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OBJECTIVES

The principal objective of SDI is to provide independent and objective inputs to complement the policy and decision making process in Sarawak.

The specific objectives are to :

- Undertake interdisciplinary research for policy inputs to the government and other clients;
- Provide an avenue for professionals and other practitioners to discuss, exchange views and opinions facing the state and nation through conferences, seminars, workshops, dialogues and lectures;
- Disseminate information, knowledge and findings to the public through both formal and informal channels; and
- Network with other institutions with similar interests, in and outside Malaysia to facilitate the flow of information and knowledge.

The priority focus areas are :

- **Public Policy**
- **Development Studies**
- **Socio-economic Studies**



SDI was established on 2 November 1995. It is registered as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital under the Companies Act, 1965, Malaysia. As an autonomous non-profit research institute, it is entrusted to undertake inter-disciplinary research on pertinent development issues related to the state and nation for policy inputs to the government and private organisations/clients.



VISION

To be a leading research institution in the region



MISSION

▼
To offer comprehensive professional research services that provide valuable inputs to planners and policy makers

▼
To offer professional management services for conferences/seminars and generate reports and recommendations for public policy input and knowledge oriented publications

▼
To contribute to and complement the policy and decision making process in Sarawak

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Year 2020 was a double digits year that would forever be remembered by most people, locally and globally, as one that challenged their very existence socially, economically, mentally and physically. The Covid-19 pandemic is unprecedented and has led to many challenges within the family, workplace and society. Many adjustments have to be made individually and organizationally to meet the requirements of what has been termed the 'new normal'.



SDI faced the same challenges and was unable to undertake many of its programmes and activities, particularly for research due to the restrictions on movements between districts and the stringent SOPs that did not allow face-to-face meetings. Being unable to go to the ground, the research team managed to organise a number of virtual meetings to present research proposals to various clients and these are being firming up for 2021-2022.

In the first quarter of 2020, before Covid struck and led to the imposition of the MCO, we managed to organise four extremely useful public talks on digital technology. The first one was a presentation on the most digitalised country in the world, Estonia, on her digital transformation journey and e-government services; while the second one was on a more local context in digitalising signs information among the Penan community in Sarawak for digitization and preservation of indigenous knowledge. The two talks contrasted what is technological advancement in a modern society, and what could be done for a less developed society using digital technology to present and preserve indigenous signs information for future generations.

The third public talk was to examine what the State has managed to undertake so far in its digital economy journey. The progress of digital transformation under the Sarawak Multimedia Authority included the completion of 30 SMART towers, smart city applications and services, digital government applications, smart farming, etc. The fourth talk on big data defined its meaning, usefulness to individuals and organisations, and emphasised the importance of values/ethics for its good governance and management.

From March 2020 onwards during the MCO, everyone had to make adjustments to work online and virtually which affected work progress and resulted in delays. SDI, similarly, had to move all our events and activities online. Towards the last quarter of the year, we managed to organise four talks virtually by experts and members of SDI via zoom application. The topics covered were an update on conservation projects in the Heart of Borneo, Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS), impact on mental health due to Covid-19, and on understanding Iban riddling culture and using a coding system to document it. These four talks touched on sustainability, not only of the environment, but also society's engagement and resilience to face challenges and play an effective role for a sustainable future.

Of notable mention as reported last year, is SDI's role in assisting Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak, to set a Malaysia Book of Records for 'Most Number of Unity Short Stories' with 1,000 stories on 28th July 2020. It took a lot of time and effort to see this achievement but is a feather in the cap for both YPS and SDI.

Though 2020 had been a most challenging year with most programmes and discussions done virtually, we also saw a higher participation rate for our public talks as participants could join virtually from anywhere. The pandemic has broken down borders and made accessibility to information more fluid through technological innovations.

I am happy to note that the SDI secretariat has adjusted well to these 'new normal' requirements and done a good job to involve SDI members and other stakeholders. My utmost appreciation for the effort and work commitment.

I wish to also put on record my thanks to the Board of Directors of SDI, SDI corporate, associate and ordinary members, partners, collaborators and the media for their unwavering support to SDI.

Lastly, my profound appreciation to the State Government for its financial support and all government ministries and agencies as well as the private sector, for collaborating with us in our journey to assist Sarawak become a high income nation by 2030.

Thank you.



