



S A R A W A K D E V E L O P M E N T I N S T I T U T E

Seminar
services **research**
conferences
lectures workshops dialogues



lectures
conferences

services
dialogues lectures



SARAWAK DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Seminar dialogues

workshops

research
workshops
conferences

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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, 1995, 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 principle 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, workshop, dialogue 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



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 to and complement the policy and decision making process in Sarawak

Year 2012 saw SDI involved in a wide range of programmes and events covering its three core areas of public policy, development studies and socio-economic studies. Our target audiences for this year was more our youth and the civil service; and while events were held locally we had inputs from local, national and international speakers. The engagement with multi-stakeholders as always practised by SDI is done at the macro level to discuss policy and planning issues while simultaneously engaging with the youth, public, non-governmental organisations and relevant communities at the micro level to discuss pertinent issues and obtain their feedback. This provides us with a wealth of information to analyse and use to propose solutions to current issues faced by society and the State.

A good example of this initiative at the macro level was the two retreats organized for senior officers and heads of government agencies on 'Social Environmental Impact Assessment Stakeholders' Consultation'. These retreats were crucial and timely as the State is facing a host of issues in regard to social environmental impact. The establishment of a taskforce 'Strategic Social and Environmental Taskforce' after the retreats and the consensus reached after much deliberation on a myriad of issues such as state and international policies, biodiversity, resettlement, forestry, land, etc. point to the urgent need for a central data repository and an effective communication network to address these issues.

Along the same line was a 'Workshop on Content and Access to State Public Policies on the Web' organized for government officers in charge of agency websites where a public policy expert from Australia critically reviewed and provided inputs on how to improve the way government agencies write and communicate government policies to the public at large. The emphasis was to understand a policy and to communicate it in simple statements.

Our engagement with youth aged 18-25 years old continued from last year with two intercultural youth forums held in Kuching and Lundu. We went further and engaged young working adults from different organizations/institutions in a series of 'Let's Talk Unity: Tea with the Chief Minister' dialogues where our future



leaders get a chance to share their concerns with our State Leader. Of notable mention with regard to our engagement with young people was the International Youth Cultural Conference (IYCC) held for the first time in Sarawak and attended by participants from 13 countries. It was supported by UNESCO and we had renowned youth speakers from Malaysia, USA and Iran sharing their experiences at the conference.

SDI's role to provide inputs for policies particularly at the national level was acknowledged by the federal Ministry of Education in a report we submitted for a 'Roundtable on National Education Review' which was organized in response to the National Education Review for the Malaysian Education Blueprint 2013-2025. The roundtable was attended by stakeholders from various educational institutions, NGOs and parents.

Despite somewhat hindered by short-handedness, research in 2012 also very much focused on SDI's core areas which included the Baseline Study on Expatriates and Other Non-Resident Employees (Foreigners) in Sarawak, Socio-economic Survey for Kedaya Telang Usan, Miri Agropolitan Project, Socio-economic Study of Terubok Fishermen in Sarawak (An Update), and a number of smaller on-going in-house studies. The bigger studies are either at the stage of completion or on-going to be completed in 2013. Providing the platform for researchers to share findings from studies conducted is also very much a part of SDI's role as a research institution. This took the form of a talk on 'Language Use and Ethnic Identity of Adolescents' where a member of SDI from UNIMAS shared her findings with relevant stakeholders.

The challenging work that we do in SDI would not have been possible without the commitment of the SDI Board of Directors and its Thinking Working Groups which are strongly supported by the management and staff of SDI. I take my hat off to them. My appreciation also goes to our members for their consistent support; particularly our corporate members who through their yearly subscriptions have sponsored our talks on research findings and current issues of interest to the community. The zealous support of government agencies, collaborations with regional and international organizations, and the partnership with the local media are always appreciated and will drive us to enrich our programmes and activities.

On behalf of SDI, I take this opportunity as well to record my deepest appreciation to the patron of SDI, YAB Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, the Chief Minister of Sarawak and the State Government for their staunch support of our work.

Thank you.



Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Mohamad Morshidi 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*

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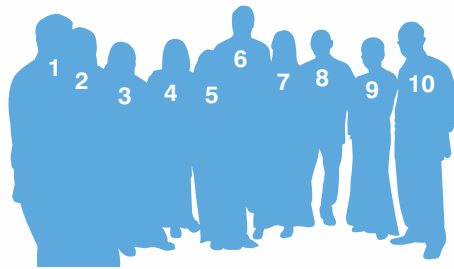
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8. Abdul Khalik Putit
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10. YBhg. Datu Aloysius J. Dris (Chief Executive Officer)



SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SEIA) STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATION RETREAT

2-3 February 2012, Damai Beach Resort

The SEIA Stakeholders' Consultation Retreat was jointly organised by the Chief Minister's Department, State Planning Unit and Sarawak Development Institute. The objectives of the retreat were to brainstorm on the role, function and activities of the State SEIA Taskforce, including its Technical Working Groups which could be formed as a result, to formulate the Terms of Reference for the Taskforce and its Technical Working Groups; to provide stakeholders with an overview on existing state and federal legislations and international agreements, treaties, protocol and conventions related to the relevant issues including the environment, trade, investment, commodities and human rights; to consolidate the storage, management and use of relevant data and information; to facilitate better information sharing and networking among the state agencies and other relevant stakeholders, including industries and federal agencies; and to chart an action plan for the TWGs on the key focus areas identified. A total of 58 participants comprising mainly technical and senior officials from the public sector, GLCs and relevant NGOs attended this retreat.

Four key areas namely Policies, Laws and Regulations, International Conventions (Environment), Environmental Components; Land (use), Water, Air, Biodiversity and Human; SEIA Studies and Resettlement Issues; and Data Management and Utilisation were discussed by the participants in groups. Each group came up with the proposed Terms of Reference for the SEIA Taskforce, TWG and identified issues and recommendations for the TWG. Among them were proposals for the State Secretary to head the SEIA Taskforce, the State Planning Unit to be appointed as the secretariat, a multidisciplinary TWG, and a list of issues pertaining to each focus area respectively.

It was a consensus among the participants that there was a great need to set up a communication network and formulate strategies to address emerging issues affecting the state. However, as highlighted during the retreat, the various government departments and agencies need to consolidate their information and data in order to facilitate and provide accurate information for this communication need. The recommendations made by the participants were deliberated further at the 2nd SEIA retreat, which was attended by heads of departments and agencies.





SECOND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SEIA) STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATION RETREAT

7 March 2012, Damai Puri Resort & Spa

The 2nd SEIA Stakeholders' Consultation Retreat was conducted to seek further input from the heads of agencies and ministries on the outcome of the first retreat, and to discuss future action plans for implementation.

Among the recommendations agreed by the participants were the objectives of the taskforce to include providing policy guidance on social and environmental issues to the State; to engage the media to write success stories on Sarawak; to develop effective communication platforms for social and environmental issues; and to assess and recommend guidelines to the State Government for any development projects. The functions of the Taskforce should, among others, include formulating, developing and coordinating internal and external communication strategies for the State.

The participants agreed that the taskforce should be chaired by the State Secretary of Sarawak and the State Planning Unit to function as the secretariat. It was also proposed that the taskforce should be renamed as Strategic Social and Environmental Taskforce for it to be more comprehensive. On the TWGs, it was recommended to set up two TWGs to look after Policy/Planning and Action/Execution roles respectively. A host of issues like the effectiveness of state policies, capacity building, biodiversity, resettlement strategies, effective communication strategies, data dictionary and sharing related to the focus areas were discussed.

A total of 67 participants from various relevant government ministries and agencies, and NGOs attended the Second Retreat.

