



SARAWAK DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

CONTENTS

3

Introduction, Vision & Mission, Objectives

4-5

Chairman's Statement

6

Board of Directors

7

Thinking Working Groups

8

Secretariat

9-17

Conferences, Workshops, Forums, Talks and Researches

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 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.

OUR AIM



To be a leading research institution in the region



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

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

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT



2018 has been another prolific year for SDI. Once again, it has played an important role in research, knowledge sharing, and providing input and feedback for State policy and decision making.

The input was derived from a variety of sources - in the public and private sector, non-government organisations, grassroots forum and talks as well as other sources.

On the research front, 2018 saw the completion of a number of research projects. The first two were commissioned by SALCRA, titled 'Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of SALCRA's Development Programme in Serian Region' and 'Baseline Study on Proposed SALCRA Development Programme in Kumpang Silik Area, Sri Aman'. The studies were completed in August and November 2018 respectively, with study findings and recommendations forwarded to SALCRA.

The second phase of the 'Sarawak Social Trends Report, 2005-2015' was completed in 2018 which

revealed vital social statistics in Sarawak over a ten year period. This phase of the study covered interviews with policy-makers, implementers and enforcers to clarify and corroborate social trends that were identified in the first study phase. Another social study undertaken in 2018 was the 'Perception Survey among University Students on Emerging Issues'. The survey covered six issues facing young people, which included subjects such as unity, cost of living, and youth bankruptcy.

Besides that, two research projects funded by Sarawak Multimedia Authority also commenced in 2018. They are 'Digital Readiness of Community in Sarawak: Exploratory Survey in Kuching, Samarahan and Serian' as well as 'Quick Appraisals of Digital Economy Intervention Programmes'. The former study intends to look at digital literacy, device ownership, and overall readiness for digital economy while the latter are appraisal surveys on the impact of digital intervention programmes undertaken by various organisations.

The Conference Division also saw the return of one of its biggest conferences: the International

Conference on Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Sarawak (ICAAS) 2018 with the theme 'Transforming the Agriculture Sector through Smart Farming'. Held from 23rd -24th October 2018, it was one of the components of the Sarawak AgroFest 2018. The other components included entrepreneurship seminars, agro exhibitions and sales, performances, games, and even a hackathon. The conference itself had 30 speakers from all over the region, and covered a diverse and interesting range of agricultural subjects.

Another notable event was the Sarawak-China Business Forum, which served to promote economic cooperation between Sarawak and China. It featured informative talks, presentations and business matching sessions between local enterprises and Chinese business and financial organisations.

The 'Conference for Community Leaders on *Pemakai Menoa & Pulau Galau*' brought together about 300 community leaders of various ethnicities from every corner of Sarawak. There were talks, group discussions, workshops and presentation of resolutions based on the discussions.

An interesting talk on using sketches in working with the Penan community was also presented in collaboration with the Institute of Social Informatics and Technological Innovations (ISITI), UNIMAS. Based on UNIMAS' experience working with the Penan, their community engagement protocol calls for the use of visual experiences which generate positive impact, create better understanding and mutual trust among the stakeholders.

SDI's collaboration with Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak continued in 2018 with two of its signature events - Camp United and MakanMakan Sarawak: Pesta Orang Ulu. Camp United continued to be a fun annual event aimed at fostering unity amongst young people

of various backgrounds and heritage. The 2018 edition was held at Kingwood Resort, Mukah and was attended by 70 students from Sarawak, Peninsular Malaysia and even international students. A camp edition for high school was also organised for the first time to expose lower secondary students to greater community interaction, intercultural and social harmony activities and discussion.

MakanMakan Sarawak, was a one day event held in conjunction with festivals celebrated by the Orang Ulu. The event featured a food fair, cultural exhibition, traditional performances and an arts and crafts bazaar.

All these events/programmes and activities will not have been possible without input and participation from our Board of Directors, Thinking Working Groups, SDI members, partners and collaborators. Thank you all for your unwavering support to the work being done in SDI. My most sincere appreciation as well to the management and staff for their commitment and hard work.