YB DATUK AMAR JAUL SAMION
Chairman
Sarawak Development Institute

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CHAIRMAN

YB Datuk Amar Jaul Samion
State Secretary of Sarawak



DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

YBhg. Dato Sri Haji Mohamad Abu Bakar Bin Marzuki
*Deputy State Secretary, Sarawak
(Socio-economic Transformation)*

DIRECTORS



YBhg. Dato Ik Pahon Joyik
*Deputy State Secretary, Sarawak
(Rural Transformation)*



**YBhg. Dato Sri Dr. Haji Wan Lizozman
Wan Omar**
*State Financial Secretary
State Financial Secretary's Office*



YBhg. Dato Antonio Kahti Galis
*Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Local Government
and Housing*



YBhg. Dato Sr Zaidi Bin Haji Mahdi
*Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Urban Development
& Natural Resources*



YBhg. Dato Buckland Anak Bangik
*Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Transport*



**YBhg. Dato Associate Professor
Dr. Muhammad Abdullah Haji Zaidel**
*Director
Economic Planning Unit*



**Tuan Haji Abdul Hadi Bin
Datuk Haji Abdul Kadir**
*General Manager
Sarawak Economic Development Corporation
(SEDC)*



Mr. Hii Chang Kee
*Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture*



Professor Dr. Patrick Then Hang Hui
*Director
Centre for Digital Futures
Head
School of Information and Communication Technologies
Faculty of Engineering, Computer & Science
Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak*

SECRETARIAT



Lelia Sim Ah Hua
Chief Executive Officer
lelia@sdi.com.my



Rosalind Wong
Deputy General Manager
rwong@sdi.com.my



Kamaruddin Sajeli
Acting Head, Research Division
kamaruddin@sdi.com.my



Evelette Robin
Conference / Events Executive
eveletterobin@sdi.com.my



Ralph Balan Langet
Communication Officer
Sarawak Communication for
Development (SCD) Centre
ralphBL@sdi.com.my



Tang Tze Lee
Research Officer
tzelee@sdi.com.my



Nur Asmida Arzmi
Research Officer
asmida@sdi.com.my



Alan Teo
Administrative & Finance Officer
ateoss@sdi.com.my



Patricia P. Nayoi
Senior Administrative Assistant
pnayoi@sdi.com.my



Khalik Abdul Putit
Administrative Assistant
khalik@sdi.com.my



Khairul Anam Khalid
Accounts Assistant /
Events Assistant
khairul.a@sdi.com.my



**Dr. Abdul Mutalip
Bin Abdullah**
Visiting Senior
Research Fellow

PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

TALKS AND BRIEFINGS



PUBLIC TALK ON “e-GOVERNMENT SERVICES IN ACTION” & “CO-DESIGNING TECHNOLOGIES WITH INDIGENOUS PENANS”

12th February 2020, SMA Creative Heritage Innovation Centre (CHIC)



The talk was given by Professor David Lamas from Tallinn University's School of Digital Technologies, Estonia, where he presented on e-Estonia's experience and its digital transformation journey; while Associate Professor Dr. Tariq Zaman from School of Computing and Creative Media, University College of Technology Sarawak (UCTS) shared his experiences and insights in co-designing mobile technologies with the Penan community for digitization and preservation of indigenous knowledge in Sarawak.

Professor Lamas gave an overview on Estonia's digitalisation journey from the first draft of Principles of Estonian Information Policy in 1994 until the development and implementation of Government AI Strategy in 2019. He also shared the key highlights of their success which included a once only policy for information collection; interoperability on secure data exchange, secure authentication and digital signature, transparency and accountability on digital transaction activities and access, and digital by default where all services are provided digitally first before manual process consideration.

Associate Professor Tariq gave an interesting presentation on the Penan Oroo's sign language and how the research team worked with the Penan community on digitalising signs information for future generations. Lessons learned from working with the Penan community included significance of embodied experience where the technologies must be designed for real time experience or usage of the local community. Therefore, the technologies must be resilient to adapt to the changes and challenges outside the controlled environment. Another lesson is the importance of developing mutual understanding and long term community engagement through a participatory process with the community on the research content. Lastly, there must also be a mutual recognition of both academic and indigenous knowledge, as well as experiences by the stakeholders of the research project.





Among the questions posed were on the acceptance rate among the public, the driving factors in Estonia to fully utilize digital transactions, effectiveness of the cybersecurity in protecting personal data and online transactions. Professor Lamas emphasised that e-Estonia was possible because the infrastructure was ready and free for everyone when the idea of digitalization was introduced. Key infrastructure such as internet access and Wi-Fi are available and provided for free which supported the government's effort in digitalising Estonia.



Questions were posed to Dr. Tariq on the challenges in adopting digitalisation among the Penan and how to encourage the Penan youth to be interested in digital economy. Dr. Tariq pointed out that in Sarawak, most of the rural areas do not have the digital infrastructure and access to the internet and phone lines. That was one of the main challenges faced. If the access is available, awareness creation can then be conducted to get the youth or the community on board. He also mentioned that the team experienced difficulties initially to get cooperation from the Penan, especially in eliciting their interest to be part of the research activities. He acknowledged that the representation of indigenous knowledge is transformed with the digitisation process.

