

research
services
conferences
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dialogues



ANNUAL REPORT 2011



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Introduction



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.

Objectives

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

The specific objectives are to:

- Undertake inter-disciplinary 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;
- Network with other institutions with similar interests, in and outside Malaysia to facilitate the flow of information and knowledge.

The priority focus areas

- Public Policy
- Development Studies
- Socio-economic Studies

Vision & Mission



Vision

To be a leading research institution in the region

Mission

- To offer comprehensive professional research services that provide valuable input 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 and to complement the policy and decision making process in Sarawak.

Chairman's Statement

The year 2011 was another fruitful year for SDI where we addressed a wide range of development issues in Sarawak. We addressed issues on youth, women, preservation of indigenous languages, school leadership, corporate social responsibility and environmental sustainability.

SDI widened its networking portfolio when we partnered with Engineers Australia, Malaysia Chapter and Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus to organize the ASEAN Australian Engineering Congress 2011. With the theme "Engineering for Sustainability", the congress attracted the relevant international organizations in Vietnam, Philippines, Singapore, Brunei and Australia. The congress was also supported by organizations like Shell, HSBC, China Machinery Engineering Corporation, Bintulu Port Sdn Bhd, Sarawak Energy Berhad, Australia Trade Commission and Malaysia Convention and Exhibition Bureau.

On the local front, SDI continued to engage the youth through a series of dialogues on development issues. A key partner of SDI in organizing these dialogues is the Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak and supported by Faradale Media-M. The dialogue 'Sarawak Youth on Continuing the Legacy of Freedom and Harmony under the 1Malaysia Concept' was extended to Miri and Mukah after being held in Kuching and Sibu the previous year. From these dialogues, we found out that the youth in Sarawak were concerned about development issues such as SCORE, information and generation gap, employment, quality of education, scholarship for rural students, crime and environmental issues. SDI also organized an in-depth brainstorming session on environmental communication to take stock on the current practices and processes. It was highlighted that we still have many internal and across departmental communication issues which inevitably affect the external communication in addressing environmental concerns and allegations.

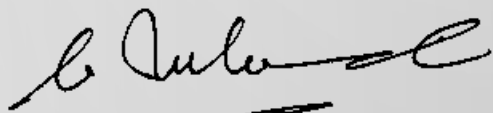
Corporate Social Responsibility was another topic highlighted by SDI through one of the talks organized in partnership with CSR Asia, HSBC and SEDC to increase the understanding of CSR and how to incorporate it into the business model. It was noted that CSR is becoming an important subject for the business sector as it is an integral part of long term business sustainability. Other important talks organized were on preservation of indigenous languages, women in entrepreneurship and school leadership.

I am very happy to note that an associate member of SDI, Dr. Edward Yost, had returned to Sarawak and conducted a workshop on Delivering Strategy Execution through Human Capital Architecture in 2011. Contribution like this is important to support SDI which needs members' expertise and knowledge to complement the work of the Secretariat. I urged all members to continue to give their inputs and bring up issues for discussion or research.

In 2011, SDI was also requested to undertake two other research projects. One was to do an update for the Socio-economic Study of Terubok Fishermen by the Department of Agriculture Sarawak. Another was the Socio-Economic Survey for Kedaya Telang Usan, Miri Agropolitan Project which was requested by the Miri Resident's Office. Meanwhile the research proposal on Baseline Study on Expatriates and Other Non-Resident Employees (Foreigners) was still being discussed. These research studies will hopefully, take off in 2012.

In appreciation for another productive year, I wish to extend a big thank you to the SDI Board of Directors, the TWGs and management as well as staff of SDI. On behalf of SDI, I wish also to put on record my appreciation to all government agencies, local, regional and international organizations and the local media for their kind support. Last but not least, my deepest appreciation to SDI's Patron, YAB Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, the Chief Minister of Sarawak and the State Government for their unwavering support.

Thank you.



