



# Dr Pogaku: Over 5,000 jobs in O&G sector when SSGP is completed in 2015

By **KHABIL KIRAM**  
[khabil@newsabah-times.com.my](mailto:khabil@newsabah-times.com.my)

**KOTA KINABALU:** Over 5,000 jobs would be available in Malaysia's oil and gas industry upon completion of the Sabah Sarawak Gas Pipeline (SSGP) in 2015.

The SSGP is a 500-kilometre pipeline that transports gas from the Sabah Oil and Gas Terminal in Kimanis to

Bintulu.

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Oil and Gas Engineering Studies and Training Unit (OGESTU) Director, Prof. Dr. Pogaku Ravindra (pictured) said the jobs would especially benefit Sabah because he has seen firsthand how the oil and gas industry can transform a community.

Ravindra, originally from India, said: "I've seen life in India and how the oil and gas

industry can really develop a state.

Speaking on the issue of Sabah receiving only five per cent of oil royalties, Ravindra said providing people with skills is more important than providing people with money.

"Money can be distributed in the rural areas through CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility). But if you can really train them and give them the

skills then you won't need this.

"If you provide the facility for people to grow in terms of human skills, that will be long lasting," said Ravindra.

Stressing the need for more Sabahan players in the oil and gas industry, he said: "Now there are a lot of global players coming here (Sabah) and we're giving money to them. They do their job, and they go off. We're still stuck in

the same spot. "Presently you can depend (on outside sources) but for how long?"

Ravindra said currently there is an abundance of oil and gas in Sabah and there are still hidden oil wells scattered around the state, underlining the vast potential of the oil and gas sector.

"Oil and gas in Sabah used to be like the sun rising. Today, the sun is in high noon. We are rich in resources and

especially in the downstream," said Ravindra.

He added that there is no substitute for oil and gas and that 65 per cent of oil and gas is used for transport.

Ravindra was speaking to reporters when met after his talk titled 'Oil and Gas Engineering - Taught Programme' at the Opportunities and Challenges in the Upstream Oil & Gas Industry Seminar at UMS, yesterday.