

## Sarawak targets regional AI hub status through strategic University of Bristol collaboration

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KUCHING (May 6): Sarawak is stepping up efforts to position itself as a regional hub for a data-driven and artificial intelligence-based economy by leveraging its renewable energy strengths and expanding strategic collaboration with the University of Bristol. Abang Johari attends a briefing at the Bristol Centre for Supercomputing with Sharifah Hasidah, Liew, Abdul Aziz, Abu Bakar, and Shariman. – Ukas photo

Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Datuk Openg said the state's working visit to the United Kingdom, particularly Bristol, has opened up new opportunities in advancing future industries such as AI, aerospace, and high-performance computing. He said discussions with the University of Bristol focused on potential collaboration in aerospace sectors as well as harnessing the university's computing capabilities for research into AI and aerospace technologies. Abang Johari said the use of data as the foundation of a new economy is no longer optional but essential in navigating future economic growth. "It is in line with our aspiration to use data as the primary basis in planning a new economy, and from the discussions earlier, we see that in reality we have no choice but to move towards this future. He highlighted Sarawak's plans to strengthen research collaboration in advanced fields such as quantum AI and aerospace. The visit also exposed the delegation to a large-scale supercomputing facility with 5,820 GPUs and high-performance servers, demonstrating the role of supercomputers in the modern data economy. Abang Johari noted that Sarawak's renewable energy resources and competitive electricity tariffs could help lower operational and cooling costs, giving the state potential to become a regional hub for research and data processing.

