

Tajuk : Frog race attracts 103 participants from 12 countries



OSWALD (seated eighth left) posing with the organising committee and participants of the Bornean Frog Race.

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MIRI: Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) in collaboration with the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation and the Faculty of Creative and Applied Arts of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) organised the 5th International Bornean Frog Race at Lambir Hills National Park recently.

Present to officiate at the closing ceremony was SFC's Deputy General Manager, Oswald Braken Tisen.

The International Bornean Frog Race this year garnered the participation of 103 "frogging" enthusiasts from 12 countries, namely, Malaysia, India, New Zealand,

Sweden, USA, China, Germany, Pakistan, Japan, France, Holland and Curacao.

The number of participants for the race had to be pegged down to 100 due to the sensitivity of the frogs and their habitats to mass presence of humans at any one time walking around with flash light and clicking away their cameras for a good two hours of the night.

Listed on the tourism calendar of events of the Ministry of Tourism Sarawak and that of Tourism Malaysia, the Bornean International Frog Race was organised in conjunction with "Save the Frogs Day" on the last weekend of April every year, with the aim of

drawing attention to the world's declining amphibian population and the need for their conservation.

The 5th edition this year was held at Lambir Hills National Park in recognition of the increasing following of "frogging" in Miri.

Activities conducted during the day included talks, workshops, exhibitions and culminating to the "Frog Race", in which participants compete to win prizes totalling RM5,000 in various categories of the race, namely, Most Number of Amphibian Species Photographed, Rarest Amphibian Photographed, Best Photo Taken with DSLR Camera, Compact Camera and

Mobile Phone as well as Special Awards for Most Enthusiastic Participant and Conservationist Award.

Last year at the Frog Race at Kubah National Park around 70 people from Malaysia, Australia, Curacao, Germany, India, Netherlands, Taiwan, Singapore, Philippines, Thailand, USA and United Kingdom participated.

With a total area of 6,952 hectares, Lambir Hills National Park is probably among the world's most complex and diverse forest ecosystem, housing over 50 species of amphibians and over 240 species of birds, including all eight hornbill species found in Sarawak.