



KUMPULAN YAYASAN SABAH

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BATU TIMBANG SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION SEMINAR EXPLORES FINDINGS

KOTA KINABALU (Wednesday) - Yayasan Sabah Group will be organising the Imbak Canyon Batu Timbang Scientific Expedition Seminar for two days beginning 4 December 2017.

According to the Director of Yayasan Sabah, Datuk Sapawi Bin Haji Ahmad, the seminar to be held at the Tun Hamdan Theatre, Menara Tun Mustapha, Likas will be divided into four sessions, namely Physical Science, Social Science and Tourism, Flora, and lastly Fauna diversity.

A total of 37 papers will be presented by 33 presenters throughout the two-day seminar which is divided into four sessions.

The first session, Physical Science among others, will cover tidal-influence shoreline, the discovery of a new trail and physical development of Batu Timbang, while the second session on Social Science and Tourism will touch on tourism, archaeological survey, Homestay potentials besides cultural heritage of the villages surrounding ICCA in Ulu Kinabatangan area.

“Presenters for the Flora themed session will among others explain diversity of vascular plants, forest ecosystem and forest structure, while presenters for the last session, Fauna will cover the diversities of insects, bats, fish and birds,” he explained.

The seminar is the post Imbak Canyon Batu Timbang Scientific Expedition, planned as part of the Yayasan Sabah Group-PETRONAS collaboration in the Imbak Canyon Conservation Area (ICCA). Datuk Sapawi said the seminar will be a platform for the expedition participants to present their findings to the research community, students and the public.

With this, it is hoped that more researchers and students would use ICCA as a research destination as a major part of the 27,599 ha. ICCA core area and its 107, 656 ha. buffer zone, has yet to be uncovered

A total of 120 participants comprising the Batu Timbang Scientific Expedition, head of relevant government departments and agencies, institutions of higher learning, NGOs and relevant individuals will be attending the seminar.

The expedition held for ten days from 16 to 26 August 2017 was participated by 177 participants comprising representatives from Yayasan Sabah Group, Sabah Forestry Department, Sabah Wildlife Department, Sabah Museum and several government departments and agencies, institutions of higher learning and NGOs.

In conjunction with the seminar, the ICCA Strategic Management Plan 2014-2023 will also be officially launched by the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment, Datuk Seri Panglima Masidi Manjun.

Datuk Sapawi said, the preparation of this Management Plan was made possible by the financial assistance from PETRONAS. It is one of the key outputs of the Yayasan Sabah Group-PETRONAS Imbak Canyon Conservation partnership.

The document becomes an essential tool to ensure sustainable management at ICCA, and provides a framework for activities to be implemented in the conservation area for a period of 10 years.

“The successful completion of the document was made possible by the active participation of all relevant stakeholders who took the time to share their experience and knowledge. We are very grateful to the members of Imbak Canyon Management Committee (ICMC) who guided the development of this plan and all individuals, including community leaders around ICCA, groups, organisations and institutions who participated in the preparation of ICCA’s first Strategic Management Plan,” he said.

The plan seeks to address all ICCA conservation issues identified by stakeholders in a series of workshops including the Stakeholders Consultation and Validation Workshop.

“Participation of stakeholders in the formulation of the Management Plan created a strong sense of ownership. The Management Plan is also an important milestone in the development and strengthening of the protected area system in Sabah,” he stressed.

ICCA is located immediately to the north of the Maliau Basin Conservation Area in the central interior of Sabah. The canyon is a 27,599 ha complex of pristine rainforest habitats ranging from lowland dipterocarp forests representative of the eastern lowlands of Sabah through lower montane heath forests on the sandstone ridges that comprise the canyon’s confining walls. It is part of the upper catchment of Sg. Kinabatangan, the longest river in Sabah.

The canyon proper is a 25 km long valley which is hemmed in on three sides by sandstone ridges. At their highest point, the ridges exceed 1,000 m above sea level. Most, but not all, of the steep outer ridges, are protected as Virgin Jungle Reserve (VJR), while the biodiversity-rich valley is now a Class I (Protection) Forest Reserve; all set within the Yayasan Sabah Concession Area. Combined, they form the Imbak Canyon Conservation Area.

“Yayasan Sabah Group would like to thank PETRONAS for being our partner in conserving and developing Imbak Canyon. The substantive support provided by PETRONAS greatly facilitated the establishment of ICCA,” he concluded.



Aerial view of ICCA.



Researchers trekking their way past the lush forest surrounding Batu Timbang during the expedition.



Researcher examining a rare specimen found at Batu Timbang during the expedition.



The participants involved in the expedition.



Datuk Sapawi.

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