



10th YEAR SDC ANNIVERSARY
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON ECONOMIC CORRIDORS:
CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS
AT LE MERIDIEN HOTEL KOTA KINABALU, SABAH
29-30 JANUARY 2018

THE ECONOMIC CORRIDORS UNDER THE NINTH, TENTH AND ELEVENTH MALAYSIA PLANS

The establishment of the five economic corridors in Malaysia was initiated under the **Ninth Malaysia Plan** meant to address development gaps throughout the country while pushing forward the country's economic growth, primarily leveraging the public-private partnership (PPP) model. The five corridors established were Iskandar Malaysia (IM), Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER), East Coast Economic Region (ECER), Sabah Development Corridor (SDC), and Sarawak Corridor of Renewal Energy (SCORE). All corridors were given a Master Plan to be implemented over a period of time.

During the **Tenth Malaysia Plan**, key features of economic policy focussed on growth in areas having the highest potential for economic impact. Priority was given to building urban agglomerations, focusing corridors around clusters and high economic impact sectors. The economic development of regions was accelerated by focusing around a number of high-density clusters in the corridors that have sector and geographic advantages. Clustering enables firms to benefit from common resources, facilitates labour market matching and contributes to knowledge sharing.

Measures to accelerate economic growth from corridors during the Plan period were promoting growth through collaborating with the private sector to develop priority industries; focusing on a limited number of sectors and clusters with clear competitive advantage to maximize impact and focus execution; facilitating private investment, coordinating between agencies, supporting industry ecosystems and creating employment opportunities; identify anchor investors to spearhead development of the corridors; and refocusing corridor authorities on smaller key industry clusters within localised geographies. The Tenth Malaysia's Plan period also saw the alignment of the Economic Corridor Programmes to The **National Economic Transformation Programme** in the form of **Cities and Corridor Transformation Programme**.

During the **Eleventh Malaysia Plan** period, the global landscape is going to be increasingly challenging, with greater volatility and uncertainty in the global economy as a result of the decline in oil prices, realignment of exchange rates, as well as geopolitical risks. Malaysia is expected to achieve steady economic growth and is poised to attain the aspiration of becoming an advanced economy and inclusive nation by 2020. In order to achieve this goal, the nation will need to ensure that its economic focus pivots towards high-value and knowledge-intensive activities.

One of the economic focus under the National Strategic Thrust of The Eleventh Malaysia Plan is **Re-Engineering Economic Growth For Greater Prosperity**. In this regard, regional economic corridors will be further developed to ensure balanced development. In addition, there will be greater investment in selected cities to enhance their global competitiveness and gain from economic agglomeration. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) will continue to be strengthened to increase their share in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and exports. Efforts to promote innovation will be undertaken at the enterprise and societal levels. Efforts will be implemented in collaboration with regional economic corridor authorities to provide a more conducive business environment to **attract higher value added investment to rural areas**.

Under the National Strategic Thrust **Re-Engineering Economic Growth for Greater Prosperity** one of the key Focus Areas is **Accelerating regional growth for better geographic balance**. Since the establishment of the first regional economic corridor in 2006, many success stories have emerged, including economic opportunities for locals. Regional economic corridors will continue to spur economic growth to address inter- and intra-regional imbalances and increase inclusivity. Efforts will be undertaken to accelerate investment, provide infrastructure and review corridor development plans. Two strategies have been identified for the regional corridor authorities to carryout in order to accelerate regional growth, as follows:

- **Strategic review of regional economic corridor master plans:** revisiting regional economic corridor priorities and industry focus; and
- **Accelerating investment in regional economic corridors** by enhancing facilitation for investors, improving connectivity and mobility as well as intensifying research, development and commercialization.

During the Eleventh Malaysia Plan, the five regional economic corridors is expected **to realize investment of RM236 billion and create 470,000 jobs by 2020**. At this point, it is pertinent to note that a few of the regional corridor authorities have completed their respective masterplan review. The review for the SDC Blueprint however is only expected to commence in early 2018.

TEN YEARS OF SDC

The Sabah Development Corridor (SDC) Blueprint was launched on the 29th January 2008. It is now mid-way of its implementation cycle of 18 years, completing in 2025. On 29th January 2018, SDC will mark its tenth year anniversary. It is therefore timely for the SDC Blueprint to be reviewed, to take stock of the milestones it has covered as well as the footprints left to ensure that SDC is on track towards achieving its objective. SEDIA as the corridor authority responsible for SDC need to assess where are we in this journey, and where are we going. SEDIA also need to take cognisance not only new challenges, but also new policies and plans introduced by all the relevant authorities.

The SDC Blueprint complemented the *Halatuju Agenda* of the Sabah State Government introduced in 2003. The *Halatuju Agenda* has now been superseded by the Sabah Long-term Economic Action Plan (LEAP). At the national level, the Federal Government is laying down the foundation and direction for the TN50 agenda. SEDIA, commencing early 2018 will carry out a thorough review of the SDC Blueprint and will come up with a revision of the document in the form of SDC Blueprint v.2.0. The SDC Blueprint v.2.0 will take note of the changing development challenges, new development parameters and policies of the State and Federal Governments since the launch of SDC almost ten years ago on 29th January 2008 and chart the direction for the remaining journey.