My deepest appreciation also goes to all government ministries and agencies, international partners, corporate and private sector organisations, civil society entities, and the local media for their trust and kind support of our activities and programmes.

Thank you.



**Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji
Mohamad Morshidi Abdul Ghani**
Chairman of Sarawak Development Institute

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Chairman

**Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Datuk Amar
Haji Mohamad Morshidi Abdul Ghani**

State Secretary of Sarawak

(Retired as State Secretary in August 2019)



Deputy Chairman

YBhg. Datu Haji Ismawi Haji Ismuni

*Chief Executive Officer
Regional Corridor Development Authority (RECODA)*



Director

YBhg. Datu Jaul Samion

*Deputy State Secretary
(Rural Transformation)*

(Currently State Secretary of Sarawak)



Director

Tuan Haji Soedirman Aini

*General Manager
Sarawak Economic Development
Corporation (SEDC)*

(Retired in January 2019)



Director

YBhg. Datu Haji Chaiti Haji Bolhassan

*Special Administrative Officer
Ministry of Modernisation of Agriculture,
Native Land and Regional Development Sarawak (MANRED)*

(Resigned as Board Director in January 2019)



Director

YBhg. Datu Ik Pahon Joyik

*Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Sarawak*

*(Currently Deputy State Secretary
[Rural Transformation])*



Director

YBhg. Datu William Patrick Nyigor

*Director
State Human Resource Unit
Chief Minister's Department Sarawak*

*(Currently Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Education, Science &
Technological Research Sarawak)*



Director

Dr. Abdul Rahman Deen

*Deputy Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Education, Science &
Technological Research Sarawak*



Director

Mr. Buckland Bangik

*Director
State Planning Unit
(Currently Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Transport)*

THINKING WORKING GROUPS

Development Studies

CHAIRMAN

YBhg. Datu Jaul Samion

*Deputy State Secretary
(Rural Transformation)*

(Currently State Secretary of Sarawak)

MEMBERS

YBhg. Datu Dr. Ngenang Janggu

*Head
Unit for Other Religions (UNIFOR)
Chief Minister's Department*

Mr. Joseph Blandoi

*Deputy General Manager SALCRA
Chief Operating Officer
SALCRA Jaya Sdn.Bhd*

**Ir. Ahmad Denney
bin Haji Ahmad Fauzi**

*Resident
Limbang Division*

Mr. Jiram Sidu

*Head of Plantation and
Commodity Section (MANRED)
(Retired)*

Mr. William Jitab

(Retired)

Hajah Aishah Edris

Freelance Consultant

Public Policy

CHAIRMAN

**YBhg. Datu Haji Ismawi
Haji Ismuni**

*Chief Executive Officer
Regional Corridor
Development Authority (RECODA)*

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Dr. Abdul Rahman Deen

*Deputy Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Education, Science &
Technological Research Sarawak*

MEMBERS

Prof. Dr. Lau Seng

*Director
Centre for Water Research
Institute of Biodiversity and
Environmental Conservation
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak*

Mr. Abdul Kadir Zainuddin

*Director (Procurement Division)
State Financial
Secretary's Office*

Associate Professor Dr. Ahi Sarok

*Faculty of Social Sciences
and Humanities,
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak*

Socio-economic Studies

CHAIRMAN

YBhg. Datu Ik Pahon Joyik

*Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Tourism, Arts and
Culture Sarawak*

*(Currently Deputy State Secretary
[Rural Transformation])*

MEMBERS

**YBhg. Datu William
Patrick Nyigor**

*Director
State Human Resource Unit
Chief Minister's Department
Sarawak*

*(Currently Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Education, Science &
Technological Research Sarawak)*

Madam Norjanah Razali

*Principal Assistant Secretary
Ministry of Industrial and
Entrepreneur
Development Sarawak*

Hajah Aishah Edris

Freelance Consultant

Prof. Dr. Spencer E. Sanggin

*Faculty of Social Sciences
and Humanities,
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak*