DIALOGUE WITH YOUNG CHINESE ENTREPRENEURS

"Challenges of New Development Frontiers in Sarawak"

13 March 2012, 360 Urban Resort Hotel

About 60 young Chinese entrepreneurs attended the dialogue with YAB Pehin Sri Chief Minister of Sarawak on 13 March 2012 at the 360 Urban Resort Hotel. The dialogue's theme was "Challenges of New Development Frontiers in Sarawak". In the welcoming remarks by YBhg. Datuk J.C. Fong, State Legal Advisor, he stated that the dialogue was organised to establish a closer rapport between YAB Pehin Sri Chief Minister, the State Government and the young professionals and entrepreneurs from the Chinese community whom he believed can make significant contributions towards the future progress of the State and in strengthening the unity of our multi-racial society.



In the address given by YAB Pehin Sri prior to the dialogue, he provided a background to how Sarawak has overcome the challenges it faced in the beginning to achieve the development progress that is evident today. Pehin Sri emphasized the importance of leadership and the right kind of government to lead the transformation and development in the state. With its low population, the challenge lies in uniting the people of Sarawak to work together and support a common economic policy.

A number of pertinent issues were raised during the dialogue, namely land issues, red tape faced when dealing with government agencies, talent management and retention, the gap between the government and the people on the delivery system, eco-tourism challenges, public transportation and new business models. YAB Pehin Sri advised the young Chinese entrepreneurs to group themselves together to find solutions to their common problems.

2nd INTERCULTURAL YOUTH FORUM

23-25 March 2012, Yayasan Sarawak

Jointly organized with Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak this forum was held from 23rd–25th March 2012 at Yayasan Sarawak. This is the second in a series of forums held where the first one was held from 8-10 May 2009 at Camp Pueh Sematan. This forum was an overnight event where all the participants stayed at Yayasan Sarawak's hostel for 2 nights.

The event was attended by 147 youth aged 18 to 25 years old from Sarawak (Miri, Sibul, Bintulu, Betong & Mukah), Sabah (Penampang & Kota Kinabalu), West Malaysia (Selangor, Penang, Johor, Melaka, Terengganu, Perak & Kelantan) as well as international students from Myanmar, Uzbekistan, Nigeria, Russia, Philippines and Indonesia.

YAB Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, Chief Minister of Sarawak officiated the event and also launched Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak's Calendar of Activities for 2012. In his remarks, Pehin Sri called for a greater understanding on cultures and the impact of current happenings on these cultures. He believed the younger generation will have to face a lot of challenges in understanding and adjusting to the constant changes that are happening around the world. Having a strong foundation in one's culture will support the youth to face the challenges better.

The participants also had an interactive session learning about Sarawak's local cultures through presentations by Madam Lelia Sim, General Manager of Sarawak Development Institute and Mr. Mark Bonchol, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak. Their understanding was further enhanced with presentations from the respective ethnic associations namely Bidayuh, Chinese, Iban, Indian, Malay, and Orang Ulu, who shared on the respective communities' cultures.

This was followed by a host of teambuilding games and mini workshops on the local communities' cultures. Seven ethnic groups (Bidayuh, Chinese, Iban, Indian, Malay, Melanau and Orang Ulu) displayed and shared with the forum participants on their traditional costumes, musical instruments, food, books, etc. One of the highlights of the forum was the talent time segment where almost all the participants showcased their talents through group performances like short drama, singing, traditional dances, martial arts and drumming.

On the strategies to continue the intercultural harmony and unity in Sarawak, the participants highlighted that they would like to see more open minded policies, greater exposure through education and to organise more cultural based events which have to be fun and interesting.

LET'S TALK UNITY: TEA WITH THE CHIEF MINISTER

31 March, 2012, Grand Margherita Hotel

This dialogue with the Chief Minister was jointly organized with Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak and was attended by 46 participants from various universities' alumni in Kuching, professional bodies, institutions of higher learning, business chambers, bloggers and AZAM's Integrity Ambassadors.

The objectives of this dialogue were to provide a platform for engagement between future leaders and a state leader; to provide an avenue for future leaders' voices to be heard; to establish rapport and networking among the working professionals in the State; and to gather feedback on issues related to unity and harmony that are of concern to the future leaders of Sarawak.