The talk was attended by 90 participants from the public, private and government sectors, SDI members and corporate members.





SHARING ON PERTINENT ISSUES AND OUTCOME OF THE SUSTAINABILITY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY FORUM (SAREF)

20th February 2020,
AZAM Conference Room

Sarawak Energy Berhad, a corporate member of SDI, gave a briefing cum sharing session on the Sustainability and Renewable Energy Forum (SAREF) organised together with the Ministry of Utilities Sarawak on 10th-11th December 2019 at Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCKK). Madam Peing Tajang, Head of Communications, Ms. Elaine Tan, Senior Manager for Content, Brand and Sponsorship, and Ms. Vanes Devindran from Sarawak Energy Berhad shared on their visions of creating and building better narratives for renewable energy in Sarawak as well as challenges during the coordination of SAREF.

The team shared that the event marked the beginning of a 10-year thought leadership campaign with sustainability and the role of renewable energy being the cornerstone of this historic event, in line with delivering United Nations Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The forum was well attended by 500 delegates from Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia, Taiwan, Japan, Australia, United States and United Kingdom, with 33 session speakers sharing their experiences and knowledge. The forum explored how energy players and other stakeholders can work together to maximise renewable energy solutions to meet the growing demand for power in their respective markets and emission targets.

The briefing was attended by more than 30 participants who are SDI and AZAM members.



PUBLIC TALKS ON 'UPDATE ON SARAWAK'S DIGITAL ECONOMY INITIATIVES (DE) & DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT (DI)' AND 'LET'S DISCOVER BIG DATA'

6th March 2020, AZAM Conference Room

Speakers from Sarawak Multimedia Authority and University of Malaysia Sarawak provided an update on the progress of digital transformation in the State, and a better understanding of the buzzword "big data" among SDI members and members of the public who attended the talks.

Ms. Fecility Anai, Administrative Officer from Sarawak Multimedia Authority (SMA) presented a comprehensive general update on DE and DI development including completion of 30 of the SMART towers as of February 2020, the roll out of smart city applications and services such as SarawakPay, Digital Government App, ELA2, LASIS, e-sports, integrated smart meter, state integrated operation centre and smart traffic lights in the city centre of Kuching. She also informed that smart farming initiatives will be expanded to Kebuloh and Sebieu areas. One of the key issues highlighted was on engaging the farmers on customising the technology for their needs. The participants also highlighted the need to share pertinent data from the pilot project with regard to the success rate. The data is important to attract investors and interest in adopting the technology for commercial farming. Other updates were on partnership with key industry players, and outreach and training activities conducted for the stakeholders.

Professor Dr. Narayanan Kulathuramaiyer from the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, UNIMAS shared on how big data's definition has changed from year to year due to the fast changing environment in the internet world. Primarily, big data is defined by the amount of data being available for processing. To the layman, big data is about making sense of the data and its value to the organisation. He mentioned three steps in making big data relevant to any person and organisation which included, to model the supply chain, which is to understand the set of data required to improve the processes along the supply chain, to engage and empower the users, and to scale up. For big data management, he opined that values (ethics) is the most important factor needed for good governance and management for it to benefit mankind.





BROWN BAG TALK: WWF-MALAYSIA'S CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN THE HEART OF BORNEO

12th November 2020, Via ZOOM application

Dr. Henry Chan highlighted the latest updates on the numerous conservation projects in the Heart of Borneo areas specifically in Ba' Kelalan, Long Semadoh, Baleh National Park, Song-Katibas, and Batang Ai under the three conservation pillars namely Protect, Produce and Restore. Under the Protect pillar, the projects comprise the protection of rivers and improving the livelihoods in Ba' Kelalan and Long Semadoh, identifying the potential habitat of orangutans for protection and joint management in Sabah, and expedition to Baleh to propose areas for gazettelement under the proposed Baleh National Park.



Under the Produce pillar, he shared about the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) project at Ba'Kelalan and also the pepper farming project at Song-Katibas where WWF promoted the organic farming approach to cultivate these crops to help the farmers to increase yields, and market value of the crops while protecting the environment.

A forest restoration project in Sg. Tiagau, Sabah is one of the projects cited under the Restore pillar which aims to preserve the orangutans' natural habitats and its connectivity areas which are important for the movement and survival of orangutans, as well as to enhance the forest structure and reduce risks of forest fire. Another project is in Batang Ai where they partnered with landowners at Rumah Manggat to plant gaharu for tea leaves at the degraded land that buffers key orangutans' habitats. The project aims to provide an additional income to the landowners and protect the forest for orangutans. The gaharu project is well received by the local community and is thriving.

