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PERSONALISED STAMPS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BORNEAN FROG RACE

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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead (1901–1978), cultural anthropologist

Introduction

The International Bornean Frog Race (<https://internationalborneanfroggrace.weebly.com>) is a public conservation education event, held annually since 2012, and organised by the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, with local partners in Sarawak.

The event coincides with the 'Save the Frogs Day' (<http://www.savethefrogs.com>), a global umbrella comprising scores of international events that are held in dozens of countries, that draw attention to the world's declining amphibians. Additionally, the Bornean Frog Race aims to encourage city folk to visit Malaysia's wilderness areas with their families, and promotes Sarawak and Malaysia as ecotourism destinations.

This event is supported by the Ministry of Tourism Sarawak and the Malaysian Ministry of Tourism and Culture, and is listed in the Sarawak's Calendar of Events. The Race is restricted to 100 participants, and includes talks by local and international speakers from the field of amphibian biology and conservation, photography talks and workshops, live drawing and painting demonstrations, exhibitions of artifacts depicting frogs in culture and art, release of smartphone applications, etc.

Version	Venue	Date	Participants	Co-organiser	Countries Represented	Species Depicted	FV
1 st	Santubong NP	28 April 2012	30	Camp Permai Resort	4	<i>Ansonia latidisca</i> , Bornean Rainbow Toad	30 sen
2 nd	Kubah NP	27 April 2013	75	Sarawak Forestry Corporation	6	<i>Leptomantis angulirostris</i> , Sharp-nosed Tree Frog	30 sen
3 rd	Kubah NP	26 April 2014	175	Sarawak Forestry Corporation	10	<i>Glyphoglossus capsus</i> , Bornean Chilli Frog	30 sen
4 th	Kubah NP	25 April 2015	150	Sarawak Forestry Corporation	17	<i>Rhacophorus borneensis</i> , Bornean Flying Frog	30 sen
5 th	Lambir Hills NP	30 April 2016	200	Sarawak Forestry Corporation	11	<i>Theloderma lacin</i> , Smooth Tree-bark Frog	30 sen
6 th	Gunung Gading NP	29–30 April 2017	180	Sarawak Forestry Corporation	15	<i>Microhyla nepenthicola</i> , Matang Narrow-mouthed Frog	30 sen
7 th	Matang Wildlife Centre	28 April 2018	220	Sarawak Forestry Corporation	15	<i>Gastrophryonoides borneensis</i> , Long-snouted Frog	60 sen
8 th	Kubah NP, Matang Wildlife Centre, Sama Jaya Nature Reserve	27–28 April 2019	180	Sarawak Forestry Corporation	16	<i>Ansonia latidisca</i> , Bornean Rainbow Toad	60 sen
Mini Frog Race	Kubah NP	18 July 2019	45	Sarawak Forestry Corporation	13	<i>Leptobrachium ingeri</i> , Inger's Litter Frog	60 sen

Note: NP = National Park

Table 1. Details of the past versions of the International Bornean Frog Race and stamps produced

A Junior Programme is also organised, which hosts a further 100 students, in addition to school and administrative staff from educational departments. Races have attracted participants from up to 17 countries annually, making the event truly international in flavour.

In 2019, a Mini Bornean Frog Race was organised, specifically for international bloggers, under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture's Mega Familiarisation Programme (MEGAFAM), which drew participants from 13 countries.

Stamps of the Race

At every Race, starting from the first one in 2012, a personalised stamp is issued to commemorate the event. Typically, the stamp is affixed to a Race postcard, given to participants, to mail home. Each Race depicts a different and unique Bornean frog, and together with all the Race events (eight versions) and one mini event, a total of nine designs have now been issued (Figure 1).

