventured into oil and gas, and especially for the youngsters," she said.

Suzie called for upskilling of local talent through TVET and practical training, noting that many engineering graduates were leaving for Peninsular Malaysia or Sarawak due to the small size of Sabah's oil and gas industry.

Suzie said Cakrawala, established in 2013, provides maintenance, servicing and instrumentation work including valve servicing, plate heat exchangers and tank cleaning for large industries, with all staff being Sabahans.

The company is also developing a new training and competency development product, including HRDC-claimable Non-Destructive Testing courses, for clients such as Petronas and Shell.

Another Sabahan company, Standard Marine Agencies Sdn Bhd Manager Brian Chow said the policy had translated directly into more tendering opportunities for his company.

"I think it provides us a very good opportunity to compete and participate in tenders. All this while we did not have much opportunity, but now we have been getting quite a few oil and gas logistics contracts," he said.

Brian said Standard Marine, established in 1982, provides total logistics solutions covering warehousing, customs declaration, shipping agency, crew change, crew movement, air freight and sea freight across seven branches in East Malaysia, including Sandakan, Tawau, Lahad Datu, Labuan, Bintulu, Kuching and Kota Kinabalu, with a total group workforce of 250.

For the record, the Sabah Government has set a target to increase local participation in oil and gas service and equipment contracts to at least 60pc by 2026, up from the current 40 per cent.

Sabahan companies currently holds a record 38pc share of oil and gas contracts in the State last year, representing 1,358 active contracts.

Daily Express
Newspaper (1911-2011) (1911-2011)

Total eyes Sabah for renewable expansion

Published on: Sun, Jun 28, 2026
By: Shereef Jeffrey



TotalEnergies EP Malaysia Managing Director cum Country Chair Jerome Saniez speaking at the Country Chair event.

KOTA KINABALU: French multinational integrated energy and petroleum company, TotalEnergies, is targeting Sabah as a key market for renewable energy expansion as its first Malaysian solar project, a 50-megawatt facility in Peninsular Malaysia, gets under way.

TotalEnergies EP Malaysia Managing Director cum Country Chair Jerome Saniez said the company sees Sabah as having the right conditions to support its ambition to develop one gigawatt of renewable energy across Malaysia.

"Our first project is starting now in peninsula, this first baby step of 50 megawatt solar that is benefiting from a regulatory environment that is favourable for us as a player and I think Sabah has what it takes," he said at the 13th Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition's (SOGCE) Executive Plenary Session held at the Sabah International Convention Centre.

The event is organised by Midas Events Management and supported by the State Government and Sabah Convention Bureau. Daily Express is the media partner. Jerome said Sabah has the four prerequisites for any successful renewable energy project, namely, land with adequate resources, proximity and quality of the power grid, a supportive regulatory environment and a committed client or off taker.

He said TotalEnergies is pursuing a business-to-business (B2B) model in Sabah and across Malaysia rather than relying solely on selling electricity to grid operators.

"We need to be able to work in B2B with industries," he said, adding that battery energy storage systems could help deliver secure, affordable and clean power directly to industrial clients.

On land availability, Jerome said concerns over Sabah's land sensitivity could be addressed creatively, citing the example of ageing palm oil plantations.

He noted that solar installations on land due for crop rotation after 20 to 25 years could generate comparable revenues for landowners through leasing arrangements.

Beyond renewables, Jerome said TotalEnergies is committed to oil and gas exploration in Sabah, where the company has operated for 55 years.

He said the company will invest RM800 million this year in deep water exploration, with two high-impact wells currently being drilled in offshore Sabah waters in partnership with Carigali.

He credited the collaborative ecosystem between Petronas, the Sabah Government and the relevant authorities for making Sabah an attractive destination for continued investment.

"When we restarted this journey and dialogue with Petronas upstream arm Malaysia Petroleum Management and the different authorities in Sabah including the Energy Commission, we see that the ecosystem is very communicative, very open, because people are in the mindset of collaboration," Jerome said.

He also highlighted the growing case for valorising gas from deep water oil developments rather than reinjecting it into reservoirs, describing the expanding gas demand network in Sabah as a compelling argument for headquarters investment approval.

"Now I have a very good story to tell, because I am telling them there is a network, there is a gas demand, there is an industry that is existing and also flourishing and developing," he said.

He said TotalEnergies is globally one of the few major oil companies to have built significant and profitable positions in both fossil fuels and power, with 40 gigawatts of installed renewable capacity today and a target of 100 gigawatts by 2030, two-thirds from solar and one-third from wind.

