KUCHING: Sarawak Biodiversity Centre has lined up some interesting public awareness talks related to biodiversity for its Biodiversity Day on 18 and 19 May, 2013.

On Saturday, 18 May, 2013, three known experts in their respective fields will be talking about flowering plant species, fungi and also orchids.

The talks will kick off at 1.00pm at SBC's premises at Semengoh with Peter Boyce who will talk about flowering plant species found in Sarawak.

Boyce arrived in Sarawak in 2002 after spending 15 years working at Kew Gardens. He has since spent the last 12 years in Malaysia and Thailand.

Boyce's talk will be followed by a talk entitled “Diversity of Macro-Fungi in Sarawak” by Prof Dr Sepiah Muid of UNIMAS whose areas of specialisation is plant pathology and mycology.

Here, Prof Sepiah will talk about the macro-fungi, otherwise also known as mushrooms found in Sarawak.

The series of talks for the day will conclude with a presentation by Prof Dr Maziah Mahmood of University Putra Malaysia on orchids.

Maziah's field of expertise encompasses plant biochemistry, plant biotechnology and plant tissue culture.

She also loves orchids which she finds mesmerizing. After 10 years of research on the plants she has made a career out learning about them and working on fragrant orchids.

Maziah is also a co-founder of Orchid Life, a BioNexus status company that produces horticultural products and services internationally.

On Sunday, 19 May, 2013, public talks will kick off at 2.00pm with a talk on Wildlife Conservation in Sarawak, by Oswald Braken Tisen, the Deputy General Manager of Sarawak Forestry Corporation.

His presentation will be followed by an awareness talk entitled “Our Rivers and Biodiversity” by the Sarawak Rivers Board.

Each talk is estimated to be an hour long and those interested in attending either series of talks are advised to register with the Sarawak Biodiversity Centre by sending an email to biosar@sbc.org.my or by calling 082-619610, as seats are limited.