Centre for Graduate Studies, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak

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11th February 2025

Dear Sir,

THESIS ACCESS RESTRICTION JUSTIFICATION

I, Sheryl Uncha anak Andrew Chiba, matrics no. 20020404 from Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, am writing to an explanation for the decision to restrict access to my thesis titled "Species diversity of the ichthyotoxic dinoflagellates Kareniaceae (Gymnodiniales) in Malaysia waters based on morphology and molecular analysis, and their toxicologic effect towards the brine shrimp (*Artemia* sp.) and fish fingerling (*Lates calcarifer*)".

I acknowledge that open access is encouraged for thesis dissertation, however, I opted for restricted access to my thesis due to certain considerations. First, the thesis includes novel findings that are currently part of an ongoing publication process. Sharing the thesis publicly at this stage may risk compromising the novelty of these findings and could potentially undermine the success of these processes. After discussions with my thesis supervisor, co-supervisors, and research collaborators, it was agreed that some elements of the thesis should be kept restricted for a specified period to protect intellectual property rights and prevent unauthorized dissemination before a formal release or publication of related materials. The restriction will be lifted once the related publications are finalized.

Should you require any further details or clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your understanding and support in this matter.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Uncha anak Andrew Chiba 20020404

Faculty of Resource Science and Technology,

e-Mail: sherylunchaac@gmail.com