He called on the industry to treat oil and gas and renewable energy as complementary rather than competing

"We are all in the same boat, we need to collaborate. We are looking at more energy that is accessible, that is affordable and clean," he said.

"Oil and gas, renewable energy, they are complementary. They are key to Sabah's success and growth," he added.

Additionally, he said efforts are needed to bring Sabah's small and emerging local contractors into the oil and gas industry.

"The guy is capable, let's do something, let's work with this company to make it work," Jerome said, recounting how he overruled his own procurement team's reservations about a financially thin contractor.

"You need to exit this circle of: 'I don't give you the job because you have never had a job'. If this circle continues, it will never end."

He pointed to a joint initiative by the Malaysia Petroleum Resources Corporation and the United Nations Global Compact, backed by Petronas, that works with banks to issue guarantees for emerging contractors that lack the track record or financial size typically required.

Jerome said TotalEnergies is willing to serve as a reputable backer in such arrangements.

"Financial support with some guarantees with a big name behind, TotalEnergies can be the big name," he said.

He said industry forums such as the SOGCE play an equally important role by connecting Sabah's SMEs with larger operators and giving smaller firms a way into bigger projects at the ground level, where they can build experience and exposure over time, Jerome also highlighted the overlap in technical skills between Sabah's oil and gas and electricity sectors as an advantage the State should harness.

He said engineers working across both industries share transferable competencies, with grid management skills on land not unlike those needed on an offshore platform.

"If we have more SMEs, more contractors, it means more competition, more competitiveness, more options," he said.

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SMEs lack structured platforms to showcase capabilities

Published on: Sat, Jul 04, 2026
By: Crystal E Hemmergus



According to Izwani, such competitions would provide a fair benchmarking among industry players while giving SMEs an opportunity to prove their capabilities to potential clients.

KOTA KINABALU: More industry-led AI competitions and hackathons using real operational data should be organised to help Malaysian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) demonstrate their capabilities and compete in the oil and gas sector, said Vice President of Malaysian Business Council UAE, Izwani Adnan.

Speaking during the "Driving Energy Innovation Through Technology" session at the Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition (SOGCE), Izwani said Malaysia has the technical talent to compete internationally but lacks structured platforms that allow SMEs to showcase their expertise.

He proposed that future technical exhibitions incorporate AI hackathons where operators and production sharing contractors (PSCs) provide real industry datasets for participants to develop artificial intelligence solutions.

"Technical exhibitions can organise AI hackathons by inviting operators and PSC contractors to provide real data and open the competition to SMEs, contractors and academic institutions, not only from Malaysia but globally," he said.

According to Izwani, such competitions would provide a fair benchmarking among industry players while giving SMEs an opportunity to prove their capabilities to potential clients.

He cited an international AI competition organised by Dragon Oil during the Gas and Oil Technology Conference last year, where participants were tasked with predicting oil, gas, water production and pressure using a subset of offshore operational data.

Izwani said a Malaysian university, Asia Pacific University (APU), won the competition after achieving an 88 per cent prediction accuracy, outperforming several multinational companies that recorded between 45 and 55 per cent accuracy.

"The learning point is that, from a Malaysian perspective, we are actually quite capable. Starting from the SME perspective, we can exhibit and demonstrate our capabilities," he said.

He added that greater collaboration between operators, professional bodies and industry organisations is needed to create more opportunities for SMEs to access real industrial data and validate their AI solutions before commercial deployment.

Izwani also noted that participation by Malaysian companies and academic institutions in international AI competitions has grown steadily, reflecting increasing interest in applying artificial intelligence within the energy sector.

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Opportunity, not capability, holds Sabah back

Published on: Mon, Jun 29, 2026
By: Sherrill Jeffery



The group of local say the slope inspection work is a Sabahan lady. The civil engineers are all Sabahan. The only non-Sabahan is the project manager from Sarawak, Omar said.

KOTA KINABALU: Sabahan oil and gas vendors are not lacking in capability but have been consistently denied the scale of work needed to prove themselves, according to industry veteran, Omar Suhaimi Abu Hassan.

The 40-year oil and gas veteran including 25 years with Petronas, told the 13th Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition (SOGCE) that the problem was structural, not personal.

"The capability is always there, but if you are not given the opportunity, it is like a talent contest. You have your talent but there is no contest for you to show what you can do. You cannot just sing in the bathroom by yourself," said Omar, who is currently Unsur Hebat Sdn Bhd Business Advisor.

He pointed to more than 300 licensed oil and gas companies now operating in Sabah, with between 110 and 115 of them members of SOGSC, as evidence that local talent exists.

He said around 20 to 25 of those companies were already active in the field.

