

FSSH

Research Review



**“Bridging Communities,
Research and Policy”**

EDITORIAL NOTE

Welcome to the FSSH Research Review 2019 - Bridging Communities, Research & Policy. This Bulletin highlights the research news at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, UNIMAS.

In the social sciences, research is not a linear process but one that requires efforts, commitment, hard work and time. Through research, we are expected to increase our knowledge and understanding of the field of study. The findings of those research, however, are crucial as they could provide greater insight or solutions to local communities, stakeholders, other researchers, decision-makers, non-governmental organisations and interested individuals. Thus, dissemination of research findings are equally as important as conducting the research itself.

With the publication of this Bulletin, we aim to share the different research activities conducted by our Faculty members. We hope that by sharing their research progress and outcomes, and highlighting their field of expertise, we can potentially create a platform for interdisciplinary discussions, opportunities for research collaboration and community engagement. This is in line with UNIMAS' tagline as a "Community-Driven University". We also highlight our Faculty's achievements in this issue. Such achievements are monumental and reflect what we, as a Faculty, have been working on over the past few years. Together, we will continue to rise to the challenges and strive to improve our research portfolio.

Last but not least, we hope you find this issue informative and useful.

Thank you

The Editorial Team

NEW RESEARCH

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities Research Review 2019

THE INCLUSIVITY OF BIDAYUH COMMUNITIES IN THE REVIVAL OF SINIAWAN BAZAAR AS A HERITAGE TOWN (DAYAK CHAIR) F06/DRC/1802/2019

HASLINA HASHIM, LINDA ALFARERO LUMAYAG, LUCY SEBLI SEIDELSON AND AWANG IDERIS BIN AWANG DAUD

Siniawan is a small bazaar town located approximately 25 km from Kuching city. It has existed since the 1800s. Historically, Siniawan town was home to multi-ethnic communities until a war broke out in 1874 resulting in the withdrawal of the Malays and the Bidayuh communities from the area and leaving the Chinese occupying the town area (Denison, 1879). Over the years, the town has lost its position as the social and economic pulse of the surrounding communities. Hence, an initiative was taken up by the Sarawak Government to revive the town by introducing the night market as a tourist attraction. This study is about the participation of the predominantly Bidayuh communities, residing in eight villages around Mount Serembu, in the economic activities at Siniawan bazaar. An exploratory approach is adopted in the study using mixed methods. The aim of the study is to explore the extent to which the Bidayuh communities are participating in the progressive tourism development of Siniawan bazaar.



The research team conducted the first visit to the research site in August 2019. The highlights of our preliminary engagements with the community leaders, as well as traders and shop operators in the bazaar include:

There are negotiations of space taking place in the establishment of the bazaar and night market, and this covers social, economic and physical aspects.

In order to address the research aim, we need to understand the major economic activities of the areas; these are primarily planting of cash crops, foraging activities and engaging in formal or informal employment.

Modernization leads to better road connectivity which enables the communities' access to larger, and more regular markets around Kuching.