He also shared on how these three main pillars are integrated together in projects to promote high conservation value (HCV) as a planning tool for Sustainable Forest Management. The HCV include species diversity, landscape-level ecosystem, ecosystems & habitats, ecosystem services, community needs and cultural values. Another case example presented is on integrating elephant conservation into palm oil and forestry plantations in Sabah where WWF worked together with the private local and international companies, and the Sabah Government in protecting the elephants' habitat. The Tabin landscape project in Sabah is another successful project which incorporates the three pillars in the management of sustainable palm oil plantations. This project is a result of the Sabah Government's aim to get all the palm oil products to be certified by the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) in 2015.

During the interaction session, questions asked included the community's needs versus wildlife needs to avoid future conflicts, approaches taken to identify suitable alternative activities for the community, scope of HOB areas, the branding of HOB, challenges faced in engaging the plantation owners and community, and conflict resolution courses for all stakeholders.

In response to the queries on community needs and working with the community, Dr. Henry emphasized the importance of sustainability of these community projects, namely assessing the project's suitability, acceptance by the local community, and market access for the products produced under the projects through partnership and collaboration with private organisations. WWF managed to sustain the community projects implemented in the various conservation projects through multi stakeholders collaborations especially with the private sector.

OUR ASPIRATIONS

HABITATS AND WILDLIFE OUTCOMES

- 50%** 50% of Malaysia's terrestrial landscapes* is sustainably managed for the conservation of biological diversity and ecosystem services as well as for the wellbeing of local communities.
- 2mil** 2 million* ha of forest landscapes under restoration, for wildlife corridors and ecosystem services, through effective policy and legislation, supported by international funding.
* arbitrary number; to be confirmed after stakeholder consultation
- 30%** 30% of Malaysia's terrestrial landscapes* is sustainably managed for sustainable production for green economy.
* these are areas outside of the forested landscapes
- 100%** 100% of Malaysia's coastal seas are protected or sustainably managed for conservation and production for food security, climate resilience and human well-being.
*coastal seas refers to 0-30 nautical miles, which is almost 15.6 million ha in total
- Priority species** are not threatened by poaching, illegal wildlife trade, retaliatory killing and bycatch.
- Populations of priority species** are stabilized or increased.

BROWN BAG TALK

via zoom

WWF-Malaysia's Conservation Projects in the Heart of Borneo

The talk will cover WWF-Malaysia's numerous conservation projects in Sabah and Sarawak and how they organized these efforts into three big ideas, namely the three pillars of Protect, Produce and Restore.

Dr. Henry Chan
Conservation Director
WWF-Malaysia

2:00pm - 4:00pm
12th November 2020 (Thursday)
Open to SOI members

Supported by **KonferenceX**
Sustainable Meetings & Events



BRIEFING ON KUCHING URBAN TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (KUTS)

19th November 2020, Via ZOOM application

Encik Mazli bin Mustafa, Chief Executive Officer of Sarawak Metro, gave a special briefing to members of SDI and AZAM on the upcoming Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS). KUTS is a visionary transportation system using Automated Rapid Transit (ART). It is the first system in the world powered by hydrogen fuel cells and runs on virtual tracks. The 1st phase of the KUTS will involve the construction of two urban lines namely the Samarahan Line and Serian Line. The whole project is expected to be fully completed by 2027. Once it is completed, the KUTS is expected to ease the traffic congestion in the greater Kuching area, create more economic opportunities, promote green energy technology and greater mobility for the people.

He also shared on the Socio-economic Enhancement Development (SEED) Programme initiated by Sarawak Metro to generate value-added deliverables from the procurement contract under the KUTS project. It acts as a means of acquiring new capacity and capabilities to generate additional industrial and economic activities. This is in line with the aspirations of the Sarawak Government to enhance the State's economic growth; to produce more skilled manpower; to be globally competitive; and to become a high-income and developed state by the year 2030. The main focus areas are assembly plant initiative, urban transport, hydrogen centre of excellence initiative, and talent readiness initiative.

SHARING SESSION ON KUCHING URBAN TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (KUTS)

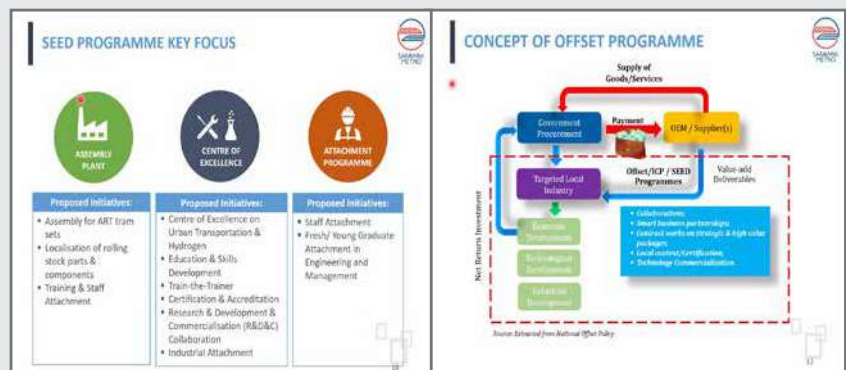
via **zoom**

Speaker:

Encik Mazli Bin Mustafa
Chief Executive Officer
Sarawak Metro Sdn. Bhd.