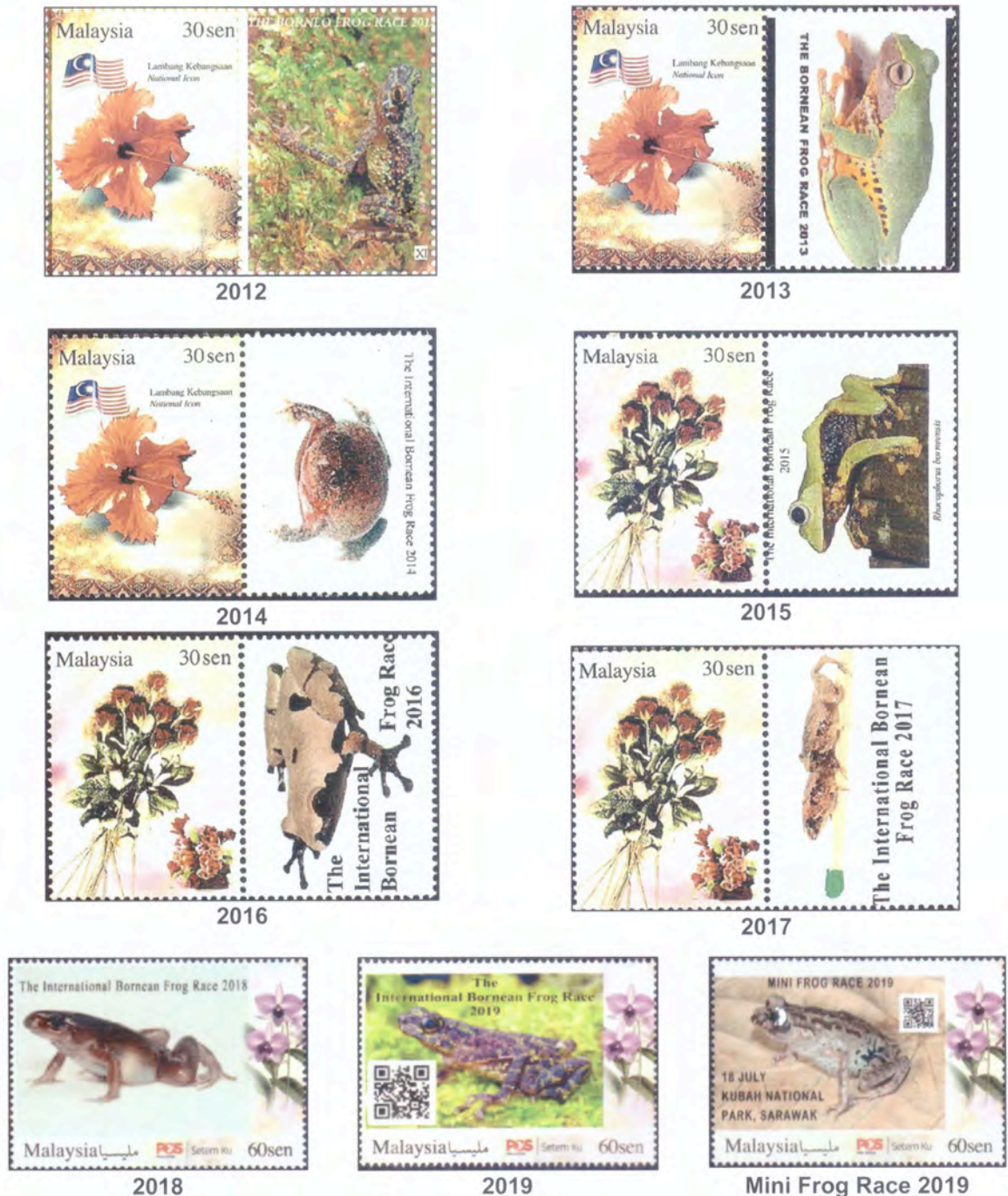


Figure 1: Stamps issued to commemorate the International Bornean Frog Race (2012–2019) and the Mini Bornean Frog Race (2019)

These stamps were produced under Pos Malaysia's SetemKu programme, and include stamps of 30 sen value. In the first five years, the image was printed on the tabs attached to the denominated value of the stamps, and since 2018, of 60 sen value, within the frame of the stamp. In the most recent issues (the Race and Mini Race held in 2019), a quick-response (QR) code was placed on the stamp, which,

when scanned with a smartphone or tablet, plays the advertisement call of the particular frog species depicted.

Some stamps were further personalised with hot-fixed Swarovski crystal eyes, and donated to the Frog Race live auction, to raise funds for future editions of the event or for supporting other conservation causes. Also produced for the auction at the 2019 Race was a limited-edition printed postcard, showing the same design, also with embedded Swarovski crystal eye (Figure 2).

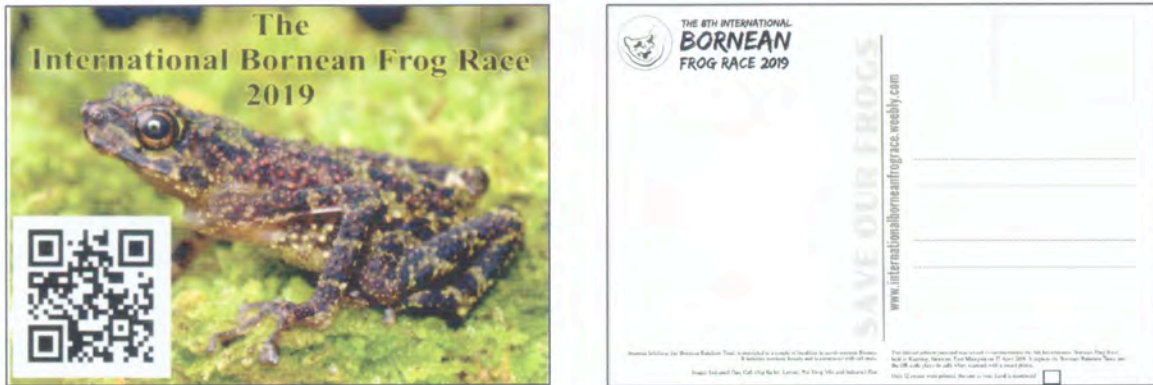


Figure 2: Obverse (left) and reverse (right) of the printed postcard produced for the auction at 2019 Frog Race

Acknowledgements

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References

- Das, I., A.A. Tuen, Y.M. Pui & J.J. Ong. 2014. The Bornean Frog Race- raising conservation awareness on amphibians of Sarawak and Malaysia. *Herpetological Review* 45(1):66–73.
- Das, I., S.T. Pang & Y.M. Pui. 2019. The International Bornean Frog Race. *Malaysian Naturalist* 73(1):39–40.

1968 OFFICIAL COVER OF SELANGOR STAMP CLUB

Hin Wai Yip

The scan below is of an official cover of Selangor Stamp Club (former name for Philatelic Society Malaysia or PSM) in the 1960s, which was used to send a newsletter to a member of the society in Scotland. Franked with a set of stamps of the Installation of the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan, this cover was sent as second class (printed matter) airmail. The stamps were tied with Kuala Lumpur M1 CDS on 5 May 1968.



Figure 1: An official Selangor Stamp Club cover franked with a set of the Installation of the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan stamps for second class airmail