**TAN SRI DATUK AMAR HAJI MOHAMAD MORSHIDI
BIN ABDUL GHANI**

Chairman of Sarawak Development Institute



Board of Directors



Chairman

YB TAN SRI DATUK AMAR HAJI MOHAMAD MORSHIDI ABDUL GHANI
State Secretary of Sarawak



Deputy Chairman

YBHG. DATU HAJI ISMAWI HAJI ISMUNI
Director
State Planning Unit



Director

**YBHG. DATU JAUL
SAMION**

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Land Development



Director

**YBHG. DATU HAJI CHAITI
HAJI BOLHASSAN**

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Rural Development



Director

**YBHG. DATU DR.
NGENANG JANGGU**

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Modernisation of Agriculture



Director

**YBHG. DATU DR.
PENGUANG MANGGIL**

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Local Government and
Community Development



Director

**TUAN HAJI
SOEDIRMAN AINI**

General Manager
Sarawak Economic Development
Corporation (SEDC)



Director

**YBHG. DATU IK PAHON
JOYIK**

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Tourism



Director

**ENCIK WILLIAM PATRICK
NYIGOR**

Director
Information & Communications Technology
Unit (ICT)



Director

**DR. ABDUL RAHMAN
DEEN**

Director
Workforce Development Unit
Chief Minister's Department

Secretariat



(Left to right)

Abdul Khalik Putit, Evelette Robin, Rosalind Wong, YBhg. Datu Aloysius J. Dris (Chief Executive Officer),
Lelia Sim, Kamaruddin Sajeli, Alan Teo

(Not in the photo)

Patricia P. Nayoi and Asmida Arzmi

Summary of Activities

Conference Division



3rd Dialogue with Sarawak Youth on Continuing the Legacy of Freedom and Harmony under the 1Malaysia Concept

18 January 2011, Mega Hotel Miri

The 3rd dialogue was held in conjunction with the launch of "Sarawak Youth for Unity 2011" calendar of activities by Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak (Sarawak Unity Foundation), Sarawak Development Institute and Faradale Media-M Sdn Bhd. With the theme "*Passing on the Torch to our Future Leaders*," the objectives of the dialogue was to engage the youth in understanding and safeguarding the freedom and harmony in the country, and to provide an avenue for the youth to discuss on current issues affecting their country and their future. The dialogue was attended by 130 youth from secondary schools, colleges, universities, uniformed bodies and ethnic associations in and around Miri.

The Miri youth participants at the dialogue were interested to know about YAB Pehin Sri Chief Minister's thoughts and views on the setting up of special schools for pregnant students and whether it would help to curb the problem or

worsen it; the setting up of education funds for students from the rural areas and poor students; bridging the information gap through education between Sarawak and West Malaysia to make 1Malaysia a reality; and tackling limited or competitive employment opportunities in Sarawak.

YAB Pehin Sri replied by giving the assurance that the government would be providing support for those who are in need especially young adults who have social problems e.g. pregnant students; that more corporate organisations are providing education funds for poor and rural students now but he is also working on elected representatives in each constituent to set up funds to enable poor and rural students to attend scholarship interviews if they are shortlisted. He believed that this will ease the burden and increase the chances of these students to obtain scholarships to further their studies.

As for the query on 1Malaysia concept and the information gap between Sarawak and West Malaysian students, YAB Pehin Sri mentioned that Sarawak's advantage is we have emotional loyalty which makes Sarawakians identify themselves as Sarawakians first, Malaysians second; and the experience and essence of mixing together with other people from diverse backgrounds. Therefore, it is for Sarawakians to close this gap and share more with their counterparts from West Malaysia.

On limited employment in Sarawak, YAB Pehin Sri said that was partly the perception of the people as one has to work hard to use his knowledge and creativity to achieve success. He advised the youth to avoid short cuts and there is no easy pathway to success besides hard work.

Brainstorming on Environmental Communication

8 March 2011, SDI Office, Kuching

This brainstorming session was attended by officers who were involved in communication on environmental issues, namely from the State Planning Unit, Natural Resources and Environment Board,



Sarawak Land Consolidation & Rehabilitation Authority, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Modernisation of Agriculture, Ministry of Land Development, Forest Department, Sarawak Timber Industry and Development Corporation, Faradale Media-M, AZAM and SDI. The session was chaired and facilitated by Professor Dr. Lau Seng from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak.

During the brainstorming, discussion was on taking stock on environmental communication in terms of its definition, stakeholders, components, existing delivery and feedback, monitoring and evaluation, database inventory and accessibility, and existing key issues. Currently government agencies and departments were utilizing a mix of conventional and new media and channels in communicating their environmental messages to their target audiences. The brainstorming highlighted on the current issues faced by the respective agencies and departments such as the lack of communication experts in the planning and implementing of environmental communication, competent journalists to write on environmental issues, lack of coordination between agencies and departments in regards to environmental communication and information sharing, inadequate funding for the programmes and campaigns, lack of research and database on environmental issues and etc.



Community Talk: Employing Information and Communication Technologies in the Revitalisation and Maintenance of Indigenous Languages of Sarawak

22 March 2011, SDI Office, Kuching



The talk was conducted by Dr. Alvin Yeo, Director of the Centre of Excellence for Rural Informatics and an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak and his students.