Some of the issues discussed during the dialogue include issues on the development in Sarawak, privatizing healthcare, unity, education system, biomedical research, property value and promotion of local dialects/cultures in schools.



16th MIER-SDI REGIONAL CORPORATE ECONOMIC BRIEFING 2012*19 April 2012, Dewan Asajaya, Grand Margherita Hotel*

The 16th MIER-SDI Regional Annual Corporate Economic Briefing was jointly organised with the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER).

According to the IMF's World Economic Outlook Update, January 2012, the global recovery was threatened by intensifying strains in the euro area and fragilities elsewhere. It projected global output to expand by 3¼ per cent in 2012, a downward revision of about ¾ percentage point relative to the September 2011 World Economic Outlook. It also expected growth in emerging and developing economies to slow because of the worsening external environment and a weakening internal demand. Dr. Zakariah Abdul Rashid, Executive Director of MIER discussed on these economic issues during the briefing and presented the results of the first quarter 2012 Business Conditions and Consumer Sentiment Surveys. The result of MIER's other four industry surveys covering automotive, residential property, retail trade and tourism were presented as well. He also presented on the minimum wage policy which will be adopted and implemented in Malaysia. The briefing was attended by 26 participants from the public and private sectors.

**TALK ON LANGUAGE USE AND ETHNIC IDENTITY OF ADOLESCENTS***23 April 2012, 360 Urban Resort Hotel, Kuching*

This talk was jointly organized with Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak under its Unity Talk Series. The talk was presented by Dr. Ting Su Hie, a lecturer at the Centre for Language Studies, UNIMAS, who is also a member of Sarawak Development Institute.

Dr. Ting shared research findings on the dominant language use in the lives of young Malaysians, and their attitude towards their own and other ethnic groups. In her research, she interviewed over one thousand school students aged 13–17 years old from the rural and urban regions of Kuching, Sibü and Miri. Among the findings were: the respondents were found to be multilingual, speaking an average of 3.33 languages; the use of Bahasa Malaysia exceeded English among the three main ethnic groups (Malay, Iban and Chinese), showing the success of the national policy on the use of Bahasa Malaysia as the medium of instruction in public schools; in a modern society that is undergoing social transformation, many prevailing factors are in a flux and are likely to shift language use patterns towards the dominant standard languages, perhaps to the detriment and viability of ethnic languages; although the development of ethnic identity is in a flux for adolescents, they are not experiencing any conflicts in being Malay, Chinese, Iban, Bidayuh or Melanau and at the same time, are being open to other ethnic groups. The research was conducted in January and February 2011 in Kuching, Miri, Sibü, Durin and Bario.



This talk was attended by more than 40 participants from cultural and community associations, related government departments and agencies, statutory bodies, institutions of higher learning, SDI and AZAM members and the media.

LET'S TALK ORGANIC

14 June 2012, MBKS Auditorium, Kuching

This talk was well attended by about 110 participants from various private and public sectors, members of the public and the media who came to update themselves on organic agriculture, composting methods, regional organic happenings and knowledge sharing on personal experiences related to home composting.



SDI updated the participants on the outcomes of the Regional Collaboration Follow-up Meeting in Seoul in 2009 and the 17th IFOAM World Congress in 2011 which included the formation of a regional forum called Organic Asia which looks into data collection, research networking, peer review and organic research advocacy, training and development; the need for national organic associations to be engaged in domestic market development, and the use of a common organic mark to unite organic operators in the country, in complement to using a global organic mark for local-global partnership to grow the organic sector.

Ms. Chua Ann Ann, a local organic farmer who also attended the 17th IFOAM World Congress 2011, shared her experience learning from her peers in different countries on fertilizing, pest and disease control. She also shared on composting methods for organic farms. The other presentations were on the Takakura Method of Composting by Mr. Kho Joo Huat, Assistant Environmental Health Officer of MBKS, Home Composting (Bokashi Method) by Mr. Henable Henry, Assistant Environmental Health Officer of DBKU, and Ms. Shariah bt Umar, Research Officer from the Agriculture Research Centre (ARC) shared on the latest trends and updates in relation to organic agriculture. A resident from MBKS's area also shared her success story and experience in composting her kitchen waste through the Takakura Method.

