

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE FAIR KICKS OFF IN THE MALAYSIAN PART OF THE BORNEO ISLAND

19 November 2015

- ResearchSEA

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak organises its fifth indigenous knowledge fair with a keynote speech “Community-based co-design of Indigenous Knowledge Technologies: Challenges and Opportunities” delivered by a professor from Namibia and presentations by researchers in Malaysia and UK.



Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

Kota Samarahan, 19th November 2015 : Unviersiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)'s Institute of Social Informatics and Technological Innovations (ISITI-CRI) successfully kick-started the fifth eBorneo Knowledge Fair 2015 (eBKF5 2015) on 18 November 2015.

The knowledge fair this year marks yet another milestone for ISITI as this is the first time that ISITI has organised the knowledge fair in Ba'Kelalan, the Heart of Borneo.

The three-day event, which runs from 18-20 November 2015, began with the postgraduate colloquium, which saw the attendance of both local and international postgraduate students from various countries such as the United Kingdom, Sweden and Nigeria.

The students presented the progress of their work in various areas of Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D), all of which were relevant to the goals and objectives of the knowledge fair which is to promote research that innovates with technologies in order to address the challenges and opportunities that remote and isolated indigenous communities face.

Two workshops were also organised; namely Community Radio, which was facilitated by Professor Dr Roger Harris, a visiting professor from UNIMAS, together with local champions Stanley Issac and Cr. John Tarawe and Engaged Learning, which was facilitated by Associate

Professor Dr Shorna Broussard Allred and Amy Kuo Somchanhmavong, both from Cornell University, United States of America.

The event also saw the representation from various stakeholders such as the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), Maxis Sdn. Bhd, Pusat Internet 1 Malaysia (PI1M), researchers from UNIMAS, UUM, UCTS, Cornell University, Cambridge and Oxford University, Politechnique of Namibia, as well as members from the indigenous communities from Ba'Kelalan, Bario and Long Lamai.

One of the highlights of the event was the welcoming ceremony, which saw the members of the Ba'Kelalan community welcoming all the delegates with several local performances. Community representative, Ketua Kampung Mr Yudan Meru also welcomed the participants to the event. Associate Professor Dr Poline Bala, from the Faculty of Social Sciences, UNIMAS, who is also the site leader of eBa'Kelalan, highlighted the aims and objectives of the eBKF5 2015 during her welcoming speech at the event.

The keynote speech entitled "Community-based co-design of Indigenous Knowledge Technologies: Challenges and Opportunities" was delivered by Professor Dr Heike Winschiers from the Politechnique of Namibia.

The eBKF5 this year aims at working on several areas of interest to the indigenous community, particularly the Lun Bawang community in Ba'Kelalan, and the rest of the world as a whole.

About eBorneo Knowledge Fair

The eBorneo Knowledge Fair (eBKF) is a re-branded version of what was previously called the e-Bario Knowledge Fair and it represents the expansion of the eBario project to include more indigenous communities in Borneo, and beyond. The event is a bi-annual un-conference, held in the central Borneo highlands of Sarawak, Malaysia. It showcases the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for development in isolated rural communities, especially those that consist of indigenous peoples. It is organised by the Institute of Social Informatics and Technological Innovations at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak in conjunction with the local community, bringing together researchers, practitioners and policy makers with the resident indigenous peoples, in both Malaysia and neighbouring Indonesia.

For more information, please visit the eBorneo Knowledge Fair website ([link below](#)).



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