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PRESS RELEASE

SCIENCE by Sarawak Energy 2026 Marks Record-Breaking 8th Edition with Largest and Most Diverse Participation Yet

Kuching, 20 - 21 June 2026 — The Sarawak Community Innovation & Engineering Convention (SCIENCE) by Sarawak Energy returns for its 8th consecutive year, bringing together over 50 teams from 10 STEM communities across Sarawak at Makeramai Makerspace, Level 4 Plaza Merdeka, Kuching. Themed "**Automotive and A.I.**" and taglined "**Driving Innovators**", SCIENCE 8 is the most ambitious edition of Sarawak's flagship grassroots STEM convention to date.

More Than a Competition

SCIENCE is not simply a one-weekend event. Each edition begins four months earlier, with The Learning Curve conducting hands-on STEM workshops across 10 communities throughout Sarawak, each comprising 4 to 6 schools. These outreach sessions, delivered in partnership with the **Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation (SDEC)** through its **Science On Wheels** program and **TEGAS** through the **TEGAS Community Innovative Learning (TCIL)** initiative, equip students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to compete. The convention in Kuching is the culmination of that journey, where months of learning and preparation come together on a single stage.

What makes SCIENCE especially meaningful is the continuity it has built over eight years. A number of this year's participants have competed at SCIENCE five times or more, having first joined as primary school students and returned year after year, now competing at the secondary level. In recognition of this remarkable dedication, **SCIENCE 8 will introduce a special award for these long-serving participants**, celebrating their commitment to the program and to their own growth as young innovators.

A Convention That Has Grown With Its Communities

Since its inception in 2018, SCIENCE by Sarawak Energy has steadily expanded its reach beyond Kuching, and this year marks a defining chapter in that journey. For the first time, the program welcomes a community from **Baram, Miri**, one of Sarawak's most geographically challenging regions, bringing the spirit of innovation to students who have rarely had access to programs of this scale. Closer to Kuching, the Serian community has grown strong enough

to branch into two distinct communities this year, with **Tarat** emerging as a community in its own right. Together, these additions reflect SCIENCE's unwavering commitment to reaching beyond urban centres and into the heart of Sarawak.

First Partnership with the Ministry of Education, Innovation and Talent Development (MEITD)

SCIENCE 8 is proud to mark another milestone: its first official collaboration with the **Ministry of Education, Innovation and Talent Development (MEITD)** as partner, sponsor, and endorsing body of the program. This recognition by the Ministry signals a significant step in positioning SCIENCE as a program of national relevance, and reinforces its role in shaping Sarawak's future talent pipeline in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Record Participation: From Serian to Baram

With more than **50 teams** competing across the Primary and Secondary categories, SCIENCE 8 represents the largest participation in the program's history, spanning communities from Serian in the south to Baram in the north. Primary school students take on the **Autonomous Rover Challenge**, programming the DFRobot Maqueen Plus V3 to navigate a maze autonomously, while secondary school students compete in the **Smart EV Dashboard Challenge**, developing a functional vehicle dashboard featuring speed, RPM, signal indicators and reverse sensor. This is Phase 1 of a larger EV build project the students will complete later this year.

A Historic Milestone for Gender Inclusion

Perhaps the most meaningful number from SCIENCE 8 is this: of the **192 participants** this year, **122 are female, representing 63% of all participants**. This is the highest female participation rate in SCIENCE's history, and the culmination of a deliberate, long-standing commitment to gender equality in STEM that the organizers have championed since SCIENCE 1 in 2018. It stands as a powerful testament to what sustained community engagement can achieve.

Closing Ceremony: Sunday, 21 June 2026, 3:00 PM

The two-day convention concludes with a **Closing Ceremony on Sunday, 21 June 2026 at 3:00 PM** at Makeramai Makerspace, Plaza Merdeka, Kuching, where winners across both competition categories will be announced and recognised, along with the presentation of this year's special long-service award. The ceremony will also celebrate the contributions of partners Sarawak Energy, MEITD, SDEC, and TEGAS, whose collective support has made the continued growth of SCIENCE possible.

The public is warmly welcome to attend.

About SCIENCE by Sarawak Energy



Organised by The Learning Curve in partnership with Sarawak Energy and supported by the Ministry of Education (MOE) and State Ministry of Education Innovation and Talent Development (MEITD), the Sarawak Community Innovation & Engineering Convention (SCIENCE) is an annual STEM competition and community outreach program that has been running since 2018. Each edition involves four months of school-level workshops delivered across 10 communities statewide, before participants come together in Kuching for the annual convention. Community outreach is delivered in collaboration with the **Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation (SDEC)** through its Science On Wheels program, and **TEGAS** through the TEGAS Community Innovative Learning (TCIL) initiative. Through these combined efforts, SCIENCE aims to empower students from underserved communities across Sarawak with hands-on exposure to digital innovation, engineering, and artificial intelligence.

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