A mini display of organic products and produces such as vegetables, imported food, clothes, beverages, supplements, fertilisers, seed composts and composting materials was also organised to complement the talk. The half day talk was jointly organized with the Kuching South City Council (MBKS).

ROUNDTABLE ON NATIONAL EDUCATION REVIEW

20 June 2012, AZAM Conference Room

The roundtable was organized in response to the National Education Review to discuss issues on education and propose recommendations to the Ministry of Education. It focused on 4 priority areas namely: teachers, school leaders, quality of school and multilingual proficiency. The roundtable discussed on issues such as the sustainability and consistency of Malaysia's Education Policy, implementation and communication of educational programmes and initiatives, and the engagement with stakeholders on the new programmes and initiatives. Recommendations were made in the areas of aspiration for the overall Malaysian Education System and for every child, implementation of the education system, school and teachers' performance and key drivers for student performances.

The objectives of the National Education Review are to define aspirations for the overall Malaysian education system and for every child, establish a performance baseline (i.e. examine how well the education system has delivered; how Malaysian students have fared over time versus other students from other countries); to understand the key drivers of student performance; to identify priority areas for further development; and to make recommendations for transformation.

The roundtable was attended by 20 individuals representing the Education Department, teachers' training colleges, public and private universities, pre-school institutions, parents and non-governmental organizations. The roundtable report was submitted to the Ministry of Education.





3rd INTERCULTURAL YOUTH FORUM

7-8 July 2012, Union Yes Retreat & Training Centre, Lundu

The 3rd Intercultural Youth Forum was attended by about 70 youth from Sarawak, Sabah, West Malaysia as well as international students from China, India, Mauritius, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nigeria, Sudan and Vietnam. The youth were mainly from schools, colleges, institutes, universities and community associations.



The participants were tasked to do mural paintings to depict their understanding on intercultural harmony and unity. The best mural painting produced depicts the need for people to stay connected and united to eliminate negative feelings from destroying the peace and unity that we enjoy and making the world a better place to live in. During the Talent time segment, the best performance award went to SEGI's college for the teamwork and rich cultural content in their presentation.

Among the ideas from the group presentations on enhancing and strengthening the intercultural unity and harmony in Sarawak were on the establishment of a Cultural Theme Park; enhancing intercultural interaction through early childhood and high school education; celebration of festivals; intermarriages; 'anak angkat' programmes; sports, smart applications, youth forums/dialogues/camps; and sharing through social and mainstream media and others.

From the feedback received from the participants, especially from outside Sarawak, they enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to learn more about local culture and to interact as well as share their culture with the local youth. The local youth also called for similar programmes to be organised regularly to enable them to learn more about local culture and to interact with youth from different backgrounds.



2nd LET'S TALK UNITY: TEA WITH THE CHIEF MINISTER

19th July 2012, Mega Hotel Miri

Following the same dialogue format in Kuching, the 2nd Let's Talk Unity: Tea with the Chief Minister was organized in Miri. The dialogue was attended by 42 participants from university alumni, schools, professional institutions and organizations.

Four questions were asked which were on the role of media in promoting unity throughout Malaysia as the usage of term like "Malaysia including Sabah and Sarawak" was still widely used in the media; funds or financial support available to promote unity; how to leverage on the current unity and harmony for better progress; and how to reduce brain drain and retain talents in Sarawak.

The Chief Minister's replies to these questions include the need for Sarawakians to correct the wrong perception of West Malaysians on Sarawak; to harness one's creativity and innovativeness to succeed; the importance of keeping an open mind and to accept other cultures and practices; and to promote unity at every opportunity. On brain drain and talent retention, YAB Pehin Sri believed that SCORE will be able to provide the job opportunities when it is fully operational.



