

# Vast investment prospects in Sabah's cold storage infrastructure

**KOTA KINABALU:** Improved cold storage infrastructure is an essential component not to be overlooked as Sabah prepares for post-Covid economic recovery and latch on to several key growth initiatives.

Often referred to as 'cold chain logistics' by industry players, cold storage infrastructure generally refers to managing the temperature of perishable goods from factory to consumers and ensuring quality.

"From our Sabah Maju Jaya economic development blue print (2020-2025) our aim to develop the east coast as the logistics gateway to BIMP-EAGA, cold chain logistics is a sector that will be in great need as we envisage generation and greater movements of cargo from raw materials to manufactured products," said Lynette Hoo, the deputy chief executive officer of POIC Sabah Sdn Bhd.

She was addressing an on-line audience of a half-day Webinar "Emerging opportunities in the logistics industry in Sabah"

POIC Lahad Datu offers an ideal foothold from which to reach out to the global market.

Lynette Hoo

organised by the Sabah Economic Development and Investment Authority (SEDIA). Other speakers were from K.K.I.P. Sdn Bhd, the Malaysia Investment Development Authority, NCT Forwarding and Shipping Sdn Bhd and Hypercold Logistics Sdn Bhd.

Hoo invited investors to consider locating cold chain infrastructure at POIC Lahad Datu which has ample land and a mature and comprehensive port infrastructure.

In addition, the recently announced beef cattle hub at Lahad Datu Felde Sahabat would add to the need for more cold chain facilities to come on board.

"We are looking at Lahad Datu the geographical centre of the BIMP-EAGA territories, and suitable as the regional

logistics hub; and further afield we are looking at Sabah being in the midst of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which comprises all Asean member countries as well as the world's major markets including China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand," she added.

"POIC Lahad Datu offers an ideal foothold from which to reach out to the global market."

A series of recent developments have put the spotlight on Lahad Datu as a food safety certification centre for edible bird's nests, a cold storage hub, seafood and seaweed processing centre, barter trading and a transportation hub linking the BIMP-EAGA territories.

Also in the plan is an all-new international airport.