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# The Sarawak advantage on ESG matters

“A comprehensive and well strategised implementation of ESG can transform the state beyond just carbon neutrality and clean fresh air, it can be a game changer to spearhead a new growth trajectory for the entire Sarawak economy and change the course of its’ future.

Let’s zoom into the Sarawak competitive advantage in areas of ESG compared to the region. We are blessed with a huge land mass, good rainfall as well as rich natural and rainforest resources.

“With good foresight from

the state government, Sarawak had a great head start in sustainability, marked by ground-breaking initiatives such as Regional Corridor Development Authority (RECODA) led SCORE project, supported by proactive plans to shift reliance to renewable energy, especially hydropower with Sarawak Energy Berhad also leading in terms of sustainability communications and partnerships.

“As a result, Sarawak enjoyed favourable FDIs into the state and saw emergence of strong local champions such as Press

Metal and OM Materials (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd (OM Sarawak).

“Given the strong top-down pressure from global and domestic authorities and investors, we foresee Sarawak to continue benefiting from the inflow of foreign and domestic businesses who wish to tap into the strong sustainability fundamentals, especially industry with immediate pressures to meet their ambitious ESG goals.”

Chua foresee challenges in ESG implementation in Sarawak, including the lack of

resources by SMEs to embrace ESG standards globally.

Hee believe the start of a journey of a thousand steps for mass adoption always lie with a good education and certification framework to systematically upskill the local community.

“Policy makers can also consider creating a locally and globally well-recognised certification in order to accelerate ESG adoption state wide,” he opined.

“New age technologies such as cloud computing, Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and blockchain

can also help with automating the ESG process and ensuring better data integrity on the ESG data points.

“On a macro level for the state government, sustainability for our future generation of citizens means a sustainable society, a sustainable economy, a sustainable prosperity; measured in terms of sustainable GDP growth, job creation, income per capita growth and water security.

“On a micro level for businesses and individuals, sustainability for the next generation of our families

means sustainable quality of life, sustainable harmonious living among diversity, sustainable business opportunities; measured in terms of business income growth, wages growth, wealth accumulation and availability of fresh air.

“In a nutshell, Sarawak has created the perfect ecosystem of sustainability that can be tapped by local businesses and human capital, as well as around the world, to grow hand in hand with the state’s ambitions to become a sustainable digital state.”