TECHNICAL THINKING GROUP

MEMBERS

Dr. Abdul Mutalip Abdullah

*Visiting Senior Research Fellow
Sarawak Development Institute*

Dr. Nurhani Aba Ibrahim

*Senior Lecturer, Economics Department
Faculty of Business Management
Universiti Teknologi MARA*

Dr. Henry Chan

*Conservation Director
WWF-Malaysia*

Prof. Dr. Lau Seng

*Director
Centre for Water Research
Institute of Biodiversity and
Environmental Conservation
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak*

Dr. Ting Su Hie

*Lecturer
Centre for Language Studies
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak*

Hajah Kartina binti Zamhari

*Director
National Audit Department Sarawak*

**Tuan Haji Abang Shamsuddin
bin Abang Seruji**

*Director
Welfare Department Sarawak
(Retired)*

Mr. Julin Alen

*Principal Assistant Director
State Planning Unit, Sarawak*

SECRETARIAT



1st Row From Left

Kamaruddin Sajeli, Evelette Robin, Nur Asmida Arzmi, Lelia Sim, Rosalind Wong, Patricia Nayoi

2nd Row From Right

Ralph Balan Langet, Khairul Anam, Alan Teo, Abdul Khalik Putit, Tang Tze Lee

Visiting Senior
Research Fellow



**Dr. Abdul Mutalip
bin Abdullah**

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, FORUMS & TALKS

CONFERENCE FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS ON PEMAKAI MENUA & PULAU GALAU

24th-25th January 2018, Imperial Hotel Kuching

The inaugural conference for community leaders on *Pemakai Menua & Pulau Galau* (PMPG) was organised to identify the various concepts, adat, and practices relating to the creation of PMPG, and to consolidate these various native practices and adat on PMPG that would enable the government to determine the legal and accurate definition. The government acknowledged that the Federal Court rulings had caused a lot of anxiety, dissatisfaction and negative perception among the local native community.



The 2 days conference gathered about 450 participants comprising community leaders and elders, local Parliamentarians, members of State Legislative and political secretaries. A total of 5 papers representing the views, customs and practices of the Iban, Bidayuh, Orang Ulu, Melanau and Malay communities in regard to PMPG were presented respectively. The participants were also grouped accordingly to their community to discuss further on the practices and definition of PMPG.

During the group presentations, each community put forward their definition of PMPG as well as the adat and practices in creating PMPG, and their resolutions for the issues raised.

SPECIAL LAB ON UPPER RAJANG DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (URDA)

26th-28th February 2018, Dewan Suarah Kapit

The special lab was organised by Regional Corridor Development Agency (RECODA) to gather feedback and information on the development planning for Upper Rajang Development Agency (URDA). The special lab was attended by community leaders, officers from relevant divisional government agencies and departments and local government authorities. Heads of departments and ministries were invited to be facilitators and resource persons for the group discussion. The participants were divided into 5 groups namely Kapit & Nanga Merit, Bukit Mabong, Belaga & Murum, Kanowit and Song to discuss and present their SWOT analysis, current development status, potential development for the areas and proposed projects to be undertaken under URDA. The outcomes from each group were consolidated further and brought to the URDA Board for approval and funding.



TALK ON "SKETCHBOOK FOR WORKING WITH COMMUNITY: WILL IT WORK?"

5th July 2018, AZAM Conference Room

The talk was presented by Dr. Tariq Zaman, Associate Professor at CECOS University of IT & Emerging Sciences, Peshawar, Pakistan and a Research Fellow of the Institute of Social Informatics and Technological Innovations (ISITI), UNIMAS.

He shared his experiences working with the Penan community in Long Lamai ever since UNIMAS' first collaboration project started in 2007. During their research duration, the researchers developed a written community engagement protocol with the local community to ensure that the local community will benefit from the research and development projects conducted at the area. More often, the community are treated as informants rather than stakeholders of the research projects. They preferred the researchers to work with the local community on these projects. According to Dr. Tariq, the written community engagement protocol was initiated based on concerns, existing scenarios and possible conflicts with the community. However, it was not successfully adopted due to the differences in cultural and behavioural backgrounds.

