



KUMPULAN YAYASAN SABAH

Menara Tun Mustapha

Kompleks Ibu Pejabat Yayasan Sabah

Teluk Likas, Peti Surat 11623

88817 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

Tel: 6 088 326300 Faks: 6 088 326424

E-mel: ysinfo@ysnet.org.my

Laman Web: <http://www.ysnet.org.my>



MS ISO 9001:2008 REG. NO. AR3553

SIARAN MEDIA

[MEDIA RELEASE/STATEMENT]

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15 June 2015

RESEARCHERS' HOUSE IN MBSC READY FOR USE

The newly completed IKEA funded researcher's house at Maliau Basin Studies Centre (MBSC) was recently officially opened by Mr. Anders Hildeman, Chairman of Sow-A-Seed Foundation at Maliau Basin Conservation Area (MBCA) on 14 June 2015.

The official opening was held subsequent to the signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between Yayasan Sabah Group and IKEA (Sow-A-Seed Foundation) on Phase 4 of the INIKEA Project held on 12 June 2015 at Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort & Spa.

Yayasan Sabah Group and IKEA have been collaborating in the restoration of degraded forests under the Innoprise-IKEA Forest Rehabilitation Project (INIKEA) since 1998 with the signing of the first MoA between both parties. The project was extended into Phase 2 with the signing of an agreement in August 2003 and Phase 3 since January 2009. To date, the total area that has been rehabilitated is 12, 396 hectares.

Besides that, under this collaboration, IKEA has funded construction of logistical infrastructures that allow public access to MBCA such as suspension bridges, observation tower and nature trails. In addition to this, logistical provision within MBCA were also improved with the construction of accommodation for long term researchers. Various camping sites, satellite camps and research stations were also upgraded, allowing researchers to stay longer in a

comfortable work environment. As to date, IKEA has contributed over RM4.6 million for this purpose.

With the newly completed researcher's house at MBSC, it is hoped that researchers may carry out more in depth scientific studies and be able to collect high quality scientific data.

During the official opening, the IKEA representatives were also given a tour around MBSC facilities as well as the Belian Camping Ground and suspension bridge. Also present at the event was the Group Manager of Conservation and Environmental Management Division of Yayasan Sabah Group, Dr. Waidi Sinun.

PIX 1 : Official opening of the researcher's house by Mr. Anders Hildeman (left) witnessed by the Group Manager of Conservation and Environmental Management Division of Yayasan Sabah Group, Dr. Waidi Sinun, (middle) and Manager of MBCA, Encik Jadda Suhaimi.

PIX 2 : Mr. Anders Hildeman unveiling the plaque witnessed by the Group Manager of Conservation and Environmental Management Division of Yayasan Sabah Group, Dr. Waidi Sinun.

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For further details, please contact:

Sam S. Karnail
Group Manager
Corporate Communications Division
Yayasan Sabah Group
Tel : 088-326448
Fax : 088-421526
Email : sam@icsb-sabah.com.my