



## Borneo Bibliography out by late 2004



Bolhassan Di (fourth right) in a group photograph with the signatories after the MOU signing ceremony at the State Library in Petra Jaya yesterday.

By Steven Urut

**KUCHING:** The first complete Borneo Bibliography entitled "K@Borneo: A Collaboration on Identifying & Sharing of Information on Borneo" will be released late 2004.

State Library Chief Executive Officer Rashidah Bolhassan said Borneo studies were becoming popular and important in view of Borneo's strategic location in the middle of South East Asia, abundance of flora and fauna and a diverse population of more than 20 ethnic groups.

She said documentation of its rich culture had been done since before the era of colonisation and as such a concerted effort to identify and preserve these materials is of significant importance to increase accessibility and ensure intellectual continuity and to support research.

"Hence, a collaboration on identifying and sharing of information on Borneo was initiated at the end of January last year," she said at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the State Library in Petra Jaya here.

The MOU was signed between several organisations Borneo - The Sarawak Museum Department, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Universitas Tanjungpura in Pontianak, Sabah Foundation, the Sabah State Library, Universiti Brunei Darussalam and Brunei Museums Department.

Assistant Minister in the Chief Minister's Office Haji Bolhassan Di was present to witness the ceremony on behalf of the Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud.

Speaking at the function, Rashidah said the

project, which commenced during the second quarter of last year is expected to be completed by the end of 2004.

"The project is divided into three phases, with the first phase being the identification, selection and compilation of Borneo material, second phase on publication of Borneo Bibliography and the third phase on digitisation," she said.

She said the digitisation would follow specific criterias such as unique or special resources pertaining to local heritage, especially oral/dying tradition and customs that were of interest to the local community and beyond.

Significant materials that convey the history, governmental, cultural and scientific heritage and deteriorating materials that contain invaluable information will also be included, she said.

Rashidah added that the project, which covers materials from Sarawak, Sabah including the island of Labuan, Brunei and West Kalimantan is currently at compilation stage and is expected to be completed at the end of September.

Meanwhile, she said that the project had received partial financial assistance from the Japan Foundation Asia Centre Grant Programme.

She said preliminary discussion on the project, involving a representative of the Japanese foundation and the State Library, took place about two years ago.

Since then, the foundation has partially funded two meetings held in Kuching and in Kota Kinabalu.

During the third meeting in Pontianak last April, participating organisations also agreed to seek various other funding sources for the project, she added.



State Library staff Sabrina Bakar sitting behind the flags of the state's involved in the project.

Arkib  
NEW  
120.07  
35  
2002

THE MALAYSIAN TODAY. ( 2002, AUGUST 13 ).