

# FSSH

## Research Review



**“Bridging Communities,  
Research and Policy”**

## NEW RESEARCH

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities Research Review 2019

# INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS: A SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FACING THE RURAL IBAN COMMUNITY IN KAPIT DIVISION, SARAWAK (DAYAK CHAIR) F06/DRC/1813/2019

SPENCER EMPADING SANGGIN, NEILSON ILAN MERSAT, SHAHREN AHMAD ZAIDI EDRUCE AND MOHAMAD SUHAIDI SALLEH

Iban is the largest ethnic group which is approximately 29% of Sarawak's population and is scattered throughout Sarawak. The majority, however, are living in Sri Aman, Betong, and Kapit Divisions. The socio-economic activities of rural Iban have been mostly agricultural-based, but the non-agricultural sector has recently contributed to the rural economy of the Iban communities in Sarawak. The agricultural practices have gradually been transformed from a pure subsistence activity to a mixed or semi-commercial agriculture practice. Most Iban longhouses are currently facing depopulation mainly due to rural-urban migration. This has brought about both positive and negative impacts, and will certainly have great implications on the sustainability of the community. This study attempts to find answers to the following key research questions: What are the opportunities available in the community? Is there enough supporting infrastructure and facilities to enable the community to sustain and develop? What are the critical factors for the survival of the people? What changes have taken place over the years that enable the community to sustain their livelihoods? What are the implications of those changes on the sustainability of the community? What is the current status of the community in terms of social and economic wellbeing?

The main approach to this study is to conduct a cross-sectional survey as well as structured observation, and focus group discussions (FGD). For the survey, the main research tool is the community index instrument which was developed by the Institute of Borneo Studies, UNIMAS. The first fieldwork started with a reconnaissance trip made on the 3rd to 5th September 2019. A total of 13 Iban longhouses were identified whose households (a total of 194 households or *bilek* family) will be the population of the study. All the longhouses are reachable by roads. The next stage of the study will be the survey which is expected to be carried out in October 2019.



First meeting with the community leaders and officers at Kapit District office. The purpose of the meeting was to inform them about the research as well as to discuss further upcoming activities in their area. The meeting was chaired by Prof Dr Spencer Empading Sanggin and assisted by Dr Mohamad Suhaidi Salleh and Elvin Jawol.



First photo: Group photo of researchers and a local guide at Rumah Jandok, Ulu Yong, Kapit. This longhouse is the last remaining traditional wooden longhouse at Kapit District. It is located approximately 22km from Kapit town. Only a few families are still living in this longhouse while the others have moved to a new concrete longhouse located nearby.



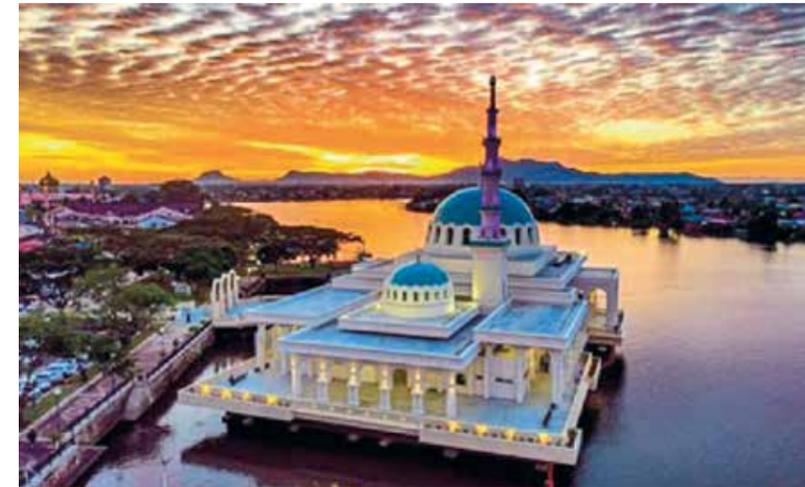
Second Photo: Group interview with the villagers of Rumah Manok Manchal.

## NEW RESEARCH

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# CONSTRUCTING THE FRAMEWORK OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FM AND MOSQUE DESIGN AND FUNCTION IN MOSQUE IN SARAWAK (FRGS/RACER) F06/RACER/1857/2019

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Masjid India Bandar Kuching



Masjid Darul Hana, Petra Jaya, Kuching

This research is motivated by the need to identify the management of mosque facilities and design, because it helps contribute to the success of mosque in delivering its role and function. In this regard, a mosque needs management effectiveness in their contribution, especially in facilities and design. In this case, facility management (FM), which is a part of general management in various types of building management, is seen as a model that can be considered. As a subset of general management, especially in design and management of facilities, FM helps to improve the management

of mosque organization, to support its effectiveness, and to contribute to its success.

The research team plans to produce a Framework of Relationship between FM and Mosque Design and Function in Mosque in Sarawak. Data collection is expected to start in January 2020. This research is supported by the Ministry of Education Malaysia through the FRGS-RACER research grant: F06/RACER/1857/2019.