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CULTURAL CONFERENCE (IYCC)

28-30 November 2012, Sarawak Cultural Village

With youth participants from 13 countries, it was indeed an exciting and entertaining time for the participants and organizers of the inaugural International Youth Cultural Conference. An array of fun activities such as traditional food demonstration, traditional music and dance workshop, cultural games and jungle trekking were part of the conference programme. Participants, both from local and foreign countries enjoyed the showcase of local culture and fun learning experience immensely during the 3 days conference.

The conference also featured top youth personalities cum speakers such as Ms. Zee Avi and Mr. Michael Teoh from Malaysia, Ms. Lauren Prince, Mr. Blair Daly and Ms. Ama Denise Gharthey from the United States of America, and Ms. Natasha Shokri, from UNESCO Bangkok. One of the participants commented that the conference was like a mini TED (idea worth spreading) conference to him.

A key message from The Right Honourable Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, Chief Minister of Sarawak and Chairman, Board of Trustees of Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak was for the youth to adopt a pragmatic approach to deal with issues and utilize a proper platform to fight for their cause. He also shared that there is no one solution to the same problem in different countries. A special session with the speakers and selected participants was also organized for the Right Honourable Pehin Sri. During the special session, speakers and youth participants raised issues related to promoting Sarawak's culture outside Sarawak, getting more youth to participate in unity related activities and covering societal issues such as the handicapped and underprivileged children.

During the conference participants from the Philippines and Indonesia stood out as they were very active and involved in cultural related activities. They were very eager to share and learn throughout the conference as compared to youth from other countries including Malaysia. There were many ideas generated from the Idea Generation Workshops facilitated by the speakers where the participants shared their ideas on different topics like culture, music, unity, world peace, social media and entrepreneurship. Some of the proposals include a school project on recycling, cultural conference, setting up a foundation to support young entrepreneurs, a world music video, etc.

From the conference it was evident that more local youth are taking an interest in cultural related activities and this was clearly seen in the local music bands which performed using traditional instruments during the cultural concert held at the end of the conference. A clear outcome from this conference is that it met its objective in providing a platform for the youth from different countries to showcase and learn about each other's culture. The YPS's IYCC Facebook is still being actively used by the participants to communicate with each other.





WORKSHOP ON CONTENT AND ACCESS TO STATE PUBLIC POLICIES ON THE WEB

12-13 December 2012, Damai Beach Resort, Kuching

The two-day workshop was attended by 35 officials from various state departments and agencies. It was facilitated by Mr. Lance McMahon, Research Associate, John Curtin Institute of Public Policy, Curtin University, Western Australia. He gave a detailed overview on public management evolution and what shaped the public administration of the present Westminster system. He highlighted how rapid communication and computing technology and the use of the internet have changed the way to disseminate information from the public sector. He stressed that public sector managers need to be skilled in the utilization and management of web access. However, he also mentioned that writing for the web still subscribes to the established methods of writing, meaning they need to write to their readers, but adjust it to suit the web.

The workshop participants were also required to review the Sarawak Government Web Portal (Handy Guide) where most of them commented that it was not user friendly and needed to be further improved in terms of categorization of policies, language used, keyword search, FAQs, etc. For case studies the participants also worked in groups to rewrite policy statements available on certain websites. From the facilitator's comments on their efforts, it was clear that the participants understood what was required in writing policy statements. The Information and Communication Technology Unit also shared with the participants a new template that is to be used by all government agencies to upload their information on the portal in the future.

Issues raised during the workshop included: what is public policy, how much can be shared and the legal issues involved when one rewrite policy statements. According to Mr. McMahon, the challenge is in understanding the policy of each department and then to provide simple statements to communicate the information to the public. He felt that the participants were still confused on the 'what' that should be communicated to the public. However, given the vast scope of this topic, the workshop had provided a clearer picture to the participants on how to improve government department websites' effectiveness in communicating government policies.

