

YAYASAN SARAWAK

Celebrating 50 Years as catalyst for education development in Sarawak

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Today Yayasan Sarawak celebrates its 50th anniversary.



Today, 50 years ago, 27 May 1971 the Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak approved the Sarawak Foundation Ordinance, paving way for a new era in education development for Sarawak.

Yayasan Sarawak was established mainly to provide opportunities for Sarawakians to better education at all levels, either academic or technical.

Since 1971, Yayasan Sarawak has provided education assistance either in the form of scholarships or education loans to thousands of Sarawakians. As a result, many of the current individuals at the echelon of the public and private sectors were one way or another, beneficiaries of Yayasan Sarawak assistance schemes and programs.

As at December 2020, total number of Sarawakians whom have benefitted from Yayasan Sarawak's various assistance schemes and programs stand at 1.83 million.

A total number of 133,009 Sarawakians have obtained scholarship, either at primary, secondary or tertiary level. These average about slightly less than 3,000 scholarships per year.

Local scholarships for primary and secondary school students account for 70% of the beneficiaries. The Yayasan Sarawak Student Exchange Program that started in 1972 has involved 5,562 students. Since 1972, Yayasan Sarawak has spent in excess of RM260 million for all schemes and programs for lower education.

In 2016, Yayasan Sarawak introduced the Yayasan Sarawak Tun Taib Scholarship, a prestigious scholarship that mirrors the Tunku Abdul Rahman Sarawak Scholarship Foundation. From 2016, the Tun Taib Scholarship focuses on STEM discipline whereas the Tunku Abdul Rahman Scholarship are for non-STEM discipline.



Beginning 2017, Yayasan Sarawak initiated the Medical Degree Scholarship program in collaboration with UNIMAS. 40 scholarships are allocated for each year for 5 years. By 2025, Yayasan Sarawak through UNIMAS would produce additional 200 Medical Doctors for the state.

Yayasan Sarawak through its office in London is now working closely with prestigious universities in the UK with the aim of sending eligible Sarawakians to pursue discipline not available locally but very much required by state's development agenda.

For education loans, total number of beneficiaries since 1972 until 2020 is 136,314 persons. The education loans are for Sarawakians pursuing their post-secondary school studies, either at Certificate, Diploma, Bachelor, Master, PhD or at professional level. Since the introduction of education loan scheme for both local and overseas, Yayasan Sarawak has provided a total amount in excess of RM420 million.

Repayment of the education loan scheme is performance based. Part of the loans are converted to scholarship. A student obtaining 1st Class Honors or CGPA of 3.50 and above upon graduation will be entitled to a 75% conversion whereas for 2nd Class Upper or CGPA of 3.00 and above, will be entitled to a 50% conversion. For these conversion of loans to scholarships, Yayasan Sarawak as spent in excess of RM80.0 million since 1975.

In 2001, Yayasan Sarawak initiated the technical education loan scheme, for Sarawakians keen on pursuing technical training. Since then, more than 11,000 Sarawakians have benefitted from the technical loan scheme.

In addition to scholarships and loans, Yayasan Sarawak also conducts programs and activities to promote education in general. Yayasan Sarawak collaborated with the Education Department, Universities, Schools, NGOs, Parent-Teachers' Associations, other government departments and agencies.



Through these collaborations, programs such as HIPERS, (High Performing Rural Schools), English Proficiency Program, School Uniform Assistance, School Books Assistance, Computer Assistance Program, Community Development Program, Education Exhibition and many more.

Yayasan Sarawak is also involved in providing assistance under the Graduan Pulang Sarawak Program (i-GPS), Free School Bus Program, Books for Asia by the Asia Foundation, Education Excellence Award, Chief Minister Special Award, grant for local authors, grant for disasters, grants for student activities including operating grants for subsidiaries and many more.

For these various programs, activities and grants, since establishment in 1971, Yayasan Sarawak breached the RM1.0 Billion mark in expenditure.

From a humble beginning, Yayasan Sarawak has grown into a billion-ringgit organization, having interests in most sector of the economy namely aviation, chemical & petroleum, finance & insurance, hospitality, oil palm & agriculture, private universities, private international schools, ports & storage facilities, property management, properties & project development, skills training institutions, training & development institute, telecommunications, and timber & planted forest operations.

All these interests are represented by way of wholly-owned subsidiaries, majority owned subsidiaries, or investment companies. Some were achieved through joint-ventures, or acquisitions either in whole or in part.



The state government invests heavily in educational facilities. In 1999 and 2000, the state government through Yayasan Sarawak established Curtin University of Technology Malaysia

in Miri and Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak in Kuching respectively.

In the last 20 years these universities have produced more than 50,000 graduates combined, of which about 20% are foreign students.





In 2011, Center of Technical Excellence or CENTEXS was established as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Yayasan Sarawak to provide technical training for Sarawakians to achieve the required level of competency and industry certification.

CENTEXS now has ventured into digital training with the setting up of the Digital Academy, in-line with the government's digital economy initiatives.

Yayasan Sarawak supports these universities and training institutes through scholarships, loans, research funds and also operating grants.

Through Yayasan Sarawak also, the state embarks on the establishment of International Schools. YS International Education Sdn. Bhd. a wholly-owned subsidiary of Yayasan Sarawak is the main driver of the International Schools. The first intake is planned for 2022.

Yayasan Sarawak started with slightly more than RM200,000 in current asset in 1972 compared to more RM1.5 billion total asset in 2020. The growth in asset directly contributed to the amount and number and of direct beneficiaries either through scholarships, education loans or other forms of assistance. With new strategic acquisitions, Yayasan Sarawak's total asset will breach RM2.0 billion in a few years to come.

For the past 50 years, Yayasan Sarawak has been able to carry-out its mission as envisaged by the founding members lead by the 3rd Chief Minister as the 1st Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and followed through by preceding Chairmen.



The present Chief Minister also Chairman of the Board, The Right Honorable Datuk Patinggi Abang Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Abang Haji Openg has further injected new ideas and introduced new policies to expand the role and the growth of Yayasan Sarawak.

As a strategic organization, Yayasan Sarawak will continue to play the important role in the development of human capital in the state in line with the aspiration of achieving a developed and a high-income State by 2030.