The talk was on the utilization of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in revitalising and maintaining the indigenous languages of Sarawak. Dr. Alvin and his team from the Sarawak Language Technology (SaLT) Research Group, shared on the research projects conducted by them such as the English-Iban Machine Translation, Iban and Melanau Spell-checkers, Multimodal Integration for Speech and Sketch in Melanau, Spoken Language Dialogue Systems (Malaysian English), Text-to-Speech in Iban, Development of Bidayuh (Singai) Corpus using Crowdsourcing, and the Development of Orthography System online. SaLT collaborators include language and technology experts from both local and international universities, such as Universiti Sains Malaysia, Multimedia University, Universiti Malaya, University of Waikato, New Zealand, and University of Limerick, Ireland. Demonstrations of the tools were also conducted during the talk.

This talk was attended by more than 60 participants from the public and private sectors. It was organised in collaboration with SAINS as a corporate member of SDI.

Sembang-Sembang: Casual Conversations by Women on Entrepreneurship

25 March 2011, Grand Margherita Hotel, Kuching

Sembang-Sembang: Casual Conversations by Women on Entrepreneurship is a monthly networking session for women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs-to-be. It brings together a group of Malaysian



women entrepreneurs to share together their inspirations, aspirations and challenges as entrepreneurs in a casual and informal setting.

In Kuching, the *Sembang-Sembang* was organised by SDI, the Sarawak Women's Bureau and AZAM, and was supported by the US Embassy, Kuala Lumpur and Warisan Global Sdn Bhd. This event was attended by more than 50 women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs-to-be. The *Sembang-Sembang* featured panelists like Puan Hajjah Sutin Sahmat, Executive Secretary to the Sarawak Cabinet (MMKN), Chief Minister's Department, who presented on ***New Opportunities for Sarawak Women Entrepreneurs***; Puan Ursula Unnie Thomas Salang, Director, Sarawak State Office, SME Corp Malaysia presenting on ***What's New & Exciting? From SME Corp***; and Sereni & Shentel, sharing on ***Heading for Success: Managing a Global Business through Online Platforms***.

The event's presentations and discussion were tweeted and updated live through the *Sembang-Sembang's* facebook account throughout the session. The sharing by the speakers created a fair bit of interest from the participants on new business opportunities such as in swiftlet farming.

Understanding the Business Case of Corporate Social Responsibility

20 April 2011, Grand Margherita Hotel, Kuching



SDI with support from Sarawak Economic Development Corporation and Hong Kong Shanghai Bank Corporation organised a talk on 'Understanding the Business Case of Corporate Social Responsibility'. The talk was presented by Ms. Rikke Netterstrom, Executive Director of CSR Asia, Malaysia. According to her, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is increasingly seen as an integral part of long term business sustainability. CSR is a strategic engagement in developing capabilities in the workplace, marketplace, environment and community. Companies that understand and integrate CSR into their operations understand the business value of such practices. Business benefits include improved brand and reputation, identify and mitigate corporate risks, attract and retain human capital, cost savings through improved operational efficiencies, develop innovative products and services based on understanding needs of stakeholders, and developing community investment programmes that bring benefits and impacts to business and communities.

The objective of the half day talk was to increase the understanding on corporate social responsibility, and how embedding it within corporate strategies can add to building corporate value in today's increasingly competitive business climate. This event was attended by more than 100 participants from government departments and private sector organizations.



Workshop on Delivering Strategy Execution through Human Capital Architecture

27 June 2011, Riverside Majestic Hotel, Kuching

The workshop was conducted by Dr. Edward Yost, Executive Director of Graduate and Professional Education, College of Business and Emeritus Associate Professor of Human Resource Management from Ohio University. Dr. Yost is also an associate member of SDI.

The workshop was on Delivering Strategy Execution through Human Capital Architecture (HCA). Participants learned how human resource managers and line managers can structure their management practices to support strategy execution in their organizations. A model was developed to provide the tools for both HR and line managers to plan down and implement up for strategy execution through the HCA. Participants gained a skill set that would allow them to build and promote effective, differentiated human capital architecture. It was a "hands on" workshop that focused on the organization and can be applied immediately.

The workshop was attended by more than 80 participants from various organizations from the public and private sector and was conducted with support from the Human Resource Development and Quality Unit (HRDQ), Chief Minister's Department.