He cited the Sabah-Sarawak Gas Pipeline as a concrete example of what Sabahans could deliver when given the chance. Between 2018 and 2022, an engineering consultancy he worked alongside deployed locally trained inspectors of works across the full 512-kilometre Sabah portion of the pipeline.

"The geologist heading the slope inspection work is a Sabahan lady. The civil engineers are all Sabahan. The only non-Sabahan is the project manager from Selangor," Omar said.

He said the company had trained between 30 and 40 people through the project, each of whom could now walk into any pipeline inspection role with four years of documented experience behind them.

He said the key condition for that outcome was a partner willing to invest in local talent rather than bringing in workers from elsewhere in Malaysia.

"It must work both ways. Your partner who comes from outside of Sabah must be willing to give you the chance to prove yourself," he said.

Additionally, he said the procurement system is creating barriers for new Sabah oil and gas entrants.

Thick tendering documents, demanding compliance requirements and track record clauses that newly licensed companies cannot possibly meet are blocking Sabahan vendors from competing fairly in oil and gas procurement, he said.

He said procurement policies, while necessary, were being applied in ways that disadvantaged companies new to the industry.

"The tender document will be very thick. The Know Your Counterparty document alone can run up to 140 pages. If you are not conversant in those areas, you spend your time not submitting your actual technical proposal but answering compliance questions," he said.

He said companies were also required to demonstrate years of Malaysian track records for work they had only recently become licensed to perform.

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Sabah vendors need more opportunities to build track record

Published on: Wed, Jul 01, 2026
By: Sherrill Jeffery



Shariki was among the speakers invited to discuss local vendor empowerment and strengthening Sabah's energy supply chain during the conference, organised by Midas Events Management with the support of the State Government and the Sabah Convention Bureau. Daily Express is the event's media partner.

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah oil and gas vendors are being held back not by a lack of capability, but by limited opportunities to build the track record and experience needed to lead projects rather than merely execute them, according to Puncak Kinabalu Oil and Gas Sdn Bhd (PKOG) Chief Executive Officer Shariki S Hussin.

"The real issue is not who can do the job but who is given the opportunity to prove they can do the job," he said at the 13th Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition.

"Sabah vendors have a qualified workforce, commitment and experience. Many have been involved in major oil and gas projects for years," he added.

Shariki was among the speakers invited to discuss local vendor empowerment and strengthening Sabah's energy supply chain during the conference, organised

by Midas Events Management with the support of the State Government and the Sabah Convention Bureau. Daily Express is the event's media partner.

Drawing on his two decades of industry experience, Shariki said Sabah does not lack talent or determination. What local companies need, he said, is greater exposure to larger and more complex projects.

"What is missing is not capability but the opportunity that builds experience as project leaders, not just project executors," he said.

He said PKOG itself demonstrates that when given the opportunity, a Sabah company can develop expertise in gas pipeline installation, maintenance and project execution, enabling it to compete alongside established industry players.

According to Shariki, the gap between Sabah companies and those from Peninsular Malaysia or Sarawak is not due to capability.

"Peninsular companies were simply given opportunities earlier to build their track records, networks and financial strength," he said, adding that Sabah vendors are becoming increasingly competitive.

He said the key factor separating companies that consistently secure contracts from those that do not is not pricing or company size, but credibility, proven performance and client confidence.

"The problem is that track record cannot be built without opportunity. Even though we have the expertise if we are not given the opportunity, we cannot build clients' confidence," he said.

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Sabah Electricity pursuing grid automation, digitalisation to improve reliability

Published on: Sun, Jun 28, 2026
By: Sherrill Jeffery



Sabah's Chief Executive Officer Datuk Mohd Yaakob Jaafar.

SABAH Electricity is pursuing grid automation and digitalisation, including self-healing capabilities to shorten outage restoration times and improve power balancing.

"We are committed to building a modern, reliable and resilient power system that will support Sabah's economic growth while supporting the energy transition," said its Chief Executive Officer Datuk Mohd Yaakob Jaafar.

He said this at the 13th Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition's Executive Plenary Session held at the Sabah International Convention Centre.

The event was organised by Midas Events Management and supported by the State Government and Sabah Convention Bureau. Daily Express is the media partner.

Mohd Yaakob said Sabah Electricity's grid currently covers between 95 and 96 per cent of Sabah, with only a few pockets of rural areas yet to be connected.

"The primary challenge is delivering power at the most affordable cost across Sabah's dispersed geography," he said, noting that infrastructure investment throughout the State's vast and scattered geography was neither simple nor cheap.

"Improving power quality for industrial areas is also a priority as we upgrade our systems from conventional operating designs to smarter, modern infrastructure," he added.

