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KUCHING: Water management and waste reduction will be among the issues examined when policymakers and environmental experts gather here on Oct 5 and 6 for the Zero Waste Management 2.0 Conference.

According to a report, Deputy Minister for Energy and Environmental Sustainability Datuk Dr Hazland Abang Hipni is scheduled to open the conference at UCSI Hotel, bringing together local authorities, businesses, researchers and environmental organisations.

The conference will be held

alongside the Green and Geopark Excellence Awards (GAGA) 2026, with Deputy Premier and Public Health, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian scheduled to deliver a keynote address at the awards gala on Oct 6.

GAGA convenor K.Y. Pung said Sarawak's commitment to sustainability was a key factor in choosing Kuching to host the programme.

Pengurusan Aset Air Berhad (PAAB) chairman Datuk Seri Jaseni Maidinsa will highlight the need for water authorities, including those in Sarawak, to strengthen conservation practices as operating costs rise.

PAAB is also sending a delegation to foster closer

ties with water authorities in Malaysian Borneo.

Researchers from Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak and UCSI University Sarawak will contribute to discussions on sustainable finance, bioenergy and digital approaches to waste management.

The two-day programme will examine ways to prevent waste and keep resources in use, while the awards will recognise achievements in conservation, responsible tourism and environmental leadership.

"I hope that the message to conserve and preserve water resources can be shared with everybody here," Jaseni said.



THE participants of the conference visit the Sarawak Cultural Village (SCV). Photo: The Vibes