10:00am – 11:30am

19th November 2020 (Thursday)



BACKGROUND

- Feb 2018: SMSB incorporated as a subsidiary of SEDC to undertake the KUTS project
- Jun 2018: Feasibility study for the KUTS project completed
- May 2019: Sarawak Government revisits the KUTS project
- Sept 2019: SMSB is operational
- July 2020: Environmental, Social, Heritage Impact Assessment for the KUTS project begins
- 2022: KUTS project Civil & Structure Works to begin
- 2023: KUTS project System Works to begin
- 2025: KUTS project Revenue Service to begin

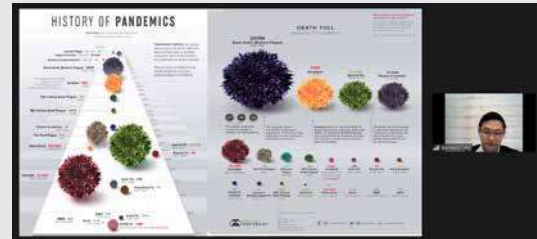
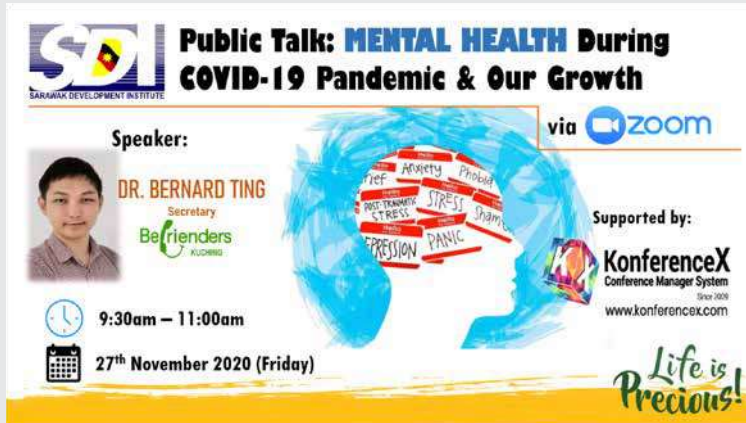
MASTER IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

Timeline from 2018 to 2025 showing project phases: Feasibility Study, Design, Construction, and Operation.



PUBLIC TALK: MENTAL HEALTH DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC & OUR GROWTH

27th November 2020, Via ZOOM application



The talk was organised to better understand the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic as it continues to ravage the global economy and social wellbeing of the world population. The pandemic has brought greater attention to mental health issues which have always been sidelined and under funded.

In the presentation by Dr. Bernard Ting, Vice President of Sarawak Befrienders, it was reported by the WHO that among 130 countries polled, 93 percent showed devastating impacts of Covid-19 in terms of access to mental health services. This exacerbated the already low funding of less than 2 percent of national health budgets allocated for mental health. The report also noted that over 60 percent of reported disruptions to mental health services were for vulnerable segments including children and adolescents (72%), older adults (70%) and women requiring antenatal or postnatal services (61%).

In Sarawak, prior to the pandemic, the number of mental patients in the State was already on the rise, with an increase to 441 patients in 2019 compared to 346 in 2018. This does not bode well for Sarawak, where mental health resources are worryingly insufficient. As recently as 2018, the whole of Sarawak only had 2 clinical psychologists along with 19 psychiatrists scattered around Kuching, Serian, Sri Aman, Sibu, Bintulu, Kapit, Miri and Limbang. This is woefully inadequate in the best of times, let alone in a new era of pandemic-driven mental health challenges. Even more stinging is the fact that allocations for psychiatry and mental health were reduced in the 2021 budget by RM31.4 million. This figure is the lowest amount allocated since 2017.

The presentation also touched on the indicators of mental health changes during the pandemic. At an individual level, mental health stresses can manifest in different ways. Some indicators include biological changes such as muscle tension, shakiness, being easily fatigued, headaches, chest tightness, as well as sleep and appetite disturbances. Emotional changes encompass feelings such as panic, worries, anger, guilt, helplessness, hopelessness and grief, while cognitive changes include impaired attention, memory difficulties, denial, and the feeling of being disconnected. Behavioural changes consist of addiction to media, games, alcohol, washing hands, domestic violence and self-harm. These changes in mental health can be caused by intra and interpersonal struggles, stigma, panicky surroundings, social distancing, environment and personality development. Other concerns covered were on suicide, social stigmatisation of Covid-19, and tips on how to support those experiencing mental health issues.