It is therefore timely for SEDIA to undertake a thorough evaluation of SDC performance, targets, roles and priorities. To kick start this review process, SEDIA will be organising a **10 Years SDC Carnival** commencing from 29th January 2018. The Carnival will showcase the various SDC projects involving the government, GLCs and the private sector. There will also be business opportunities and trading platform for investors, SMEs and Startups, and showcasing their products and services. One of the key components of the Carnival is **National Conference on Economic Corridors**. The Conference seeks to share experiences, assess the economic prospects and chart future direction and strategies for the Economic Corridors. In a nutshell, the Carnival will offer excellent opportunities for the public and all stakeholders generally to understand, provide feedback and capitalise on what the State and Federal Government had done for Sabah.

OBJECTIVES:

- To share experience and challenges, as well as to assess the economic prospects and chart future direction and strategies for the economic corridors;
- To disseminate the latest information and updates on the strategies, policies, planning and programme introduced by the government
- To provide a platform for all stakeholders including investors, SMEs and NGOs to network as well as provide feedback to relevant authorities on the various policies, incentives, programmes and projects implemented; and
- To explore potential collaboration, new investment opportunities and sources of growth for future collaboration and partnership

TARGET PARTICIPANTS:

- Policy makers, decision makers, officers within authorities, ministries, agencies, municipalities, and GLCs;
- Corporate leaders, SMEs, and the private sector;
- Researchers and consultants; and
- NGOs and members of the public.

Jointly organised by:



UMS
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH

**OPENING CEREMONY
NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC CORRIDORS:
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LE MERIDIEN HOTEL, KOTA KINABALU
29 JANUARY 2018**

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

9:00 am	Arrival of Invited Guest
10:00 am	Arrival of Guest of Honour
	National and State Anthem
	<i>Doa</i> Recital
	Welcome Remarks
	Opening Speech by Guest of Honour
	Opening ceremony gimmick
	Launching of “The Journey – 10 Years of SDC” publication
10.30 am	Morning Break

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE

Day 1: 29th January 2018

11.00 am	SESSION 1 THE NATION BUILDING AGENDA AND THE ECONOMIC CORRIDORS Moderator – Dr. Mohammed Haleem Mohamed Razi, Vice Chancellor, UCSF
11.05 am	National Development Vision and Strategies: Striving Towards TN50 Agenda by EPU, JPM
11.30 am	Facilitation Fund by UKAS
11.55 pm	Strategic Engagement of Corporate Malaysia and Economic Corridors by Ernst and Young
12.20 pm	Q&A
12.30 pm	Lunch
2.00 pm	SESSION 2 A DECADE OF ECONOMIC CORRIDORS: PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS Moderator – YBhg. Datuk Mohd Basri Abd. Gafar, President, FSI
2:05 pm	Iskandar Malaysia: Challenges and Prospects by IRDA
2:30 pm	Northern Corridor Economic Region: Regional Impacts, Opportunities and Prospects by NCIA
2:55 pm	East Coast Economic Region – The Next Leap by ECERDC
3:20 pm	Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy: Critical Success Factors in Bridging Regional Disparities by RECODA
3:45 pm	Sabah Development Corridor: A Premier Investment Destination for Business, Culture and Nature by SEDIA
4:10 pm	Q & A
4.30 pm	Evening Break
7.00 pm	Welcoming Dinner for Conference Delegates

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE

Day 2: 30th January 2018

8:30 am	Arrival and registration of participants
9:00 am	SESSION 3 ENHANCING REGIONAL AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS Moderator – Assoc. Prof. Datuk Dr. Hj. Abdul Kadir Hj. Rosline, Rector, UITM Sabah
9:05 am	Malaysia Investment Climate and Prospects for Sabah by MIDA
9:30 am	Digital Economy in Malaysia by MDEC
9:55 am	Leveraging on the ASEAN Economic Community by ISIS
10:20 am	Q&A
10:30 am	Tea Break
11:00am	SESSION 4 CAPACITY BUILDING Moderator – Dr. Sarma Hj. Mohd. Imram Aralas, Senior Lecturer, UMS
11:05 am	Connecting Sabah by SEDIA
11:30 am	The Success in Achieving Wealth Creation And Social Wellbeing Through Sabah Development Corridor by UMS
11:55 am	Delivering Strategic Human Capital Requirement by SEDIA
12:20 pm	Q&A
12:30 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm	SESSION 5 BUSINESS, TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROSPECTS Moderator – YBhg. Datuk Mohd. Hasnol Bin Datuk Ayub, Executive Director/ Chief Executive Officer, IDS
2:05 pm	The Potential of Aerospace Industry in Malaysia by Strand Aerospace Malaysia
2:30 pm	Enhancing Malaysia (Sabah) – South Australia, Australia Business, Trade and Investment Cooperation by Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade)
2:55pm	Potential Collaboration between Sabah, Malaysia – Romania to promote Trade and Investment in Eastern European Countries by Embassy of Romania to Malaysia
3:20pm	Green Technology and Renewable Energy opportunities by European Union Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry
3:45pm	Deepening Pragmatic Cooperation Between Sabah and China, Jointly Build 21 st – Century Maritime Silk Road by Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Kota Kinabalu
4:10pm	Q&A
4:35pm	Evening break/Session ends