BASELINE STUDY ON EXPATRIATES AND OTHER NON-RESIDENT EMPLOYEES (FOREIGNERS) IN SARAWAK

The study commenced in July 2012 after the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement with the State Planning Unit. A team of researchers from Universiti Teknologi Mara, Sarawak Campus is assisting SDI in the study. The study comprises four stages. The first stage of desk research which involved a comprehensive review of research reports, position papers, articles, and statistics was undertaken after the signing of the agreement. These were sourced from the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department, State Planning Unit of the Chief Minister's



Department, Sarawak, Ministry of Manpower Malaysia, the Indonesian Consulate, Department of Statistics, research units of local universities, Police, and Health authorities, Immigration Department, and libraries.

Based on statistics obtained from the Labour Department and Immigration Department on the number of

establishments that employ foreign workers and expatriates in the four selected sectors of manufacturing, construction, agriculture, wholesale and retail trade, stratified sampling was done based on the number of foreign workers employed in the companies/firms and by division in Sarawak. An Inception Report was prepared and submitted to SPU in November 2012.

The other three stages of the study will commence in 2013 which comprises data collection through semi-structured interviews (personal interviews and focus group discussion with agencies and community leaders), using questionnaire (establishment, expatriate and foreign workers), and stage four which consist of data analysis and report writing.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY FOR KEDAYA TELANG USAN, MIRI AGROPOLITAN PROJECT

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for this survey was reviewed and accepted by the Resident's Office Miri and SDI was officially appointed as the project consultant in November 2012. However, the signing of the study agreement between SDI and Resident's Office Miri was delayed, thus the survey could not commence in 2012. It is expected to take off in 2013.

Based on preliminary readings on the background of the survey area, Punang Kelapang which is under Kedaya Telang Usan Region is categorized under Zone 4 and is the most remote among the selected areas for the Miri Agropolitan

Project. Majority of the communities are from the Kenyah, Penan, Saban and Kelabit ethnic groups. According to previous records, no development plan has been proposed for this area, probably due to its remoteness and accessibility. The journey from Miri to this area by land takes about 8 hours through logging roads while by plane it is about one and half hours from Miri via Marudi to Long Banga airport.

This proposed survey will cover three Penan villages (Long Beruang, Long Lamai and Ba' Lai), two Kenyah villages (Long Pulung and Lio Mato), two Saban villages (Long Banga and Long Balong) and one Kelabit village (Long Peluan). There are 416 families with a population of 2,278 people living within the Punang Kelapang Valley. Majority of the communities in this valley practise



self-sufficient activities such as planting of hill paddy, fishing, and hunting. It is estimated that about 81 per cent of the households are living under hardcore poverty level. Currently, there is no commercial planting of crops in this remote area. All settlements in this valley are connected by logging roads except Ba' Lai and Long Lamai.

SOCIO ECONOMIC STUDY OF TERUBOK FISHERMEN IN SARAWAK (AN UPDATE)

The study commenced in April 2012 with preliminary visits to the study area in Daro, and to Lingga and Sebuyau in May. The purpose of the visit was to collect data on the existing Terubok fishermen in the area and to test the questionnaire formulated. The actual fieldwork was conducted in May 2012 for Daro and covered a total of 155 fishermen; while that for Sebuyau and Lingga was July 2012 covering 124 fishermen.

The study is completed and a draft Final Report has been submitted to the Inland Fisheries Division, Department of Agriculture. Based on the study findings, Terubok fishing is still considered as

a main source of income for 93.2 per cent of the fishermen, with almost all fishermen in Batang Lupar who do not have a secondary occupation. A factor contributing to their lack of a secondary occupation is low land ownership especially among the fishermen in Batang Lupar at only 25.0 per cent. More than half of the households covered by the survey are living in poverty.

Though the level of interest among the fishermen to participate in Terubok conservation programmes is rather encouraging with many supporting the closed fishing season to ensure the survival of the Terubok, their key disagreement with the closure is loss of income during the four months of the closure as it also prevents them from catching other fish.

Among the recommendations of the

study are: there is a need to identify alternative income generating activities for the fishermen in order to reduce their dependency on fishing and Terubok; a need analysis should be done to identify skills, capacities, interests, local resources and market available for potential income generating activities; and more dialogues and discussions on the closed fishing season to better explain its core basics to gain support and understanding for its implementation.





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