The discussion following the presentation was centred on approaches and tips on how to identify and support people with mental health issues, how to seek help and dealing with stress caused by the pandemic.

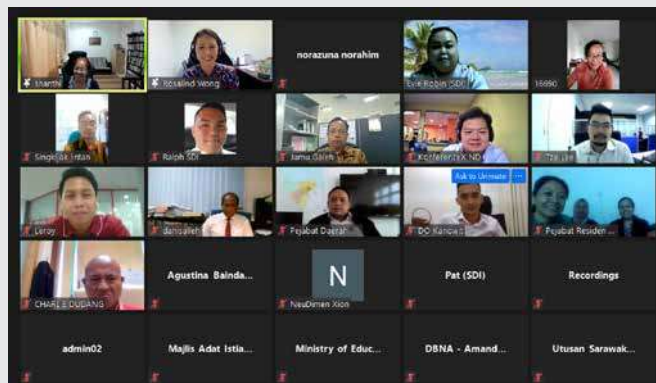




BROWN BAG TALK ON *ENTE LAH*: UNDERSTANDING IBAN RIDDLING CULTURE AND ITS POTENTIAL

3rd December 2020, via ZOOM Application

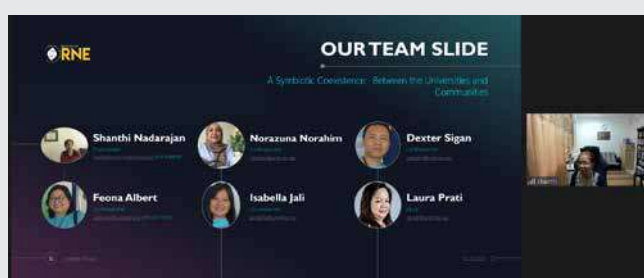
This presentation was based on a study conducted by Associate Professor Dr. Shanti Nadarajan, Faculty of Language and Communication, UNIMAS and her team to examine the concept of folk wisdom aka 'wit' from two frameworks namely, a predictable set of cultural practices, and manipulation of language linguistic structure. Dr. Shanti shared at length on the riddling culture from the perspectives of cultural linguistics and learning. She delved into the oral history and traditions where she emphasised that oral language was as equally important as written languages. She also shared at length on *Entelah* from the semantic, pragmatic and linguistic ambiguity aspects.



Dr. Shanti also emphasized that folk riddling is a cultural and linguistic act that operates in relation to semantic and semantic priming. A way forward from this is hoping that more people should study oral traditions from a linguistic perspective. A community must work together on more projects that can help enrich Sarawak's knowledge resources. There should be teaching and learning happening so that there is adequate understanding of the development of the child's ability to appreciate jokes and riddles which is important to help them use language effectively.

The study also created a coding system for assessing the ambiguity of oral riddles. The proposed coding system offers researchers working on indigenous languages an opportunity to code a large amount of data relatively quickly and consistently. The system used categories such as ambiguity, syntax-function relation, reference, and structural and ambiguity (image-clue-answer). The study found the community is very interested and excited in giving their feedback. The research team found there are a lot of differences in the *entelah* and the community is particular about the sound and chronology of *entelah*.

In conclusion, the study team believed the coding system is able to incorporate a lot of oral traditions and can be used by other languages as well. This augurs well for the documentation of the rich oral traditions in the State and beyond.



IN COLLABORATION WITH YAYASAN PERPADUAN SARAWAK



PROJECT ON SARAWAK'S PRIDE - MOST NUMBER OF UNITY SHORT STORIES

January 2020 - July 2020

The call for more submissions was continued in 2020 in an attempt to achieve a record in the Malaysia Book of Records (MBR) with 1,000 stories. Although there were more than 1,000 stories received in 2019, only over 700 stories qualified to be accepted. The organisers renewed the call for more stories by offering attractive prizes such as Samsung Galaxy Watch Active2, Apple Watch Series 3, Fitbit Inspire and Xiaomi Mi Band 4.

By July 2020, the organisers successfully received a total of 1,118 stories and submitted the record to the MBR for endorsement. On 28th July 2020, the 1,118 stories were accepted to achieve the "Most Number of Unity Stories" record. 674 submissions received were from Kuching, followed by Miri with 140, 97 from Sibu, 22 from Bintulu, 16 from Sarikei, 14 from Samarahan, 11 from Betong, 10 from Sri Aman, 9 from Limbang, 8 from Serian and Kapit respectively, and 5 from Mukah while 104 were submissions by individuals from outside of Sarawak.