On renewable energy integration, he acknowledged that variable renewable energy sources such as solar

Shariki said PKOG has been operating in the oil and gas industry for almost a decade, spending its first five to six years working solely as a subcontractor before progressing to become a main contractor.

He said the company invested heavily in fabrication yards, equipment, systems, licences, competency development and workforce training before earning the confidence of clients through consistent performance and delivery.

He believes many Sabah vendors possess similar capabilities but require opportunities to demonstrate them.

"Every tender requirement lists experience as a criterion, but how can a Sabah contractor gain that experience if they have never been given a platform to perform?" he said.

Shariki welcomed recent licensing achievements by Sabah vendors, including contractors that have secured licences for offshore gas pipeline installation and downstream gas activities.

He said more local contractors should be encouraged to obtain similar capabilities and licences, pointing to PKOG as an example of how a Sabah company can grow when provided with the right opportunities.

"Capability comes from opportunity and experience," he said, calling for more strategic projects to be entrusted to Sabah vendors to accelerate the development of local industry capabilities.

presented intermittency challenges requiring backup systems such as energy storage to stabilise supply.

"Renewable energy in Sabah is currently not cheap and affordability remains a key consideration alongside reliability," he said, pointing out the challenge to the State's ambition of deriving 80 per cent of its power from renewable energy by 2050.

He said the cost of doing business in Sabah for renewable energy is about 20 per cent higher than in Peninsular Malaysia, with factors including logistics, labour and the distance between a proposed plant site and the nearest substation all influencing the price bidders offered under the open market process run by the Energy Commission of Sabah. He said hydropower often seen as a longer-term renewable option for Sabah, currently could not compete on cost with gas-fired plants, given the large land requirements, complex engineering and the scale of investment needed relative to Sabah's geography.

"Variable renewable energy sources such as solar also require backup storage to manage intermittency, adding further cost to the system.

"I hope that by 2050, construction costs for complex renewable technologies including hydro would fall enough to allow Sabah Electricity to maintain affordable tariffs for the people of Sabah while meeting the State's clean energy targets," he said.

On developing local talent and contractors in the power sector, he said Sabahan companies and technical workers should not limit themselves to projects within the State alone.

"They must be willing to go out of Sabah so that they can maintain their skills, knowledge and the technology adapting into the construction of the power sector," he said.

He said staying only within Sabah will not allow such companies to grow into national or international players capable of serving the State's long-term development needs.

"If they only become a player in Sabah and remain in Sabah, I do not think we can grow further," he said, adding that contractors who ventured beyond Sabah stood a better chance of growing into national or international players capable of bringing advanced skills and experience back to serve the State.

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Sabah targets 50-50 energy mix between renewables and fossil fuels

Published on: Sun, Jun 28, 2026
By: Shereil Jeffery



Energy Commission of Sabah (ECoS) Chief Executive Officer Datuk Abdul Nasser Abdul Wahid

SABAH is targeting a 50-50 split between renewable energy and fossil fuels while reshaping how its natural gas is used, said Energy Commission of Sabah (ECoS) Chief Executive Officer Datuk Abdul Nasser Abdul Wahid.

The focus we are looking at now is energy self-reliance. We need to be relying on our local resource rather than depending on others," he said at the 13th Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition's Executive Plenary Session held at the Sabah International Convention Centre.

Sabah's current peak demand of 1,200 megawatts, projected to nearly triple to 3,000 megawatts within a decade, works in the State's favour, he said, making the renewable target more achievable than it might appear.

"Any moderate-size renewable, for example a solar plant of 100 megawatts, can turn the needle. Achieving 50 per cent is not impossible, but the most challenging part will be sustaining it for the years to come and making sure it is affordable," he said.

Wind energy at utility scale is available along the northern coast, geothermal potential lies on the southeastern side, and solar and hydropower round out the mix, assets he said is unique to Sabah.

The long-criticised reliance on costly diesel generation is already being wound down, he said, with new gas power plants and renewables brought in as replacements. Gas, however, will not be phased out. It is being reconfigured.

"People always relate Sabah to expensive diesel power plants. There is an interim in nature because we still have to rely on them for a couple of years, but we have the plan already in motion," he said.

He said under the new gas policy, new plants will operate as peaking rather than base-load facilities, consuming roughly one-third of what previous plants used.

"The freed-up supply is being redirected toward industrial development, petrochemical use and potential exports," he said.

"The new policy has shifted from being almost fully dependent on gas for power into balancing it with industrial requirements."

On micro-LNG, he said there is an existing small-scale plant in Kota Kinabalu processing two million standard cubic feet per day with room to expand subject to pricing and logistics.

