



07 MAY, 2025

## H2EF 2025 to explore realities, prospects in hydrogen economy

Borneo Post (Kuching), Malaysia



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**KUCHING:** As the Hydrogen Economy Forum (H2EF) 2025 approaches, anticipation is mounting for key insights from global leaders shaping the future of clean energy.

One of the headline speakers is energy markets and strategy lead at DNV, Mats de Ron, who will unpack the realities and opportunities within the hydrogen economy at H2EF 2025, taking place at Hilton Hotel Kuching this May 13 and 14.

In an interview, Mats highlighted the importance of hydrogen in the global energy transition while cautioning against unrealistic expectations.

"The future of energy is clean, which is not just beneficial for the environment but also provides new opportunities.

"Sarawak is well-positioned to become a key player in the regional energy transition due to its high-quality renewables, which it can use to serve its own needs as well as export via subsea cables or produce clean hydrogen," he said.

Mats advised both industry players and policymakers to remain grounded, saying: "Hydrogen will play an essential role in the energy transition, but is not necessarily the only pathway to decarbonisation."

"It's easy to get caught up in the hype, but setting unrealistic expectations tends to lead to disappointment. It is, therefore, important to be realistic about where hydrogen will really play a role, and plan accordingly."

Moreover, he emphasised that while the public and private sector collaboration remained essential, governments would prefer to take the role of facilitator.

"This means that their primary objective is to reduce barriers, for example, by providing necessary preconditions such as the development of shared infrastructure," he said.

Mats also noted that while hydrogen had long been used



Mats de Ronde

across sectors, its role had been evolving rapidly.

"Not only are we moving towards new use cases in power generation and transport, but hydrogen will also become a globally traded commodity.

"There is still a lot that is uncertain about how it is best transported, with a lot of innovation and improvement still possible in areas like liquid hydrogen, LOHCs and even metal hydrides," he said.

He added that while hydrogen-related technologies were not new, their rapid evolution was notable.

"It is interesting to see how much advancement has been made in only a few years to help improve performance and reduce costs, especially the influx of Chinese manufacturers into the market has created a lot more competition."

At H2EF, Mats will talk about the different sectors that are required to unlock hydrogen's potential.

"There are a lot of opportunities in hydrogen, but unlocking these will require all the pieces of the puzzle to come together across, for example, technology, financing, and policy," he said.

The forum is organised by the Ministry of Energy and Environmental Sustainability Sarawak (MEESTy), the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation Malaysia (Mosti), and Borneo Business Connect, with the support of Business Events Sarawak (BESarawak).

It serves as a regional platform to accelerate hydrogen adoption in Southeast Asia, in line with the National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR).

To register or know more, go to [www.hydrogenapac.com/h2ef/](http://www.hydrogenapac.com/h2ef/).