

Sarawak Museum Complex to open by end of next year

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Sarawak Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Youth and Sports Datuk Seri Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah (3rd from left) with a mock key presentation ceremony of the Sarawak Museum Complex. -NSTP/Hazreen Mohamad

KUCHING: The new Sarawak Museum Complex, the largest in Malaysia and second largest in Southeast Asia, was handed over today to the Public Works Department (JKR) and the Sarawak Museums Department.

PPES Works (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd, which undertook the design-and-build project, handed over the complex in a ceremony witnessed by Sarawak Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Youth and Sports Datuk Seri Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah.

The world-class museum, designed and completed with 21st-century facilities and amenities, has a 6,000sq m interactive and engaging exhibition and will open its doors to the public by the end of next year.

A well-curated selection of unique artifacts and specimens on display will take visitors on an interactive journey as they showcase Sarawak's history and the life of its many communities.

The unique 30,000sq m building is Green Building Index (GBI)-certified and is set to be an eye-catching icon.

Karim said the project was completed in May at a cost of RM308 million.

He said the state government had approved another RM15 million to equip the museum with digital facilities.

"Although we have not opened this museum to the public after this handover, we hope to speed things up to fill up this building (with artifacts and collections) to have it officially launched by the middle or end of next year," he said.

The museum is expected to serve as a centre of learning, and welcome international scholars to collaborate with local curators in documenting the material knowledge of the rich past of Borneo, its cultures, peoples and nature.

This is in line with establishing Sarawak as a new global focal point for work in the exciting field of anthropology. - Bernama