"There should also be some allocation for domestic use to fuel Sabah rather than depending on more expensive means like diesel," he said, pointing out that domestic utilisation must not be overlooked.

For more capital-intensive projects such as hydropower and geothermal, he said the government must lead the de-risking process.

He said ECoS completed a Sabah Hydro Development Masterplan at the end of 2024 to identify viable sites and reduce investor uncertainty.

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Why Sabah oil and gas vendors at a disadvantage

Published on: Tue, Jun 30, 2026
By: Shereil Jeffery



Omar traced his own first involvement in Sabah back to 1986, when Petronas Carigali took over the Tembungo offshore oil field from Exxon, at a time when production stood at around 6,000 to 7,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day.

KOTA KINABALU: Oil and gas industry veteran Omar Suhaimi Abu Hassan said Sabah's late entry into oil and gas development left local vendors decades behind their counterparts in Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia.

The Unsur Hebat Sdn Bhd business advisor and former Petronas official told the 13th Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition at the Sabah International Convention Centre that the historical sequence of oil and gas development in Malaysia had simply not favoured Sabah.

"It is so unfortunate that Sabah was left behind for many years. The earliest development was in Sarawak, even before Terengganu. That is why a lot of Sarawak companies were developed early. People from Sabah had to go and work in Sarawak," he said.

He said Petronas Carigali's development of the Duyong gas field in the late 1970s had given Terengganu and Peninsular Malaysia a head start, with vendor development programmes running for decades before Sabah saw comparable upstream activity.

Omar traced his own first involvement in Sabah back to 1986, when Petronas Carigali took over the Tembungo offshore oil field from Exxon, at a time when production stood at around 6,000 to 7,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day.

"Feasibility studies has to be thorough and conducted by credible consultants from the outset. If you mess up on that, it will be very detrimental at the end of the day and the project might not be viable," he said.

Local participation is non-negotiable under ECOS contracts, he added, with requirements covering both employment and equity.

He said State government-linked companies must take part in energy contracts, and gas contractors seeking an ECOS licence must meet minimum Sabahan employee thresholds.

"We are not putting this in place to burden people, but in a way that is possible to do so. At the end of the day, we want to make sure all energy projects bring benefits to Sabah and her people," he said.

He said ECOS also runs training programmes under the Technical and Vocational Education and Training framework to develop skilled local workforce across the gas and electricity sectors.

On tariffs, Abdul Nasser said affordability is a regulatory floor, not an aspiration.

"Rest assured that we have a target tariff which is affordable for Sabah and we make sure whatever projects will translate into that target tariff," he said.

The conference is organised by Midas Events Management and supported by the State Government and Sabah Convention Bureau. Daily Express is the media partner.

He said Peninsula companies benefiting from early vendor development programmes such as the Vendor Development Programme (VDP) and Vendor Development Programme Extension (VDPE) over the past two to three decades had built the track records and financial strength that Sabahan firms are now expected to match.

"It is not that Sabahan vendors are not capable. It is that they started later," he said.

Omar said the picture was beginning to change, pointing to the Sabah-first policy requiring oil companies to offer tenders to Sabah-registered Standardised Work and Equipment Categories (SWEC) holders before opening bidding to outsiders.

He also cited the forthcoming Malaysia Bid Round, expected before the end of the year, which would put new Sabah offshore blocks up for award.

"When you have upstream, the rest of the value chain will follow. You will have midstream, refining, pipelines, processing and downstream. Once development comes to Sabah, Sabah will have its own petrochemical industry," he said.

He said he was confident that within 10 to 15 years, Sabah's oil and gas ecosystem could reach a level comparable to Sarawak and Terengganu, provided local vendors positioned themselves in emerging areas rather than crowding into established service categories.

"Do not go into the red ocean where everyone is already competing and cutting each other to win a contract. Go into the blue ocean."

"Find something the Sabah vendor can be first in providing," he said, pointing to artificial intelligence, digitalisation and remote operations as areas with few local competitors.

Additionally, he said four elements determine whether joint ventures (JVs) genuinely empower Sabah oil and gas companies.

JVs between Sabahan oil and gas companies and outside partners must be built on four clear pillars to ensure genuine capability transfer rather than arrangements designed simply to access local contracts, he said.

He said many so-called partnerships fell short because terms were left vague or obligations went unspecified.

"A JV is just a contract between two partners. If you cannot agree on certain things, the contract will not work," he said.

He said the first element was a clear technical agreement defining what each party would do, with a commitment from the stronger partner to help bridge any capability gaps.