The interaction protocol through sketches was then developed after a series of consultation with the local community. The sketches were much more successful because they provided visual experiences and understanding for the Penan community. The sketches also provided a wider context for the researchers to understand the community especially when language is a huge barrier. Dr. Tariq showed 34 different sketches of interaction protocols which were drawn by a member of the Penan community. He further emphasised the importance of trust building and understanding the mutual needs and aspirations of the Penan for a successful project management and implementation.



SARAWAK-CHINA BUSINESS FORUM 2018

6th - 7th August 2018, The Waterfront Hotel

The Sarawak-China Business Forum 2018 (SCBF) was organised by the Ministry of International Trade and eCommerce (MITeC) Sarawak with the support of SDI. The overall aim was to promote economic ties between China and Sarawak. The specific objectives were to increase trade between Sarawak and China, to provide and share information on trade regulations and market, and to create a platform for business sourcing and investment opportunities. The forum consisted of three main events, namely the Forum; Business Matching Session and Trade Exhibition. It was organised to leverage on the current business outlook and China's 'One Belt One Road' policy which would benefit both state/country.

A total of 21 prominent, international and local speakers, who are experts in the topics related to investment, regulations and procedures, incentives for doing business, logistics and Digital Free Trade Zone, shared their knowledge and experience in enhancing and developing the business opportunities and potentials in Sarawak and China respectively. An exhibition comprising 35 booths, were also set up to showcase the latest Sarawak business technologies, services and products by industries' players, private institutions and Government agencies. The forum was attended by more than 300 people from more than 100 corporations, 20 government departments and agencies, and 15 associations.





SDI's 22nd Annual General Meeting
15th September 2018, Pelagus Room,
Grand Margherita Hotel, Kuching



The 22nd Annual General Meeting was attended by 16 members with 20 proxies. The chairman welcomed members to the meeting and briefly updated them on the activities undertaken in 2017. He emphasised the importance of communication especially with members of the public at the rural grassroots. In particular, he informed on the establishment of the Sarawak Public Communication Unit by the Sarawak Government recently to support and enhance better delivery of government policies and development messages to the rakyat. During the AGM several new proposals and activities were also discussed by the members. In his closing, the Chairman put on record his appreciation to all the Board Members, corporate members and members for their continuous support to the institute.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SARAWAK AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-BASED INDUSTRY 2018 (ICAAS 2018)

23rd - 24th October 2018,
Penview Convention Centre (PCC) Demak, Kuching



The second ICAAS 2018 was organised with the Sarawak State Government, through the Ministry of Modernisation of Agriculture, Native Land and Regional Development Sarawak, and in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture Sarawak, Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak and supported by SDI. ICAAS 2018 was organised in-conjunction with the Sarawak AgroFest 2018 with the theme 'Transforming the Agriculture Sector through Smart Farming'.

Sarawak AgroFest is the new name for the Hari Peladang, Penternak dan Nelayan (HPPN) and aims to actively promote agriculture and agro-based industry in the State. Sarawak Agrofest 2018 also included an Entrepreneurship Seminar, Agro Exhibition and Sales, Sarawak Kitchen & Sales, Business Matching, Games & Competitions, Agro Hackathon, Agro Sound and performances which happened over 9 days from 20th-28th October 2018. The goal of Sarawak AgroFest is to make Sarawak an agricultural hub in the region.

For ICAAS 2018 specifically, more than 30 speakers from throughout Malaysia as well as Thailand and Indonesia spoke at the plenary session and concurrent sessions on their success stories and knowledge on precision farming, investment incentives for commercialisation, best practices and models for public-private sector partnership and business models of farmers' organisations. The conference was attended by about 2,000 participants involved in the agriculture sector.

EMPOWERMENT SERIES: WASTE & OUR GENERATION*1st February 2018, UCSI University*

The Empowerment Series is a series of informal talks/sessions aimed to inspire and empower our young people with the knowledge and skills to better themselves holistically. The Series in 2018 focused on Waste Management and was entitled "Waste and Our Generation", with a key focus on educating our young people about local waste management efforts.

