

IEM MELAKA TECHNICAL VISIT TO KOTA KINABALU



by Ir. William Ho



Ir. Sreedaran Raman

IEM Melaka Branch organised a four-day technical visit to Kota Kinabalu, Sabah on 21-24 November 2019. The 12 participants were not only from Melaka but also from all over the country.

On Friday morning, 22 November, the group made a technical site visit to Sungai Moyog Flood Mitigation Project (RTB Sg. Moyog). This is a Federal Government-funded project, implemented by the Department of Irrigation & Drainage (DID) through DID Sabah's supervision team headed by its engineer-in-charge, Ir. Choo Khim Tze @ Irene Choo. After a project briefing, we went on the site tour.

In the afternoon, we visited the Danish Hydraulic Institute (DHI) Environment & Water Sdn. Bhd., an international environment and water consultant specialising in numerical modelling and simulation of water-related engineering solutions.

Its Technical Director gave us an overview of the company's setup and specialisations, followed by a knowledge sharing session. Two case studies, a coastal development project and a river basin water balance related project, were presented and discussed.

We then returned to the hotel for a short rest before dinner. For many of us, this would be the first time we were having a taste of local Kadazan-Dusun cuisine. It was an eye-opener. We also watched live dance performances and some of us joined in the traditional bamboo dance. The evening ended on a fabulous note with lots of exotic food, an entertaining live show and excellent fellowship.

On Saturday morning, we headed for Kampung Tempasak, Penampang where we were welcomed by Cik Liyana of Forever Sabah. Payment For Ecosystem Services (PES) is a pilot project undertaken by Forever Sabah to manage the Babagon water catchment through collaboration among stakeholders.

The project is divided into 2 phases. **Phase 1 (2017-2018):** Readiness Building Capacity

for Piloting Payment Ecosystem Services (PES) Scheme for Ecosystem Services in 3,000 hectares of Babagon watershed which is the biggest dam in Sabah.

Phase 2 (2018-2020): Developing and piloting Payment Ecosystem Services (PES) Scheme for Water Catchment Conservation in Sabah.

We visited Kg. Tempasak Penampang, one of the three project sites which was surrounded by forest. We took a boat ride from Babagon Dam and made a brief hike up the hill to view the Gravity Fed System Local Water Supply. We were then briefed on plans to construct a mini hydro.

Then we visited Tagal Hut to find out more about Tagal Law in maintaining the sustainability and economic development of their river. For lunch at the village, we were served more local food. We also managed to take a dip in the clean and clear river which flowed through the village.

In the evening was the final, formal event, IEM Sabah's 43rd Annual Dinner in Hakka Hall, Tanjung Lipat, Kota Kinabalu. The theme was Industrial Revolution, IR4.0. It was a wonderful night of sumptuous food, awards presentation, magnificent shows & entertainment and lucky draws. Kudos to IEM Sabah for yet another year of achievements. ■



At IEM Sabah's 43rd Annual Dinner