The second was agreement on the scale and division of work, noting that a minority share in the right scope could sometimes deliver more value than a dominant share in the wrong one.

The third element was access to capital, which he said was often where partnerships broke down. He said JV partners needed to agree in advance on how start-up costs and project financing would be handled, whether one party would support the other or both would seek external funding.

"You cannot start a contract from zero without anything in your pocket," he said.

The fourth element was talent development, which he described as a core obligation of the more experienced partner in any genuine empowerment arrangement.

"In a JV, if you are the lesser party, you would expect your partner who has more experience to do certain talent development, either on-the-job training or sending people together to have the necessary technical capabilities," he said.

Omar drew a clear distinction between meaningful JVs and memoranda of understanding (MoUs), which he said too often ended as signing ceremonies with no follow-through.

He said a substantive collaboration agreement with clearly defined obligations for both parties was the minimum standard for an arrangement that could be taken seriously.

He also cautioned against confusing agency agreements with JVs, saying a company appointed as an exclusive agent for a principal was an entirely different arrangement.

"A JV is like a marriage. You are going to venture together over a period of time. Normally it is longer than three years," he said.

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Oil, gas and energy services and equipment deals now over RM2 billion

Published on: Wed, Jul 01, 2026



Thomas said the success of Sabah companies in securing offshore contracts reflected the confidence of industry operators in Sabah's capabilities.

KOTA KINABALU: The value of oil, gas and energy services and equipment (OGSE) contracts awarded to Sabah-based companies has surged from RM341 million in 2021 to more than RM2 billion annually by the end of 2025, the Sabah Oil and Gas Services Council (SOGSC) said.

The growth was attributed to local content initiatives under the Commercial Collaboration Agreement (CCA) signed between the Sabah Government and Petronas in December 2021, which established the dedicated Sub-Committee 4 on OGSE to develop a competitive local business ecosystem.

"The number of active Sabah-based OGSE contractors also increased from 263 to 475 over the same period, while total active contracts rose by 275 per cent, from 133 to 499," SOGSC said in a statement following the inaugural Oil and Gas Services and Equipment Conference and Exhibition Sabah 2026 (OGSE Sabah 2026), held from June 4 to 6 at the Sabah International Convention Centre.

Sabah is now targeting at least 60 per cent local contract holdship by 2026, up from nearly 40 per cent previously, supported by an estimated RM2.7 billion worth of long-term maintenance, construction and modification projects.

Local companies have secured medium- to high-complexity contracts, including Production Support Vessel services for deepwater drilling, gas turbine maintenance and offshore Hook-Up and Commissioning works.

On workforce development, SOGSC said the State is working towards achieving a fully Sabahan workforce for corporate and non-technical support roles, and at least 80 per cent Sabahan participation in technical and engineering positions.

Organising Committee Chairman Datuk Thomas Loggijin said the success of Sabah companies in securing offshore contracts reflected the confidence of industry operators in local capabilities.

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He stressed that vendors must continue to meet international standards in safety, quality, cost, scheduling and technical performance.

Deputy Chief Minister III and Industrial Development, Entrepreneurship and Transport Minister Datuk Ewon Benedick, in his closing address, unveiled the Sabah OGSE Five-Year Roadmap (2026–2030), which will be tabled to the State Cabinet for endorsement.

The roadmap is built on five strategic pillars aimed at moving local companies into higher-value technical fields such as deepwater drilling support and advanced engineering fabrication, aligning TVET institutions and universities with offshore industry certification and digital skills requirements, providing dedicated grants and bridging loans for local entrepreneurs, and strengthening local content implementation through compliance mechanisms to ensure economic benefits remain within Sabah.

SOGSC Advisor Datuk Willie Ng said the strong turnout at the conference reflected the growing momentum of Sabah's energy sector.

"With the CCA and the 2026–2030 OGSE Roadmap, we are not just generating revenue—we are securing lasting ownership of our industry, ensuring its wealth, talent and leadership remain with Sabahans for generations," he said.

The event, jointly organised by the Ministry, SOGSC and the Sabah Bumiputera Petroleum Contractors Association (PKPBS) with the support of SMJ Energy, attracted more than 5,000 visitors and 200 exhibitors, including secondary school and university students.

Daily Express

Energy key economic driver

Published on: Sat, Jun 27, 2026
By: Larry Rajon Mohd Anwar Arida



Dr Joachim (sixth left) and Sogse Organising Chairperson Dolly Jimenez (seventh left) with the invited guests, delegates and exhibitors after officiating at the opening of Sogse 2026.

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah must continue embracing innovation, technological advancement and strategic partnerships to strengthen its position within Malaysia's energy future while ensuring sustainable economic growth, said Deputy Chief Minister I Datuk Seri Dr Joachim Gunsalam.

