



PRESS RELEASE

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**THE ASIAN RAIL ACADEMY SIGNS MOU WITH DB RAIL ACADEMY, GERMANY'S LEADING EUROPEAN RAILWAY OPERATOR FOR WORKFORCE TRAINING IN THE RAIL INDUSTRY IN MALAYSIA & THE ASEAN REGION**

*DB Group has the largest turnover of all rail companies at €40.6 billion in 2016 in Europe.*

**15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018, Kuala Lumpur** – The Asian Rail Academy (ARA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DB Rail Academy from Germany, a limb of DB Group, one of the world's leading mobility and logistics companies. Positioned as the gateway to international rail certification, ARA is geared to bridge the skill gaps in the existing and fresh workforce by collaborating with key industry players to provide globally recognised and industry-relevant certification programmes in Malaysia.

In hindsight of expedited growth in the local rail industry, the Malaysian Government is expected to fork out RM160 billion by 2030 to develop rail infrastructure and new lines.

“We selected Asian Rail Academy as our partner to represent us in the Malaysian market, because of its strategic local network and its extensive knowledge about rail industry needs,” said Mr Heiko Scholz, Head of Global Academies, Db Group, Germany.

DB Group prides over 180 years of experience to share with its partner Asian Rail Academy in Malaysia, providing industry-recognised global certification training programmes.

Having the largest turnover of all European rail companies at a staggering €40.6 billion in 2016, DB Group is Europe's leading regional rail passenger transport, rail freight transport, rail infrastructure, land transport, operating stations and its DB Rail Academy is the largest training organisation in rail and mobility. DB transports approximately 7.3 million people on its trains and buses in Germany on the daily, with more than 24,000 trains used to transport passengers on a daily basis.

Under the terms of the MOU signed between ARA and DB Rail Academy, a consensus in collaborative initiatives to undertake roles complementing one another in establishing rail training programmes in Malaysia was enacted.

“Looking at the increasing demand for human capital following the rapid growth of the rail industry in Malaysia and the region, it is important to see the training demands in the rail industry being met with increased range of professional training courses provided by world-class organisations such as DB Group in Germany. Malaysia is set to be the epicentre for training in the rail industry for the region, with the Asian Rail Academy and our global partners forging the future of rail training in Asia,” said Mr Thiagaraja, CEO of the Asian Rail Academy.

From market research to identifying market needs, ARA will take on the provision of training facilities, tools and materials for training execution, including the provision of administrative and organisation support in the overall management of the courses. ARA will assist in the organising of financing the training programmes and facilitate communications with the Human Resource Development Fund of Malaysia (HRDF).



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ARA will work with DB Rail Academy to obtain direct access to all of DB's resources and capabilities as well as its worldwide network to extend professional certification to participants according to DB's standards.

In 2017, the Asian Rail Academy partnered with the National Training Academy for Rail (NTAR) from the UK and TÜV SÜD from Germany to provide industry-recognised global certification programmes in traction, rolling stock and railway safety. Last year ARA extended its offerings in all other rail subsectors in Malaysia, including rail leadership programmes aimed at top rail leaders in the country.

ARA will host an array of cutting-edge rail programmes and curate niche in-demand programmes designed with the use of high technology sophistication across a diverse range of methodologies including the use of virtual reality (among others) based on knowledge and skills as the world's leading railway operators, having had 180 years of experience in 130 countries with 300,000 employees from 66 nations.

DB Rail Academy communicates the knowledge, skills and ability required to plan, construct and operate railroad systems – reliably and thoroughly, geared to railroad practice and leading to internationally recognised qualifications. With expertise, innovation and track record in all sub sectors of the rail industry, DB Rail Academy in Germany is the training and education arm of DB Engineering & Consulting for the rail and transport sectors whereby the academy provides industry-recognised global certification programmes.

With a range of suitable international technical and leadership training programmes aimed at the rail industry in Malaysia, Asian Rail Academy fulfils a key pillar in the 11<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan. Thus, enhancing human capital development, spearheading the nation forward for greater advancement into being a fully developed nation.

#### **ABOUT ASIAN RAIL ACADEMY (ARA)**

Asian Rail Academy aspires to be the human capital solution provider for the rail industry. We aim to fulfil the crucial need of a skilled workforce for the Asian rail industry equipped with industry-relevant skills. This is actualised by offering programmes by collaborating with key industry players. We reduce the skill gaps by upskilling existing workforce to acquire industry-specific skills and provide training for fresh graduates who will be newcomers into the rail industry, which increases their employability. We strive to revolutionise the rail training in Malaysia with innovative delivery methods incorporated with cutting-edge technology.

The Asian Rail Academy is the first training facility to use Oculus rift virtual reality in Malaysia. Training fresh graduates who will be newcomers in the rail industry, the Asian Rail Academy will focus on up-skilling the current workforce in the country.



Vision: To be the leading human capital development solution provider for rail industry in Asia

Mission: Asian Rail Academy is dedicated to develop rail – specific skill sets among existing workforce and newcomers by partnering with leading industry players and offering globally recognised industry – relevant certifications through innovation training methods.

#### **ABOUT DB RAILWAY ACADEMY, GERMANY ABOUT DB RAIL ACADEMY**

DB Group offers globally mobility and logistical services and operates in over 130 countries world-wide. The group management is located in Berlin. More than 310,000 employees work for the DB Group. We design and operate the transport networks of the future. Through the integrated operation of traffic and railway infrastructure as well as the economically and ecologically intelligent connection of all modes of transport, we move people and goods.

In the Passenger transport division DB Group transports in its trains and buses Europe-wide (including Germany) over 12 million passengers daily. In the Transport & Logistics division around 300 million tons are transported via rail and more than 100 million shipments with land transport annually in our European network. In our world-wide networks about 1.3 million tons of air freight and nearly 2.1 million TEU of ocean freight are transported.

DB Engineering & Consulting (DB E&C) is an international division of DB that provides expertise built upon a solid foundation of almost 180 years of German railway experience in projects around the world. Over 4,000 highly qualified employees combine their knowledge of German technology with their experience gained in international projects.

As an answer to clients rising demand on high quality training solutions with flexible price and short-terms of development, DB Engineering & Consulting conceived new international Training & Education market approach: DB Rail Academy.

The DB Rail Academy is a holistic training and education programme for the rail and transport sector. We communicate knowledge, skills and ability required to plan, construct and operate railroad systems – reliably and thoroughly, geared to railroad practice and leading to internationally recognised qualifications.

The wide range of training programs, individual educational profiles and modular structure turn DB Rail Academy students into experts for your railway system, from beginner to top manager.

The basis for all this is the wealth of experience, with 180 years of rail operations in Germany and the international technical expertise of Deutsche Bahn( German Railways) . Different country-specific production models are developed with DB Rail Academy – from the fly-in model to setting up local academies and training facilities with and without a local partner.

Our goal is the facilitation of sustainable activities with long-term participation.



The core approach is:

- DB Rail Academy is a full-size full-fledged program with standard (but adaptable) course options in the four major training and education categories (vocational, professional, executive, academic)
- DB Rail Academy programs are produced according to market needs, national, legal and cultural requirements
- DB Rail Academy offers certificates for personnel as well as for training and education products

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