Special Lecture on Environment and Indigenous Communities

Organised by the Department of Anthropology and Sociology and
Department of Development Studies

Faculty of Social Sciences

Date: 3 December 2014

Introduction

Topics on indigenous communities have never ceased to inspire interests and debates among academics and researchers in social sciences. As stewards of natural resources and biodiversity, indigenous peoples rarely get a share of the fruits of development. Rather, they are being imperilled by the excessive exploitation of development agenda not guided by their own priorities. It is time that our faculty to recommence a discourse on indigenous environment by inviting Prof Fadzilah Majid-Cooke who is one of the leading scholars in Malaysia who has been researching and publishing works on this topic. She is also our faculty's academic advisor.

Objectives

The objectives of the seminar are two-fold:

1. To create intellectual discussion on the topic of development as one of the themes for the Faculty’s niche Social Transformation in Borneo. This too complements the courses offered in the Faculty namely Basic Concepts in Development and Environment and Indigenous Communities.

2. To provide opportunity for academics and students alike on the recent issues and research on development in Borneo. This seminar is open to all academics and students in UNIMAS who are interested.
Programme Itinerary

The programme for Prof. Fadzilah is as follows:

9.00 - 9.10 am  Aluan Dekan

9.15 - 10.30 am  Keynote Address: “Indigenous Communities and Development in East Malaysia: Challenges and Agency” by Prof Fadzilah Majid Cooke.
- Open to staff, undergraduates and postgraduates

10.30 - 11.00 am  Question and Answer

11.00 - 12.00 noon  Brunch

12.00 - 1.15 noon  Round-table discussion

1.15 - 2.00 pm  Recess

2.00 - 3.30 pm  Panel on Development Issues in Borneo. Moderator: Dr John Phoa.
Panellists: Prof Fadzillah, Dr John Phoa and Prof Madya Dr Andrew Aeria
- Open to staff, undergraduate and postgraduate

3.30 - 4.00 pm  Tea Break

4.00 - 5.00 pm  Reading Circle. Andre Gunder Frank, *The Development of the Underdevelopment* (1969)
- Open to staff and postgraduate