According to him, the global energy sector was undergoing unprecedented transformation driven by rising energy demand, rapid technological advancement shifting market dynamics, geopolitical developments and increasing environmental considerations.

He said these developments were reshaping the way nations produce, distribute and consume energy, while making energy security more important than ever.

"Reliable and affordable energy remains fundamental to economic growth, industrial development and societal wellbeing," he said when officiating at the opening of the 13th Sabah Oil, Gas & Energy Conference & Exhibition 2026 (Sogse 2026) at Sabah International Convention Centre (SICC) here Thursday.

Dr Joachim, who is also Works and Utilities Minister, said that while the evolving energy landscape presents significant challenges, it also offers Sabah a unique opportunity to strengthen its role as a key contributor to Malaysia's energy future while creating greater economic value for its people.

"Sabah is blessed with abundant natural resources, a strategic geographical location and growing industrial

Daily Express

Alternative oil and gas financing urged

Published on: Wed, Jul 08, 2026
By: Samantha Sult



MoneySave founder and Chief Executive Officer Vincent Soh said Malaysia's P2P financing industry is regulated by the Securities Commission Malaysia and has matured significantly since its inception. Today, more than 20 licensed platforms have collectively facilitated over RM11 billion in financing for more than 17,000 SMEs across the nation.

KOTA KINABALU: As Sabah positions itself as a regional hub for oil and gas, access to alternative financing will be crucial in enabling local businesses to participate in the State's growing industrial ecosystem, said MoneySave founder and Chief Executive Officer Vincent Soh.

He explained that peer-to-peer (P2P) financing has evolved into an important complement to conventional banking, particularly for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) serving the oil and gas supply chain.

"P2P can fill the gaps that a conventional banking ecosystem can't support enough," he said during the Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition, recently.

Vincent said Malaysia's P2P financing industry is regulated by the Securities Commission Malaysia and has matured significantly since its inception. Today, more than 20 licensed platforms have collectively facilitated over RM11 billion in financing for more than 17,000 SMEs across the nation.

He highlighted that MoneySave specialises in financing businesses within the oil and gas and semiconductor supply chains, providing financing ranging from RM500,000 to RM35 million.

capabilities. Our oil and gas resources continue to play a significant role in supporting economic development and attracting investment.

"At the same time, we are also exploring new opportunities in renewable energy and sustainable technologies that will contribute towards a more diversified and resilient energy ecosystem," he said.

Dr Joachim said the energy sector would remain one of the key drivers of economic growth, industrial expansion and job creation under the Hala Tuju Sabah Maju Jaya (SMJ) development agenda.

He reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to creating an environment that supports sustainable investment, business growth and industry competitiveness through strong infrastructure, efficient governance, skilled human capital and strategic partnerships.

According to Dr Joachim, the future of energy will be shaped not only by natural resources but also by innovation.

He said artificial intelligence (AI), automation, digitalisation, advanced analytics and emerging technologies are transforming the way the energy industry operates by improving efficiency, enhancing safety, reducing environmental impact and creating new opportunities across the value chain.

"The ability to adopt and leverage these technologies will determine the competitiveness of industries and economies in the years ahead.

"Sabah must therefore continue embracing innovation and technological advancement while creating opportunities for local businesses and talents to participate meaningfully in this evolving landscape," he said.

Dr Joachim stressed that human capital development was equally important as the industry undergoes energy transition and digital transformation.

"The energy transition requires a workforce equipped with new skills, technical expertise and digital capabilities. Our young people must be prepared not only to meet the demands of today's industry but also to lead the industries of tomorrow," he said.

While banks remain the primary source of financing, Vincent said many industrial projects require funding beyond what traditional lenders are prepared to provide. These limitations often leave viable businesses without sufficient capital.

"The bank can only lend you 70pc of what you need for a project, or the bank may issue the funds two or three months later. This is where P2P financing comes in to complement the bank structure," he said.

He cited vessel acquisitions as one example, where companies often struggle to raise the remaining down payment after securing bank financing.

"If you want to buy a vessel, the bank gives you 70pc, but you're short 20 or 30pc. We help bridge that gap," he said.

Beyond major capital expenditure, Vincent said alternative financing also addresses operational cash flow challenges. He shared the example of a Sabah-based marine operator purchasing fuel, noting that businesses buying on credit often pay higher prices than those purchasing in cash.

By providing short-term financing, companies are able to purchase fuel upfront, benefit from cash discounts and improve overall profitability.

"Our cost is about 1.4 to 1.6pc per month, all-in with no hidden charges," he added.