The series involved an informal session by Trienekens on looking at the local waste management process, and from Natural Resource and Environment Board, Sarawak on information about landfills and leachate. Other activities included 'Calculating One's Carbon Footprint' where participants learned how to calculate their personal carbon footprints and identify areas in which they are producing the most carbon, and on 'Waste Auditing' where they get to experience and learn about waste segregation. About 85 individuals consisting of 80 students and 5 staff members of UCSI University College attended the session.

**UNITEA 1.0***10th April 2018, Astana Wing, Riverside Majestic Hotel*

UniTea 1.0 was organised in-collaboration with the Islamic Information Centre. The UniTea 1.0 was an initiative to engage with relevant stakeholders who are currently involved in promoting and organising activities or programs on unity. The ultimate purpose was to identify a common meeting point for all to work together in strengthening unity. During the session, the participants were asked to share their current and future activities related to unity & harmony and their aspirations for a harmonious and united Sarawak.

Among the activities shared were the National Day prayer, combined churches Christmas parade, Ma'al

Hijrah Parade, workshops on Unity Park, Concert 'Seiring Sejalan', Harmony Walk and Unity Run. The future activities proposed include Interfaith Sports day, Unity Walk, video competition on Racial Harmony, Ceramah Kesukarelaan, Dialogue on Value of Life, etc. Generally the aspirations of the participants were to see harmony and unity among Sarawakians to be sustained for future posterity. About 60 participants from youth groups, religious groups, Government departments, public and private universities, cultural associations, business chambers and other NGOs attended the event.

The highlight of the UniTea 1.0 was a personal sharing by His Excellency The Governor of Sarawak and Chairman, Board of Trustees, Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak, Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud on 'Strengthening Unity – Our Agenda' where he urged all Sarawakians to keep the spirit of unity alive. He believed that it is the most valuable thing to hand over from one generation to another to enjoy. He further stressed that unity was not something unusual for him while growing up, as everyone made friends with one another regardless of race. YPS was asked to organise such similar programmes in different cities of Sarawak to enable Sarawakians to share these programmes and activities with His Excellency.



MAKANMAKAN SARAWAK: PESTA ORANG ULU 2018

25th August 2018, Dayak Bidayuh National Association (DBNA) Hall

Following the previous format, the MakanMakan Sarawak 2018 was organised based on festivals celebrated by the Orang Ulu. The MakanMakan Sarawak series are organised in conjunction with the different festivals celebrated in Sarawak such as Deepavali, Chinese New Year, Gawai, Raya Aidilfitri and Pesta Melanau, and these were undertaken by YPS in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively.

For Pesta Orang Ulu, there were cultural exhibition, food demonstrations, traditional performances and art & craft showcases happening throughout the day, and it ended with a dinner that featured the Orang Ulu's traditional food. Each dish was accompanied by in-depth explanation by Madam Jane Lian Labang, a local expert on their cultural and traditional significance. Another highlight during the dinner was a showcase of traditional costumes of the different Orang Ulu groups.



CAMP UNITED 2018

20th - 23th September 2018, Kingwood Resort, Mukah

The camp was attended by more than 70 university students from throughout Sarawak where they participated in physically challenging activities during the day and thought-provoking sessions in the evening. They were mainly from Sarawak (66% from Kuching, Sibu, Mukah, Bintulu and Miri), other states of Malaysia comprising Sabah, Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Kedah, Pahang, Johor, Perak and Labuan (26%) and foreign countries such as Jamaica, Kenya, Uganda and Pakistan (8%).

Besides team building activities, the students also participated in sharing sessions on topics like discrimination and youth support system. There was also a special dialogue with YB Datuk Hanifah Hajar Taib, Member of Parliament for Mukah where she shared her personal experiences dealing with racial discrimination, prejudice, environmental protection and the role of youth in sustaining harmony and unity.



CAMP UNITED: HIGH SCHOOL EDITION

2nd - 4th November 2018, Kem Putra Sentosa, Sematan



The high school edition was organised for the first time targeting high school students (Form 4) from Kuching division. The camp was shortened to 3 days 2 nights in compliance with the ruling set by the Department of Education Sarawak. About 70 students from 7 secondary schools such as SMK St. Joseph, SMK St. Teresa, SMK St. Thomas, SMK Sains Kuching, SMK Tun Abang Haji Openg, SMK Petra Jaya, and St Joseph's Private attended the camp.

