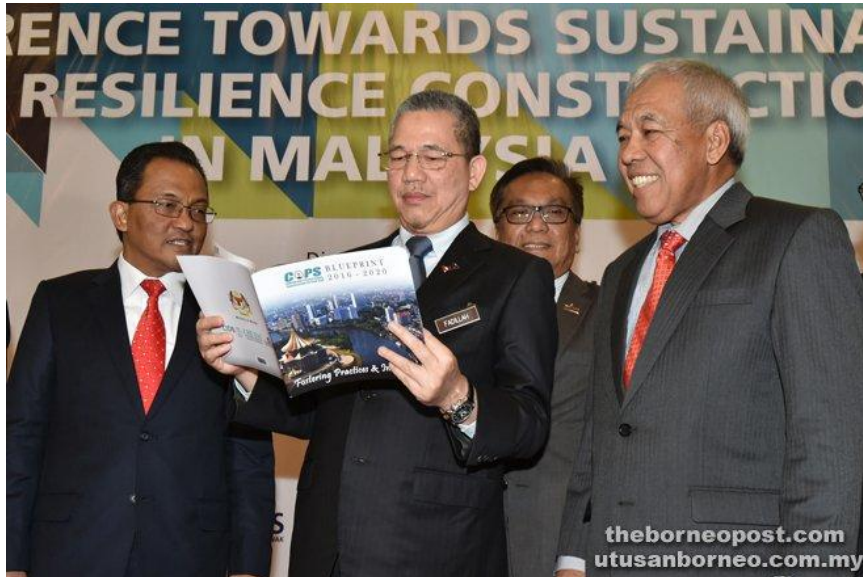


FIRST IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

SARAWAK TO HAVE LARGEST CENTRIFUGE FACILITY IN THE REGION NEXT YEAR

My Sarawak



Fadillah looking through the CoPS Blueprint 2016-2020 booklet while (from left) Ahmad Asri, Kadim and Ahmad Tajuddin look on. —Photo by Tan Song Wei

KUCHING: Sarawak can boast of having the largest centrifuge facility in Southeast Asia with the establishment of the International Geotechnical Research Centre for Centrifuge Facility at Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus, next year.

Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof said this 250-g tonne facility will comprise large-scale simulation models

on issues concerning diverse soil structures and geotechnical engineering.

“It will be able to conduct high-impact research on soil structures and at the same time, benefit geotechnical researchers from different parts of the Asia region,” he revealed when officiating at the conference on ‘Towards Sustainable and Resilience Construction in Malaysia’ at a leading hotel here yesterday.

During the opening ceremony, Fadillah also launched the Centre of Excellence on Peat Soils (CoPS), which will serve as a referral centre for industry players and researchers of peat soil in the country.

“At the moment, CoPS is under the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) secretariat. It will be fully coordinated by the Construction Research Institute of Malaysia (CREAM), a construction research institute established by the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Malaysia, as an advanced research institution in the field of peat soil issues.”

He described the establishment of CoPS in Sarawak as ideal considering that the state had the largest peat soil area in the country at 27,629.11km².

“Various programmes will be carried out by CoPS including research and development; best practices; big database and case studies. These are all contained in the CoPS Blueprint 2016-2020 which will be launched later.”

Fadillah hoped to see CoPS collaborating in the Pan Borneo Highway project which is currently being constructed.

“The challenges faced by the Pan Borneo Highway construction team such as issues on peat soil, development of spin-off line of the highway, environment, and sustainability aspects are areas that can be pursued through an industrial joint venture with CoPS,” he remarked.

Present at the ceremony were CIDB chairman Tan Sri Ahmad Tajuddin Ali, CIDB chief executive Datuk Ahmad Asri Abdul Hamid, Malaysian Highway Authority director-general Datuk Ismail Salleh, Public Works

Department director-general Datuk Dr Roslan Md Taha, CREAM chairman Datuk Hamzah Hasan and Unimas vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohamad Kadim Suaidi.