Sarawak wants MASwings to fly Kuching-Pontianak-Yogyakarta sector

YOGYAKARTA: The state Tourism Ministry will propose an additional route for MASwings to fly the Kuching-Pontianak-Yogyakarta sector to increase connectivity between the two destinations.

The Minister Datuk Amar Abang Haji Johari Tun Openg announced this when officiating at the opening of Sarawak-Yogyakarta East Asia Tourism Forum (EATOF) Business Collaboration Forum here on Wednesday.

He said Malaysia, represented by Sarawak, and Indonesia represented by Yogyakarta, should work on the similarities and capitalise on the strengths of both countries to benefit one another.

The synergy between Yogyakarta and Sarawak could tap bigger markets like China, Korea and Japan, which are also members of East Asia Tourism Forum (EATOF).

Other than tourism, Abang Johari also highlighted on other sectors that could be jointly developed between Yogyakarta and Sarawak, such as sports, education and healthcare sectors.

“For example, in education, Indonesia has more than 1,000 universities with some 350,000 students in Yogyakarta. Students exchange programme between universities in Yogyakarta and Sarawak, such as between Universiti Gajah Mada, the biggest university in the region with our local universities like Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) and Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), will give more exposure to the students,” he said.

The Forum also saw the presentations from Sarawak Tourism Board (STB), Sarawak Real Estate and Developers’ Association (SHEDA) and Sarawak Chambers of Commerce in the mission to enlarge the market reach of the respective sectors.

Also speaking at the event were the Head of Yogyakarta Tourism Authority, Bapak Tazbir and the Consul-General of Indonesia to Sarawak, Bapak Djoko Harjanto.

While here, Abang Johari witnessed Sarawak Tourism Federation (STF) and Association of the Indonesian Tours and Travel Agencies (ASITA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on commitment to boost the packages and linkages between Sarawak and Yogyakarta.

Signing for STF was its President Audrey Wan Ullol while ASITA was represented by its Chairman, Bapak Erwin Ismedi Himna.

Under the MOU, both parties agreed to promote and develop the tourism cooperation and regional tourism for mutual benefits.

The efforts, amongst others, will involve joint-tour packages and tourism events in Sarawak and Yogyakarta and other destinations in the region, in the spirit of BIMP-EAGA.

Both parties also agreed to have integrated and better linkages between Kuching and Yogyakarta and within the region for increased tour mobility.

TOURISM Minister Datuk Amar Abang Haji Johari beating the gong to declare open the Sarawak-Yogyakarta East Asia Tourism Forum (EATOF) Business Collaboration Forum.