MALAYSIA BOOK OF RECORDS AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR SARAWAK'S PRIDE PROJECT

10th September 2020, Pullman Hotel

The award presentation ceremony was graced by His Excellency Governor of Sarawak, Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, who is also the Chairman, Board of Trustees of YPS. Other guests who attended included YBhg. Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri George Chan, Board Trustee of YPS, YB Datuk Amar Jaul Samion, Sarawak State Secretary and Chairman of SDI, YBhg. Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Mohamad Morshidi bin Abdul Ghani, Past Chairman of SDI, YBhg. Datu Aloysius J. Dris, Chief Executive of YPS, members of YPS and representatives from the different religious groups, other distinguished guests and the media.

The plaque and certificate for the award "Sarawak's Pride - Most Number of Unity Short Stories" was given by Mr. Christopher Wong, Chief Operating Officer, from the Malaysia Book of Records (MBR). During the ceremony, prizes were also given to winners of the selected unity short stories from Bintulu, Sibu, Kuching and Miri respectively.



OTHER ACTIVITIES



APPRECIATION LUNCH FOR IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN

6th July 2020, Aisha's Lunchbox

An appreciation lunch was held for SDI's immediate past chairman, YBhg. Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Mohamad Morshidi bin Abdul Ghani for his leadership and contributions to SDI & the greater AZAM group from 2009-2019. The function was held with Covid-19 SOP observations in place. The lunch was attended by YB Datuk Amar Jaul Samion, SDI's Chairman & Sarawak State Secretary, YBhg. Datu William P. Nyigor, Acting Chairman of AZAM; Mr. Buckland Bangik, Board Member of SDI; Mr. Mohd Ariff, Honorary Secretary of AZAM; YBhg. Datu William Wei, Honorary Treasurer of AZAM; YBhg. Dato Norhyati Ismail, Board member of AZAM and Chairman of FMM, YBhg. Datu Aloysius Dris, former CEO AZAM/SDI and Board director of FMM, and the management of the greater AZAM group.

The management gifted YBhg. Tan Sri with a special pictorial book on his involvement with the greater AZAM from 2009 to 2019.



24th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SARAWAK DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

15th December 2020, DBNA Multipurpose Hall, Jalan Ong Tiang Swee

The 24th Annual General Meeting was chaired by YB Datuk Amar Jaul Samion, the new Chairman of SDI. In his remarks, YB Datu Amar Jaul put on record his sincere thanks and appreciation to the former Chairman of SDI, YBhg. Tan Sri Datuk Amar Mohamad Morshidi bin Abdul Ghani who led the organisation for 10 years from 2009-2019. His exemplary leadership had greatly contributed to the development of SDI. YB Datuk Amar Chairman also extended his sincere appreciation to all the former board members who had served SDI dedicatedly for the past decade as well. They were YBhg. Datu Haji Ismawi Haji Ismuni who was the Deputy Chairman of SDI, YBhg. Datu Haji Soedirman Aini, YBhg. Datu William Patrick Nyigor and Dr. Abdul Rahman Deen. Their contributions and commitment to SDI were much appreciated. He also recorded his thanks to the new Board Members who have come on board to assist him in setting directions for the Institute taking into account the State's current and new development initiatives.

YB Datuk Amar also mentioned that 2020 has been a challenging year with the Covid-19 pandemic. Many programmes/events have been postponed or cancelled as required under the SOPs set. With the new normal, there are many new skills that organisations need to acquire. He also shared that Sarawak is coming up with new development strategies to support post COVID-19 development under the Sarawak Economic Action Council (SEAC). He requested that SDI take the strategies into consideration and assist in their implementation.

Among the other key matters discussed during the meeting were the direction for SDI's research and projects, and recruitment of new members for the Institute. The 24th Annual General Meeting was attended by 21 members with 22 proxies.



ACTIVITIES UNDER SARAWAK COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (SCD CENTRE)



UTILISATION OF RASPBERRY PI FOR GREATER OUTREACH (BIJAK PROJECT)

The BIJAK Project (*Bersama Intu Jaga Kampung*) is an effort to provide materials for the reference of the Village Security and Development Committees (JKKK) in Sarawak to undertake their roles and responsibilities more effectively, especially for communities in areas lacking and without internet accessibility, by using a device known as the Raspberry Pi. SDI is collaborating with Associate Professor Dr. Johari Abdullah from the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, UNIMAS, who provided the technical expertise to develop the interface for the content.