Similar team building and bonding activities were carried out where the students went through physically and mentally challenging tasks. The students enjoyed the camp immensely and shared on how the camp succeeded in breaking them out of their comfort zone, highlighting the importance of community and reaching out as well as making new friends with people from different backgrounds.



RESEARCH



Sarawak Social Trends Report, 2005-2015

The 'Sarawak Social Trends Report, 2005-2015' was commissioned by the Social Development Council (MPS), Ministry of Welfare, Community Wellbeing, Women, Family and Childhood Development, Sarawak. The first phase of the study which was completed in 2017 was mainly desk research analysing data on social indicators that were collected by MPS from 2005-2015, as well as other relevant social indicators collected by other agencies but made available to MPS in a format ready for analysis. Phase 2 which was completed in 2018 was based on the results of descriptive analysis from Phase 1. Policy-makers, implementers, enforcers and participants who were directly impacted were interviewed to examine and clarify the issues identified.

One of the main themes uncovered by the study was the issues relating to the increase in population in Sarawak. They can be split into four equally pressing areas that need to be addressed: shelter/housing, employment, health facilities and services, as well as social/recreational facilities and programs.

While data on unemployment has been constant in terms of percentage, the numbers have actually been increasing in tandem with the population. When coupled with a growing youth population, this means that policies will need to be formulated to integrate youth into the economy in a meaningful way.

Besides that, shelter/housing is another crucial issue as data indicate a growing demand for housing from 16,000 units in 2016 to 58,057 units by 2020. Affordability is also a problem as data show that households in Sarawak can only afford houses in the RM150,000 bracket, whereas current prices in the housing market are in the RM408,000 bracket.

In the future, healthcare facilities and services will become even more vital as the population ages. Questions such as on sufficient health facilities were uncovered during the study. For instance, in 2014, Sarawak General Hospital had 959 beds to serve the entire population of Kuching, while Kota Kinabalu has 1,200 beds for a population of 600,000. Besides that, with a projected increase in the number of senior citizens, the need for geriatric healthcare and services will only increase.

Lastly, social and recreational facilities and programs would be useful in the coming years as a means to deter youths from picking up negative activities such as drug abuse and petty crimes, which are the most common social problems of youths in Sarawak. The construction and upgrading of sports and recreational facilities, especially in rural areas will enable youths to engage in healthy, productive activities instead of staying idle.



Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of the Sarawak Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Authority (SALCRA) Development Programme in Serian Region

This study was completed in November 2018. This study is necessitated by the fact that oil palm plantations in the region have reached the end of their planting cycle. As such, an examination of the programme is needed to reevaluate its strengths and shortcomings for future planning. Therefore, the primary objective of this study was to undertake a socio-economic impact assessment of SALCRA's development programme in five estates: Mongkos, Tae, Kedup 1, Kedup 2 and Melikin.

In terms of demographic background the respondents are males above 65 years old. Educational attainments are low, with two-thirds of them never having attended school or were educated up to primary school level. However, their household members' level of education is slightly better than the respondents, with close to a third (34.2%) of household members educated up to upper secondary and 22.6 per cent up to primary school. Most of them are engaged in farming. Meanwhile, most household members (63.1%) are not involved in income generation as they mainly consist of homemakers, students, the elderly and the disabled. Socio-economically, about a third of respondents (34.4%) had income between RM301-RM600, and close to a quarter (23.6%) earns less than RM300 a month. The average household income is RM1,797.01, which is higher than the Poverty Line Income of RM920.00.

On the issue of quality of life, at least 3 estates covered by the survey have agreed that the economic conditions are better than before especially the increase in income, reasonable wages offered by SALCRA as well as opportunity to start a business. Similarly, 3 estates gave good marks on job opportunity. Perceptions on family benefits after SALCRA's involvement have slightly better overall results. However, the perceptions on infrastructure and utilities saw the lowest ratings among all quality of life issues. Overall, at last 3 out of 5 estates have a higher agreement that their lives have changed after the introduction of the SALCRA development programme.

