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The International Symposium on Conservation and Utilization of Forest Resources (ISCUFR)

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The International Symposium on Conservation and Utilization of Forest Resources (ISCUFR) for Sustainable Livelihoods was carried out successfully at Mulu Marriott Resort and Spa, Mulu, Miri from 26th to 29th October, 2015. The symposium, with the theme "Forests for food, medicine and ecological security", was supported by the Sarawak Convention Bureau and the Society for Conservation and Research Development of Medicinal Plants and International Consortium Of Contemporary Biologists, India. The event was officiated by The Honourable Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh, the Assistant Minister in the Chief Minister's Office (Promotion of Technical Education), and the Assistant Minister of Environment (Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment) representing The Honourable Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan. Also present at the event were The Rector of UiTM Sarawak, Prof. Dato Dr. Jamil Hj Hamali and The Chair of the symposium, Prof. Dr. V Sivaram from Bangalore University, India.

"The co-organised symposium by the V Sivaram Research Foundation and Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Sarawak reflects the strong support UiTM Sarawak has for networking and cooperation with national and international organizations," said the Rector of UiTM Sarawak at the opening ceremony. He also added that the symposium provided a platform and opportunities for our local researchers, students and lecturers to attend, share ideas and expertise as well as network with renowned researchers and experts in their fields. Moreover, it is very important that research grants are provided for them to pursue their field of study. Thus, he hoped that the Sarawak State Government and corporate bodies can come forward to work together with UiTM Sarawak as well as to provide the much needed grants for research in various important fields.

Eminent Scientist Award Winners



This particular symposium was significant as it emphasised the importance of our forests for our survival and well being. Moreover, it provided a platform for researchers, policy makers, managers and professionals from different private sectors in Asia and other regions of the world to exchange and share methodologies and approaches as well as information on products, forest resource

conservation and development initiatives. 11 Bachelor of Science (Hons.) in Chemistry (AS202) students from UiTM attended the symposium as participants while two students presented. Apart from that, approximately 50 participants from different countries attended the symposium. The presenters were from Malaysia, India, Nigeria, Kenya, Taiwan, Pakistan and Morocco.

The symposium started off with the presentation of the Eminent Scientist Awards during the opening ceremony. The awards were from the International Consortium of Contemporary Biologists & Madhawi-Shyam Education Trust to be given to outstanding experts who had contributed greatly to innovative research, education, and development activities in the fields of Applied Science, Environment, Forestry and Sustainable Development. Among the award winners, Dr. H.Y. Khong was the only winner from Malaysia.

The seven (7) technical sessions during the symposium were:

1. Wildlife Management, Environmental Education and Ecotourism
2. Forest Biomass and Bioenergy
3. Forest Products as Food and Medicine
4. Forest Conservation Strategies and Afforestation programmes
5. Causes and Consequences of Deforestation
6. Climate Change on Biodiversity and Ecosystem
7. Research and Development in Forest Management

Echoing the message delivered by Dr Lim Hin Fui, the keynote speaker at the symposium, forests should be conserved as they are the treasure of various potential medical plants that can be developed for commercialization purposes. In general, forests are essential for human survival and well-being as they are homes to two thirds of all terrestrial animal and plant species. They provide us with food, oxygen, shelter, recreation, and spiritual sustenance and they are the source for over 5,000 commercially traded products ranging from pharmaceutical products to timber and clothing. The biodiversity of forests, the variety of genes and species as well as forest ecosystems are the basis for long term forest health and stability. This symposium was held with the aim of promoting strategies and ways to achieve sustainable forest biodiversity which will benefit the poor socially and economically.



Among some of the honorable speakers.

Exchange of knowledge and ideas among experts and students at the symposium.





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