



**KUMPULAN YAYASAN SABAH**

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# SIARAN MEDIA

## [ MEDIA RELEASE/STATEMENT ]

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

16 April 2019

### **BORNEO GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITION SEMINAR EXPLORES FINDINGS**

**KOTA KINABALU (Tuesday)** –A seminar on Borneo Geographic Expedition 2019 : Kangkawat Research Station, Imbak Canyon Conservation Area was held on 16 April 2019. The seminar was organised by the Institute of Tropical Biology and Conservation (IBTP), Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) in collaboration with the Yayasan Sabah Group.

The objective of the seminar is to share information and to document the findings obtained during the expedition. Among the areas studied include the study of flora and fauna diversity, forest ecology, water quality, geology, hydrology and components of social science and ecotourism. Kangkawat, which is part of the Imbak Canyon Conservation Area (ICCA), is a forest dominated by dipterocarp forests and is rich in plant diversity as it is known as a gene bank.

In his speech, the Director of Yayasan Sabah, Datuk Haji Jamalul Kiram bin Datuk Haji Mohd. Zakaria informed, “There is a total of 49 presentations to be presented, whereby 26 are oral presentations and 23 are poster presentations.”

He also shared, “ICCA is one of the five conservation areas managed by Yayasan Sabah Group, in addition to Danum Valley, Maliau Basin, Silam Coast and Taliwas River. The pharmaceutical and biotechnology potential of ICCA is vast and needs to be explored.

ICCA is also an important component of the biodiversity corridor, especially the mammal wildlife, connecting the Maliau Basin to the south and the Danum Valley to the east. It also serves as a water catchment area for the longest river system in Sabah, the Kinabatangan River.”

Datuk Jamalul added, “Yayasan Sabah Group collaborates with PETRONAS to develop ICCA as a learning centre for local communities in biodiversity conservation as well as gene bank conservation, and exploration of pharmaceutical and biological potentials. The Imbak Canyon Studies Centre (ICSC) which was recently officiated by the Chief Minister of Sabah cum Chairman of the Yayasan Sabah Board of Trustees, Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri

Panglima Haji Mohd. Shafie bin Haji Apdal on 26 March 2019, will be the centre for tropical rainforest research, education and capacity building.”

“ICSC, has a total area of 27 hectares equipped with various facilities related to research, education, training and nature recreation. There are six research stations, namely Tampoi, Batu Timbang, Kangkawat, Gunung Kuli, Pinang-Pinang and Kapur with one hydrology station, two weather stations, as well as the availability of experienced and qualified research assistants supporting research programmes at ICCA.

“I encourage students and researchers from local and international universities to utilise this facility to its fullest and carry out research on biodiversity, ecology, physical sciences, nature tourism and other fields that are needed to manage the conservation area effectively. The vast forest of Imbak Canyon could offer researchers a wide research topic from fundamental to applied researches,” Datuk Jamalul remarked.

Datuk Jamalul also thanked all researchers who are presenting their research findings from the Kangkawat Research Station, which will definitely be beneficial to all relevant parties. He hoped that all participants of the seminar and expedition will continue to carry out further research in ICCA.

“Not only does ICCA be sustained as our natural heritage, but it also serves as a rich source of knowledge on the ever-phenomenal tropical rainforest,” concluded Datuk Jamalul.

The ceremony was officiated by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Datuk K.Y Mustafa. Also in attendance were Prof. Datuk Dr. D. Kamarudin D. Mudin, Vice Chancellor of UMS, senior officials of Yayasan Sabah Group and UMS.



*Pic 1 : Mohd. Hafiz Syukri bin Kassim (right) briefing Datuk KY Mustapha and Datuk Haji Jamalul on his research output, Macrofungi Diversity of Kangkawat Research Station, Imbak Canyon Conservation Area.*



*Pic 2 : Datuk KY Mustapha (second, right), Datuk Haji Jamalul (second, left) and Prof. Datuk D. Kamaruddin (left) being explained on The Vegetation Structure and Carbon Stock Assessment in Imbak Canyon Conservation Area by Nur Liyana binti Mohd. Nasir.*

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