The study recommended that there should be a better communication (proactive and effective) on standard operation procedures to improve perception of participants towards SALCRA. Secondly, to address the participants' dissatisfaction regarding land titles, it is recommended that the process be expedited and SALCRA to engage a third party surveyor which is recognised by Land and Survey Department to accelerate surveying. Lastly, it is recommended that SALCRA conduct a wage review in order to attract and retain locals as well as increase productivity levels.





Baseline Survey on Proposed SALCRA's Development Programme in Kumpang Silik, Sri Aman

This survey was commissioned by Sarawak Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Authority (SALCRA) in 2017 with the goal of creating a basic socio-economic database of 10 villages in Kumpang Silik which are located between Engkelili and Lubok Antu town in Sri Aman Division. The key components covered in the survey include a) demographic profile; b) economic activities; c) employment status and opportunities; d) availability of skills; e) existing infrastructure; and f) available social facilities and amenities.

The survey found that the respondents from this area generally can be considered as moderately educated, as a majority of them only attended up to secondary school education. Tertiary level educational attainment is rather low which is considered a common phenomenon among the rural communities where access to better educational opportunities is lower due to poverty, lack of information and knowledge, and distance of educational institutions. The majority of the respondents are farmers and followed by housewives. Some respondents are not economically active such as the elderly, the disabled, retirees and the sick.

Meanwhile, almost a quarter of the respondents are earning less than RM300.00 per month and their main occupation is farming. Slightly above a third of them are earning more than RM900.00 per month. Those who have high incomes are either wage earners working in both private and public sectors or those who plant oil palm on their land. In terms of quality of life, some villages have no clean, treated water supply and so are dependent on gravity feed, river or rainwater. However, a majority of the respondents were satisfied with the quality of electricity supply to their homes.

Various development projects were implemented and completed between 2004 and 2017 in and around some of the villages covered by the survey. The projects mainly relate to infrastructure, utilities, and facilities, namely electricity supply, multipurpose hall, housing for the poor (PPRT), main road, village road, roofing and water supply. The only project that received open feedback from the respondents is on the condition of roads where the perception is mostly positive from three villages.

To conclude, the survey found two major opportunities for the locals in the survey area. Firstly, a proper assessment on the type of skill development or training course to be offered to the community should be identified. This is because many community assistance projects have not been successful as no proper attention was given to the ability and interest of the recipients. In the context of this survey, the most relevant skills needed may be agriculture related. Secondly, it was found that housewives and females make up a big majority of the non-economically active members in the villages. Therefore, if income generating activities could be identified for them to participate in, it could go a long way towards increasing the income of the households. They need to be empowered in order for them to take charge of their lives and that of their families through capacity building, providing accessibility to financial aid and advice, as well as the marketing of their products.

Digital Readiness of Community in Sarawak: Exploratory Survey in Kuching, Samarahan and Serian

The project on 'Digital Readiness of Community in Sarawak: An Exploratory Survey in Kuching, Samarahan and Serian' is commissioned by Sarawak Multimedia Authority (SMA) under the Digital Inclusivity Initiatives. Its main aim is to examine the level of readiness of local residents in terms of digital literacy, skills, and awareness in order to provide a foundation of understanding for future digital economy programmes.

The survey will target both populations in the urban and rural strata taking care to get representatives in major, medium and small towns. It will also include both the business sector and the public such as household members, the youth as well as farmers. The study will adopt a mixed-approach combining both quantitative method and qualitative method to collect data. Significant issues identified will be further explored in focus group discussions involving key personnel in the know.

This survey will not have a sampling frame as it is difficult to determine the size of the study population. As it is an exploratory study, the approach taken was to focus only on selected settlements and their vicinity in the Kuching, Samarahan and Serian Divisions. The survey will also use Pusat Internet Malaysia (PIM) as a reference point to select the sample respondents for the survey. A total of twelve areas with PIM centres will be selected throughout the eight selected settlements; four in Kuching, two each in Serian and Bau, and one each in Lundu, Asajaya, Sematan, Simunjan and Tebedu. For each area, at least a third or less (25 respondents) will be reserved for the business sector, while the rest are for the public such as government servants, self-employed including farmers and youths.