The content focuses on easy to understand infographics, and also includes videos and documents. It covers guidelines on JKKK organisational structure and the role of each committee member, different categories of bureaus, as well as other information associated aspects such as JKKK appointment requirements, allowances and its disbursement procedures, KPIs and formation of cooperatives. There is also a skill development section covering aspects such as organising a meeting, basic project management, public speaking, and others. Other additional information include aid request forms, information on Covid-19, as well as videos on how to apply for *Biasiswa Pinjaman Kerajaan Negeri Sarawak*, how to register and use SarawakPay, as well as other informational videos. This project is to support the JKKK in accessing vital and useful information with the help of technology, in line with the State's Digital Economy Agenda.

A field test of the Raspberry Pi was conducted on 19th December 2020 at the Community Hall of Kampung Seratau with 21 JKKK members and villagers from Kampung Seratau, Kampung Sibanyis, Kampung Bradau, Kampung Prutan, and Kampung Sidarud. Mr. Rangen Jamang, Sarawak Administrative Officer from the Padawan Sub-District Office, was also present at the session. Kampung Seratau and the neighbouring villages were chosen for the field test after consultation with Temenggung Austin Dimin on identifying communities with varying levels of internet coverage. Based on the feedback from the 21 JKKK members involved at the session, a majority (85.7%) of the feedback was positive, citing the content is user friendly, attractive and relevant to their roles.

Several more tests will be conducted in the near future in different locations such as Kampung Serpan Laut in Asajaya and more. These field tests are necessary to obtain feedback and input from the JKKK regarding the content and device for further improvement, and to study its functionality in various areas with and without internet coverage.





GUIDELINES BOOKLET FOR KETUA KAUM



The SCD Centre in collaboration with the State General Administration Unit (UP) is producing a guidelines booklet for *Ketua Kaum* to assist them to carry out their tasks and responsibilities within the community. This project is a result from three feedback exploratory sessions conducted by the SCD Centre in 2017 with community leaders in the southern, central, and northern regions. From the sessions, a common need raised was for more up-to-date reference materials to assist the *Ketua Kaum* in carrying out their roles and functions more effectively.

The booklet consists of details relating to the appointment of *Ketua Kaum* and useful information for them to carry out their duties. These include updated and standardized supplementary administrative information on various government services (such as the National Registration Department, Resident and District Offices and types of assistance from the Welfare Department).

Several notable contents in the booklet are brief information on Minor Rural Project (MRP) application processes, brief details on preparation of a *Profil Kampung*, and a list of mobile applications (apps) for government services (e.g. Sarawak Gov, SCS Talikhidmat, SPay Global, and more). Additionally, information on matters of Sarawak Native Courts were also included to assist *Ketua Kaum* in performing their role at the Headman's Court (matters on *Adat* marriages, application of non-natives to be identified with any particular native community, etc.), as well as updated information on the Sarawak Land Code (Amendment), 2018. The booklet is also furnished with a contact directory (covering all districts and divisions) of relevant Sarawak Government departments and agencies, Ministry of Home Affairs departments and agencies (RELA, JBPM, APM, PDRM), and more.



RESEARCH



SURVEY ON DIGITAL READINESS OF COMMUNITY IN SARAWAK: EXPLORATORY SURVEY IN BINTULU, MIRI AND LIMBANG DIVISION.

This survey in the northern region is commissioned by the State Multimedia Authority (SMA) to complete the whole state survey on community digital readiness. The aim of this survey is similar to the two previous surveys which were conducted in the southern and central regions of Sarawak. The survey will explore and assess the digital readiness of the community in Bintulu, Miri and Limbang. Among the specific objective of the survey are, a) to gauge their level of awareness/knowledge regarding ICT and Digital Economy as well as the State's Digital Economy Strategy; b) to assess their awareness on, and the opportunities provided by digital economy; c) to examine their level of ICT paraphernalia affordability and ownership; d) to appraise their level of digital literacy, competency and participatory interest, and evaluate the extent of digital access and gaps.

The survey will cover both populations in the urban and rural areas based on the existence of Pusat Internet Malaysia (PIM). In terms of data collection, the survey will adopt a mixed approach combining both quantitative method and qualitative method to collect data. Significant issues identified will be further explored through in-depth personal or focus group discussions involving key personnel in the know.

The respondents of the survey will be determined by the proximity of their homes to the PIM (and having used the service at the PIM). Sample selections will be done randomly but should include different categories of the community such as farmer, housewife, youth and others. The duration of the survey is 9 calendar months. The survey is currently put on hold due to the strict standard operating procedures (SOP) and inter-division/district movement restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.





SARAWAK DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE
Kompleks AZAM, Jalan Crookshank,
93000 Kuching, Sarawak
Tel : 6082-415484, 416484
Fax : 6082-412799, 419799
<http://www.facebook.com/sdisarawak>

WWW.SDI.COM.MY