

mention of frogs might conjure up images of slimy amphibians with greenish skin and menacing eyes. What many people fail to realise is that like other species of animals, frogs too come in a diverse range of colours, shapes and sizes, from the more common variety to the downright bizarre-looking ones.

The International Bornean Frog Race aims to raise public awareness on the rich diversity of frog species in our region. The event, which enters its 5th season this year, will be held at Lambir Hills National Park near

Miri, Sarawak on April 30. The park, known for its gorgeous cascades, is home to numerous flora and fauna. And of all the wildlife species recorded there thus far, 55 of them are amphibians.

Not guite what its name suggests, the International Bornean Frog Race is actually a competition to see who can photograph the most number of frog species within a given time frame, using their DSLR cameras, compact digital cameras or smartphones. The photos will be judged by a panel of professional photographers and experts in frog biology, and the winners will walk home with cash and other prizes.

As the race calls for a bit of jungle trekking, it's only natural that among many requirements for entry the participants must be physically fit. Workshops featuring some of the world's top experts will be held prior to the race, equipping the participants with the know-hows of finding and photographing frogs in the wild.

Besides the race, there will be other activities for the public to take part in, including talks and exhibitions, as well as live frog painting and a junior

programme. For more information, e-mail Pang Sing Tyan at 14010019@siswa.unimas.my or Indraneil Das at <u>idas@ibec.unimas.my</u>, or visit internationalborneanfrograce.weebly.com or f TheBorneanFrogRace.