The survey commenced its data collection in October 2018. The study is expected to be completed within seven calendar months.

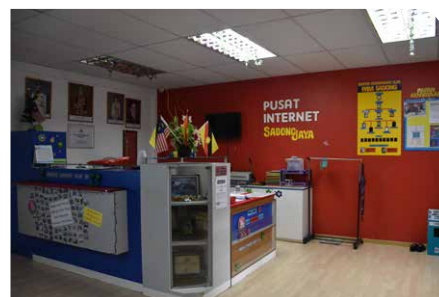


A Perception Survey among University Students on Emerging Issues

This is an in-house project conducted by SDI. The main aim of this survey is to gauge students' perception and feelings on emerging issues as well as to identify the determinant factors that may have formed these feelings. The survey was completed and the draft of the report was finalised in

August 2018. In general the survey randomly interviewed 367 respondents from three higher learning institutions in Kuching and Samarahan. Among the higher learning institutions are Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Universiti Institut Technology MARA (UiTM) Sarawak Campus and Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak. There were six topics explored and sought respondents' feedback and perception. The topics are Kuching as a City of Unity, Perception on Volunteerism, Social Media as a Source of Information/News, Cost of Living among University Students, Youth Bankruptcy and Youth Underemployment.

The survey found that youths of today are progressively minded, with an intrinsic understanding of ethnic unity and volunteerism. They celebrate and strongly support both, although in the latter constraints of life seem to interfere with volunteering. These constraints on life such as the cost of living and under-employment are acutely felt by respondents. These can lead to issues such as credit card debts, bankruptcy, and other financial pitfalls. Luckily, they are aware of the dangers and are able to take steps such as saving, to prevent that. This is especially true in the survey on youth bankruptcy, where respondents demonstrated a decent level of financial literacy and prudence. They are also communication savvy, and this is clearly reflected in their answers in the social media survey. They are very plugged in to instant modes of communication and have the ability to access large amounts of information very quickly. Fortunately, most are able to discern the information that is available to them.



Quick Appraisals of Digital Economy Intervention Programmes

These quick appraisals were also commissioned by Sarawak Multimedia Authority (SMA) under the Digital Inclusivity Initiatives. Many digital economy intervention programmes were conducted by multiple agencies to equip the community in Sarawak with the right information, exposure, knowledge and skills on digital resources and facilities that are available and being developed by the Sarawak Government. These series of quick appraisals were conducted to examine how these programmes have been received by the participants and to gauge their understanding of the information conveyed. Twenty (20) community-based digital programmes that were carried out by Pustaka Negeri, Angkatan Zaman Mansang (AZAM) Sarawak, Sarawak Multimedia Authority (SMA) and *Unit Komunikasi Awam Sarawak* (UKAS) were examined. A total of 1,293 people all over Sarawak were polled.

Despite all the programmes having distinct aims and objectives, they all featured several common elements. The first would be the link between education and programme satisfaction, and device ownership. The more educated the crowd, the more likely they were to find the programmes interesting and satisfactory. However, when it came to identifying specific areas that were interesting or to make suggestions on improvement/propose new activities, the vast majority did not provide any reply.

With gadget ownership, smartphone ownership is very high, with nearly all respondents owning at least one device. Other devices such as tablets are less common, and personal computers are functionally absent. While respondents mostly used their smartphones for communication, there was substantial usage in the area of online transactions, including online purchases and paying bills. Inversely, the older and less urbanised one was, the less likely they were to own a digital device, as well as have lower participation rates in online activities. As for knowledge on digital economy, findings indicated a large majority of respondents were, at best, hazy about Sarawak's digital economy initiatives. At most, they claimed to have heard of it, but when asked to explain, they could not, or gave the wrong answer. Oddly enough, the same respondents indicated that they were ready to participate in digital economy.



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