

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GEORGE KENT INKS MOU WITH
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SARAWAK**

To establish a mutually beneficial relationship built on academic and industrial cooperation



PUCHONG, 7 June 2023 – George Kent (Malaysia) Berhad (“George Kent”), today announced that it has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with University of Technology Sarawak (“UTS”), marking a significant milestone in fostering collaboration in human capital development and related activities. This strategic partnership aims to establish a mutually beneficial relationship built on academic and industrial cooperation solidifying George Kent’s commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) and strengthening its reputation as a responsible corporate citizen.

UTS is an institution of higher learning established under Private Higher Educational Institutions Act 1996, which strives to enhance and strengthen its research capabilities and has taken various initiatives to complement its educational excellence. UTS is committed to producing industry-ready graduates and conducting impactful research that addresses societal challenges.

Under this MOU, both parties aim to cooperate on amongst others (a) the development and conduct of academic, professional and industrial training programmes; (b) exchange technical know-how and advisory; (c) carry out joint research, innovation and teaching activities as well as

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(d) jointly participate in course improvements and delivery. As a leading industry player in the water meters business, George Kent will combine its expertise with UTS to design and deliver comprehensive training programs which includes practical and on-the-ground training with job experience that address the evolving needs of industries. This initiative will bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, empowering graduates with the skills required to excel in both the water industry and engineering fields.

The MOU will be effective from the date of its execution for a period of 3 years.

The signing of the MOU took place at the Senate Room, University of Technology Sarawak in Sibul, Sarawak. Mr Bernie Ooi Chin Khoo, Executive Director of George Kent signed on behalf of George Kent, while UTS was represented by Prof. Datuk Dr Khairuddin Ab Hamid, the Vice Chancellor of UTS. The signing was witnessed by Prof. Dr. Ir. Mohd Sharil bin Osman, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic).

The Chairman of George Kent, Tan Sri Dato' Tan Kay Hock said, "This collaboration serves as a community engagement and CSR initiative, enabling George Kent to actively contribute to the betterment of society. By partnering with UTS, George Kent will support local initiatives and programmes that have a positive impact on the lives of individuals in Sarawak and the communities in Malaysia as a whole.

We are also pleased to explore the potential synergistic collaboration with UTS as we look towards educating UTS engineering graduates with practical, engineering knowledge as they enter the workforce in this rapidly developing technological era. This MOU is a collaboration that enables George Kent to empower UTS graduates to be part of Malaysia's engineering sector."

He added, "We are excited to work hand-in-hand with academics from UTS's Faculty of Engineering. By integrating academic and industrial expertise, this partnership strives to cultivate innovative solutions that address real-world challenges while nurturing a culture of continuous learning. In the long run, this initiative will provide enriching experiences that foster personal and professional growth. Ultimately, our goal is to better equip our future leaders in order to elevate Malaysia to greater heights."

On the collaboration, Vice Chancellor of UTS Prof. Datuk Dr Khairuddin Ab Hamid said, "University and industry collaboration is crucial to provide students with practical exposure and

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experience to real-world problems, especially in the engineering and technical fields. This is important to bridge the gap between academic understanding and practical skills.

Even though SibU is developing and progressing well, nevertheless the presence of major industry players is still much to be desired. Therefore, UTS has to take proactive approach to establish and engage with industry partners elsewhere. Hence, we are very grateful and honoured to have this opportunity to collaborate with a well-known engineering company, namely George Kent (Malaysia) Berhad.

In line with the vision of the Sarawak Government, under the Ministry of Education, Innovation and Talent Development, this partnership between UTS and George Kent can lead to innovation and new technological discoveries. By working together, researchers and industry experts can develop new technologies and products that can benefit society as a whole.

At the same time, the signing of this MoU is an important opportunity for both parties to address the skills gap that exists in many industries. By working together, UTS and George Kent can jointly design courses or training modules that are tailored to the needs of George Kent for its staff development programs. We also can work together to develop specific professional programs for our final year students so that they have the technical and soft skills that are required by employers.”

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About George Kent (Malaysia) Berhad

George Kent is an established engineering and metering company in the water infrastructure, rail transportation and hospital construction industries. The Company specialises in the turnkey construction of water infrastructure and hospital projects, system works for rail transportation, and operation and maintenance of water treatment facilities.

Known for proven engineering excellence, George Kent has a strong track record of successfully completing high-value and technology-critical projects. The Company also manufactures and supplies water meter products and solutions for household, industrial and plant use. It operates one of the largest hot brass-forging plants in Southeast Asia for the production of internationally certified water meters, and supplies to water authorities in Malaysia and in the ASEAN region.

For more information, please visit www.georgekent.net.

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About University of Technology Sarawak (UTS)

University of Technology Sarawak an institution of higher learning wholly owned by the Sarawak State Government through Sarawak Foundation, established and registered in Malaysia under the Private Higher Educational Institutions Act 1996 and managed by Edusar Resources Sdn Bhd.

UTS is committed to facilitate students' access to an affordable world-class university education that nurtures creative and entrepreneurial leaders through a broad education in science and technology while combining the career benefits of an applied approach for industry-related research and career opportunities. The Post-Modernist neo-futuristic architectural style campus, is unique to Sibuj and Sarawak, creating the right ambience and conducive environment to pursue Sarawak's economic agenda. UTS was then and until now marked as a symbol of hope for a better future to the community of Central Sarawak, in particular for Sibuj, which has transformed into one of the important logistic and education hubs in Sarawak.

Currently, UTS offers 36 academic programmes under six schools. 21 academic programmes have been awarded Full Accreditation.

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