

Teacher institute conducts Iban language workshop

BY ROGER DUYONG

BINTANGOR: Rajang Teacher Institute here organised a two-day Iban language workshop beginning yesterday, which was attended by 44 student-teachers.

A statement released from the institute said the workshop was meant to initiate official documentation of the language, to be an authority of the language as well as to facilitate creating writing (in the language) among the participants.

"This workshop is meant as a guide to facilitate creative writing, at the same time to increase knowledge of the language, particularly on the correct usage of Iban words."

"Besides that, it provides valuable inputs for the participating students on the writing of official documents in the language, which is relevant with the changing times," the statement added.

Led by Dr. Jeniri Amir of UNIMAS, the workshop outlines four main objectives: to expose the language from various aspects; to improve users' appreciation on the fine culture behind the language; to develop interest in creative writing (in the language); to increase appreciation of the language while practicing positive, patriotic and fine values.

"Themed '*Jaku Iban Maju Nyerumba Singkang Pemansang*'



A section of the student teachers at the two-day workshop.

the project is in line with the aspirations spelt out by the relevant authorities and the Education Ministry to churn out graduates with creativity and high achievement.

In his opening remarks, Rejang Teacher Institute Director Raymon

Gai said the Iban language is unique as it contains artistic elements which are pleasing to the ears.

This is especially true from various collections of Iban stories and books written against the backdrop of its culture, values and

fine customs over the years.

Raymon noted that of late, the production of the similar books had somewhat declined and as such, the workshop should be able to revive interest to produce more creative writings in the Iban language in the coming years.