

# German president shows interest on young talent development and sustainability initiatives

By **Adie Zulkifli** - February 16, 2023 @ 7:24pm



German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier (centre) with President and Managing Director Infineon Technologies Asia Pacific CS Chua (right) visited Infineon Technologies in Kulim Hi Tech Park as part of his trip to Asia. The visit focused on Infineon's contribution to enabling the global energy transition with energy-saving semiconductor solutions, as well as by investing in solutions that further reduce the CO2 footprint in its chip manufacturing. - NSTP/LUQMAN HAKIM ZUBIR

KULIM: German president Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who is on a state visit to the country, expressed his interest in the development of local young talents and sustainability initiatives in the semiconductor manufacturing industry.

Infineon Technologies Asia Pacific Pte Ltd president and managing director, C.S. Chua said Steinmeier asked young engineers on their skills training development during the latter's visit to the German-based company's plant in Kulim Hi-Tech Park (KHTP) here today.

"He focused on the topic of sustainability and young talent development, how they were trained and their interest in the (semiconductor) industry.

"It was a short but was a very meaningful visit by the German president," Chua said when commenting on Steinmeier's visit to the Infineon Technologies (Kulim) Sdn Bhd plant.

Steinmeier and his delegation spent about one hour being briefed on the progress of Kulim Infineon's RM8 billion expansion project.

The visit was part of his trade visit to Malaysia and also the first visit by a German president to this country since 1986.

Prior to his visit to Malaysia, Steinmeier had visited Cambodia.

In a statement, Infineon said the visit focused on its contribution to enabling the global energy transition with energy-saving semiconductor solutions, as well as by investing in solutions that further reduce the carbon footprint in its chip manufacturing.

During the visit, Infineon Technologies Kulim senior vice president and managing director, Ng Kok Tong presented the company's investment in expanding the exhaust air purification system at the Kulim site.

He said the upgrade in Kulim was expected to result in an approximately eight per cent reduction of global direct site-related emissions by the end of the 2023 fiscal year, compared to the previous year.

Infineon, a global semiconductor leader in power systems and Internet of Things (IoT) has also set the goal of fully operating its plants in Malaysia with green electricity in the future.

Today, the company's energy-efficient solutions help save 33 times the amount of carbon emitted during their production.

Meanwhile, Chua added that Infineon was fully aligned with the trends of decarbonisation and digitalisation.

"The growing demand for renewable energy, e-vehicles as well as energy-efficient applications will lead to a strong increase in the demand for power semiconductors.

"Our investments in Kulim and beyond are laying the foundation for being able to serve this growing need as well," he said.

On the Kulim 3 expansion, the company confirmed that construction work is on schedule and the plant would be ready for equipment by the second half of 2024, creating some 900 high value jobs.

The new plant will be focusing on so-called compound semiconductors that are based on new materials like silicon carbide and gallium nitride that enable further energy-efficiency increases.

Energy-saving semiconductor solutions play a central role in the energy transition used in wind turbines, solar power systems, e-vehicles and charging infrastructures.