ASEAN Australian Engineering Congress 2011

25 - 27 July 2011, Riverside Majestic Hotel, Kuching

The ASEAN Australian Engineering Congress 2011 (AAEC 2011) was organised by Engineers Australia, Malaysia Chapter and Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus with support from Sarawak Development Institute. The AAEC 2011 aimed to foster excellence in the practice of "Engineering for Sustainability". YAB Pehin Sri Chief Minister of Sarawak was the Patron and Guest of Honour at the opening ceremony of AAEC 2011. The congress managed to attract sponsorship from Shell, HSBC, China Machinery Engineering Corporation, Bintulu Port Sdn Bhd, Sarawak Energy Berhad, Australia Trade Commission and Malaysia Convention and Exhibition Bureau. The congress was also supported by the Sarawak Convention Bureau.

The congress featured 19 plenary papers covering topics like renewable energy, green technology, community and the environment, climate change, sustainable buildings and infrastructures and sustainable waste and water management. Prominent speakers such as Dato' Ir. Lee Yee Cheong, Chairman, Governing Council, UNESCO International Science Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation, Kuala Lumpur, Dr. Rajendra K Pachauri, Chief Executive, The Energy and Resources Institute, India, Dr. Tom Conner, Vice President, Technology



for the Global Infrastructure & Minerals, Business Unit of Kellogg Brown and Root, Australia, Mr. Tan Ngo Chiaw, Managing Director, CH2M HILL Singapore, YBhg. Datu Haji Ismawi Ismuni, Director, State Planning Unit, Sarawak, and Ar. Boon Che Wee, President of Malaysian Institute of Architects, Malaysia spoke at the congress. About 40 technical papers were presented in the technical sessions covering similar areas as in the plenary sessions.

The congress also had a mini exhibition featuring Sarawak Energy Berhad, Regional Corridor Development Authority/ State Planning Unit, EcoClean Technology Sdn Bhd, Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy, UNIMAS, Taylor & Francis Asia Pacific, Singapore, HSBC and Borneo Adventure.

More than 160 participants attended the congress namely from Australia, Austria, India, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Maldives, Taiwan, Nepal, Islamic Republic of Iran and Malaysia.



4th Dialogue with Sarawak Youth on Continuing the Legacy of Freedom and Harmony under the 1Malaysia Concept

20 September 2011, Kingwood Resort, Mukah

The 4th Dialogue with Sarawak Youth in Mukah was also jointly organized with Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak under the Sarawak Youth for Unity 2011 programmes. The dialogue was attended by 167 youth from secondary school, colleges, universities, uniformed bodies and ethnic associations in and around Mukah.

The first paper entitled "My Constitution" was presented by YBhg. Datuk J.C. Fong, State Legal Counsel. The second paper entitled "Penggunaan Media Sosial Secara Bertanggungjawab dalam Meneruskan Legasi Kebebasan

& Keharmonian di Sarawak" was presented by Mr. Cyril Dason Kerine who is a teacher at SMK Matang Jaya and also the Founder & Coordinator of Sarawak Bloggers. After the presentations, a Question & Answer session was held where the youth had the opportunity to ask questions to the speakers pertaining to the papers presented. The Question & Answer session was moderated by YBhg. Datu Aloysius J. Dris, Chief Executive Officer of Sarawak Development Institute.

Maintaining the same format as the previous dialogues, the youth were grouped into 8 groups for a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) session where they were given the task to formulate questions or comments to be posed to the YAB Pehin Sri Chief Minister of Sarawak during the Open Dialogue session. The 8 groups were on Social Ills, Education, Unity in Sarawak, Employment Opportunities, SCORE (Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy), Environment, Generation Gap and Social Media and ICT.

Among the questions asked by the participants were on the gaps in knowledge and understanding of the development of the State between young people and the Government, the importance of unity in socio-economic development, how to safeguard the freedom of social media, the role of

youth in combating crimes, the quality of education now and then, and pollution and balanced development due to SCORE.

Pehin Sri explained that the gap in understanding happens due to the change of time when the older and younger generations both want different sets of information. We have to minimize the gap where everyone will have to play his part in understanding what is happening in terms of development for the country and learn how to handle the generation gap.

On the importance of unity in socio-economic development, Pehin Sri said that when there is no unity, we can't move forward. Tolerating and recognizing each other's differences is vital. We have to preserve whatever experience that has kept us going together in harmony and that is what unity is all about.

Pehin Sri replied that we must be able to distinguish between what is good and what is not good when it comes to safeguarding freedom in social media. The youth must be able to discern for themselves. He emphasized that choice is very important in the age of freedom of information.

