

October 1, 2020

## **Building Bridges, Connecting Communities**

Rural communities deal with a range of challenges to access basic amenities. At the Samling Group, we understand that bridges and roads are a vital conduit for rural livelihoods and resilience. The bridges and road networks we use for our operations also provide access to the surrounding communities. We have also constructed feeder roads connecting to villages, schools, and parts of the forest, enabling safer and more convenient travel for local communities.

However, continuous rainfall and flash floods over the last few weeks have caused massive damage to the bridges and roads in our local communities. One of the bridges across a stream that serves 91 villages in the Baram area partially collapsed on September 8, 2020. As soon as we became aware of the damages, we mobilized our team and the required machineries from the Baram Central Base Camp to the site and constructed a temporary access road for light vehicles within 4 hours. The bridge was then repaired and became fully operational by the end of September 9, 2020, and passable to all vehicles including heavy trunks. This bridge serves communities in the upper Baram and Tinajar areas, all the way to Bario. Meanwhile, the Lg Pillah – Lg Miri trunk road that collapsed on September 13, 2020 was also fully restored by mid-day on September 15, 2020.

To date, the Group has built and maintains more than 10,000 km of roads and 81 bridges, most of which are in the deep interior of Sarawak, bringing access and greater mobility to 172 villages in 3 regions. Currently, there are 51 primary schools and 7 secondary schools in areas where we operate. Our medical outreach programs bring adequate healthcare to local communities.

Samling works closely with the Sarawak State Government to ensure our initiatives are in line with the State's Developmental Master Plan. As part of our community care, we contribute materials and equipment (including but not limited to cement, gravel, bricks, plywood), materials for roofs (such as zinc and spandex sheets), and water pipes (used to bring clean water) to the rural communities. We also provide gen-sets and ample amount of diesel to generate electricity in the rural areas. We believe in building bridges and connecting communities to alleviate poverty and improving lives.