Unlike conventional lenders, Vincent said MoneySave places less emphasis on physical collateral and instead assesses the commercial strength of businesses and their customers. He explained that collateral is optional and that payment assignments are not always mandatory.

Instead of relying solely on property or fixed assets, MoneySave evaluates the credibility of project owners and uses trade credit insurance to manage repayment risks.

He said if a large customer is considered insurable, MoneySave gains confidence that payment risks are manageable and is therefore more willing to finance SME suppliers.

He also argued that strengthening Sabah's second, third and fourth-tier suppliers is just as important as attracting multinational corporations into the State.

"The stronger Tier 1 and Tier 2 companies are, the more likely we are to invest in the Tier 3 and Tier 4 supply chain because these are the underserved SMEs we need to service and support the state's growth," he said.

Vincent also called for greater flexibility in government payment assignments, arguing that allowing financiers to receive payment assignments from government contracts would significantly improve financing access for SMEs undertaking public sector projects.

He maintained that improving access to flexible financing would enable more Sabah-based businesses to participate in large-scale oil and gas developments, ensuring that local SMEs benefit alongside major investors as the state's industrial ambitions continue to grow.

He added that investments in education, technical and vocational training, research and development, as well as industry-academia collaboration, would be critical in building a future-ready workforce.

"The future of energy is ultimately about people. It is about creating opportunities, developing talent improving livelihoods and ensuring that the benefits of growth are shared by all," he said.

Dr Joachim said the true success of Sogse would not be measured solely by discussions held during the conference, but by the partnerships forged, investments generated, innovations developed and opportunities created afterwards.

He described the conference as Sabah's premier oil, gas and energy platform that has become an important catalyst for collaboration, innovation and investment within Sabah and beyond.

"The Sabah Government values initiatives such as Sogse, which contribute significantly towards knowledge sharing, business development, talent cultivation and economic growth," he said.

Daily Express

Big role for Sabah natural gas

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By: Samantha Sult



Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies political economist Assoc Prof Dr Firdausi Suffian.

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah's natural gas resources could become a key catalyst in transforming the State's east coast into a new industrial growth hub, with reliable energy supply emerging as a critical factor in attracting investment and expanding downstream industries.

Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies political economist Assoc Prof Dr Firdausi Suffian said natural gas would play an increasingly important role in supporting Sabah's economic expansion as the State seeks to move beyond resource extraction towards higher value-added industries.

"Natural gas is a very important input for our energy," he said during the 13th Sabah Oil, Gas and Energy Conference & Exhibition, adding that a reliable energy supply would be essential to achieving Sabah's sustainability agenda and industrial ambitions.

Firdausi said the development of Sabah's discovered gas resources, including the Gutlira Cluster, presents a significant opportunity to strengthen the State's energy ecosystem while supporting economic activity, particularly on the east coast, which has historically faced challenges related to power supply reliability.

"Improvements in the energy sector could help unlock new economic potential in the region," he said.

The former Invest Sabah Berhad Chief Executive Officer stressed that Sabah's long-term success depends not merely on possessing natural resources, but on how effectively those resources are converted into industries that create lasting economic value.

Earlier in the discussion, he noted that resource wealth must ultimately be transformed into financial assets capable of supporting public development.

"Resource wealth is supposed to be for public development. But if the resource wealth is not translated into financial assets, that will be very difficult to invest," he said.

Firdausi argued that Sabah should prioritise the development of downstream industries linked to its oil and gas resources rather than relying primarily on revenue from upstream activities.

This includes attracting energy-intensive industries, expanding manufacturing activities, strengthening local supplier networks and creating opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) within the oil and gas value chain.

He added that large-scale industrial investments would generate multiplier effects by stimulating local businesses and encouraging the growth of supporting industries.

While Sabah continues to pursue renewable energy opportunities, Firdausi said natural gas remains a vital component of the State's energy strategy.

He also highlighted Sabah's sustainability credentials, noting that the State made the strategic decision in 2008 not to proceed with coal-fired power generation.

"When it comes to our energy, when it comes to sustainability, when it comes to environment, nothing beats Sabah," he said, while acknowledging that environmental goals must be balanced with the practical need for a reliable energy supply to support economic development.

Firdausi recalled that Sabah experienced significant electricity supply challenges in previous years, particularly on the east coast, but said the situation has improved considerably.

Power interruptions have fallen from around 1,000 incidents previously to fewer than 300, with further reductions targeted.

He said continued improvements in energy reliability, coupled with new gas developments, could strengthen Sabah's appeal to investors seeking locations with stable and dependable power supply.

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