Next was on the role of youth in combating crimes. YAB Pehin Sri advised the youth to make good choices and have self control to avoid being trapped by situations where they are forced to do something bad.

On the quality of education now and then, Pehin Sri commented that quality of education is not merely a certificate. Certificates are just symbols. Quality of education is based on three things, one is the person who teaches, the other is the person who learns, and thirdly, is the person who is looking for what should be taught. Thus, they must realize that the level of teaching must have the ability to carry out the work in accordance with the standard of work to be performed.

Lastly, on pollution and balanced development due to SCORE, Pehin Sri explained that we need the heavy industries and the Government is ensuring that all stringent measures are in place to ensure that all are in order.



Talk on Urban School Model Principal: Challenges and Success Stories

25 November 2011, SDI Office, Kuching

Organised together with Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), this talk particularly highlighted the challenges and hard work in managing urban schools, and the measures taken to bring them to greater heights of success.



Hajah Serina bt Sauni, principal of SM Sains Miri was the speaker and she shared her success stories and challenges in raising the academic performance of problematic and underperforming urban schools in Bintulu and Miri. She was a former principal of SMK Baru Bintulu, District Education Officer for Bintulu, and a former principal of SMK Riam.

The talk was attended by 40 participants from the teachers' training institutes, universities, university alumni associations, community associations, government agencies and relevant non-governmental organizations.



Socio-economic Survey for Kedaya Telang Usan, Miri Agropolitan Project

6 months to complete and the expected deliverables are recommendation on strategies to improve the quality of life and socio-economic status of the community in the proposed Agropolitan area (Lembah Punang Kelapang); economic and income generating activities; infrastructure development; and capacity building for human capital and entrepreneurship.

The study is expected to commence in 2012.

In mid 2011, SDI was approached by Resident's Office Miri to conduct a socio-economic study on Punang Kelapang Valley in Miri. The main objective of this study is to undertake a baseline socio-economic survey/study of the Agropolitan Project areas. This study will provide detailed, accurate and up-to-date information on the socio-economic profile of the community in the Punang Kelapang (including Lio Mato) in Kedaya Telang Usan region, Baram.

The key components to be covered in this study include demographic profile, economic activities, employment status and opportunities, availability of skills, existing infrastructures, facilities and amenities and characteristics of natural resources in the area. The study will take about



Baseline Study on Expatriates and Other Non-Resident Employees (Foreigners) in Sarawak

This study was proposed under the TWG for Public Policy. The overall objective of the Study is to develop a comprehensive baseline socio-economic database on Expatriates and Other Non-Resident Employees (Foreigners) in Sarawak that would enable the relevant authorities to formulate appropriate policies, strategies



and action plans to effectively manage and monitor their presence in the State.

The target groups in this study are foreign workers (non-resident employees excluding those from Sabah and Peninsular Malaysia), expatriates (foreign workers earning more than RM2,500 a month), employers of the foreign workers, and communities living near the foreign workers' working and living area. The study will not cover all sectors but will only focus on sectors such as manufacturing, construction, agriculture, forestry, wholesale and retail trades. In terms of study area, four main divisions in Sarawak namely Kuching, Sibul, Miri and Bintulu have been identified due to the large number of expatriates and foreign workers working in these divisions. The study is expected to be completed within 9 months.

A key outcome of the study is the identification of problems faced and the needs of expatriates and other non-resident employees and their employers, as well as challenges and concerns of both federal and state agencies involved in managing and monitoring this group of workers and employees. The study will also recommend policies, strategies and action plans on the holistic management of expatriates and other non-resident employees in the State.

Approval for the study was delayed and would be further taken up in 2012.

A Socio-economic Study of Terubok Fishermen – An Update

In 2011, SDI was approached by the Inland Fisheries Division, Department of Agriculture to conduct a study with the main objective to update the findings of a similar study conducted in 2000.

The initiative to conduct an update was to review the socio-economic status of the fishermen involved in Terubok fishing as the decline of Terubok population which is an important resource for their socio-economic livelihood, had affected the coastal fishermen in the Batang Lupar and Batang Lassa areas. In addition, measures implemented since 2007 to conserve the Terubok population had not been evaluated in terms of the perception and responses of the fishermen to these measures, particularly the closed fishing season enforced on May and September-October each year.



This study aims to compile up-to-date baseline data and information on the existing number of fishermen involved in Terubok fishing in Batang Lupar and Batang Lassa and their socio-economic status. It is expected that the study will provide policy and decision makers with updated information to further decide on Terubok conservation measures in Sarawak, and to improve the livelihood of the coastal fishermen. This study will only take off in 2012.

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