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Tajuk: 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Alfred Russel Wallace on 7-8 Nov.

NEW SARAWAK TRIBUNE • FRIDAY OCTOBER 4, 2013

# 2nd International Conference on Alfred Russel Wallace on 7-8 Nov

**KOTA SAMARAHAN :** "Wallace 2013" is the 2nd international event in Sarawak to honour the remarkable contribution of Alfred Russel Wallace to science, biodiversity conservation and humanity.

The first event was held in 2005 to celebrate 150 years of his explorations in Sarawak.

This second conference will be held on 7-8 November, 2013 at Riverside Majestic Hotel, Kuching.

It aims to bring together historians, natural scientists, ecologists, zoologists, botanists, paleontologists, anthropologists, geologists, park managers, and other scholars of the natural sciences to share their experiences on ecology, evolution and resource management of the region, as A.R. Wallace did in his lifetime before his death on 7

November, 1913.

Five international scholars will present talks and they are as follows:

1. Earl of Cranbrook from the United Kingdom - *Alfred Russel Wallace and his South-east Asian Heritage*.

2. Prof. Emeritus Yong Hoi Sen from Academy Science of Malaysia - *Phylogenetics and Systematics of Animal Life*.

3. Prof. Charles H. Smith from Western Kentucky University, USA, will give a video presentation on *Wallace and Incipient Structures: A World of "More Recondite" Influences*.

4. Paul Spencer Sochaczewski from Switzerland - *An Inordinate Fondness for Beetles. The Hero's Journey of Alfred Russel Wallace in South-east Asia*.

5. Darren J. Mann from the Oxford University Museum of

Natural History- *Wallace insects in Oxford - their history and value*.

In addition to this, an expert on Hornbills of Southeast Asia, Associate Professor, Dr. Vijak Chimchome from the Kasart University of Bangkok, Thailand will give a keynote lecture at a special session dedicated to hornbills at the conference.

Presently, 53 delegates, representing Australia, Brunei, Germany, USA, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Singapore, Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Pakistan, have registered.

In conjunction with the conference, an official tour to Gunung Serambu, a Wallace collection locality, will be held on 9 November, 2013 (Saturday).

An expedition relevant to the conference theme will be organised between 1 and 18 November

2013 to Gunung Santubong, where Wallace collected and wrote his monumental paper, now referred to as "The Sarawak Law".

The organiser will also be organising an Essay Writing Competition.

It aims to enhance awareness among schoolchildren on the contributions of Alfred Russel Wallace, with the hope that students will acquire new knowledge and information through their search for materials for their essay.

The competition is open to all secondary school students (Forms 1 - 6) in Sarawak. Three prizes and certificates are awaiting the best essays (1<sup>st</sup> - RM1000, 2<sup>nd</sup> - RM750, 3<sup>rd</sup> = RM500, and 10 shortlisted = RM50).

The winners are required to read their essays at the sonfer-

ence. Return airfare and accommodation will be provided for the winners and one accompanying parent or guardian.

The conference is jointly organized by Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation (IBEC) UNIMAS, Department of Sarawak Museum and Sarawak Forestry Corporation, and supported by Sarawak Convention Bureau.

Details of the above events and entry form can be found at the Conference Website <http://www.unimas.my/Wallace2013/>

You can also contact the Organiser: Prof. Dr. Andrew Alek Tuen (082-582997; 019-8125960); Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alexander K. Sayok (082-582994; 019-8280614); Jongkar Grinang (082-582993; 013-5788110); Cindy Peter (016-8926027) or Email: [wallace2013@unimas.my](mailto:wallace2013@unimas.my)