

THANK YOU: Nancy (second left) receives a bouquet of flowers from Dr Latif (second right), while Wilfred (left) and Atei look on after she declared open Best of Both Worlds Conference 2010 on Biodiversity Conservation yesterday.

Len Talif: State applies environmental education for sustainable devt

KUCHING: Environmental Education (EE) is one of the strategies being used by Sarawak for environmental protection and enhancement towards achieving sustainable development.

Deputy permanent secretary of Ministry of Planning and Resource Management Datu Len Talif. Salleh said that environmental issues such as biodiversity and habitat loss were complex, thus EE was critical for clear understanding of biodiversity and its ecological linkages, "It is also to improve the capacity of people to address such issues" said Len to some 100 participants attending the threeday (Nov 8 to 10) Best of Both Worlds Conference 2010 on Biodiversity Conservation yesterday. His text of speech was read by Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) general manager Wilfred Landong, while the conference was graced by Batang Sadong MP Nancy Shukri, on behalf of Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Datuk Seri Douglas Uggah Embas.

Also present at the conference was Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) director general Dato Dr Abdul Latif Mohmod, City Of Kuching North Commission mayor (DBKU) Mohd Atei Medaan, keynotespeakers Prof Dr Callie Loubser from University of South Africa and Prof Dr Peter Higgins from University of

Edinburgh. He added that in its broadest sense EE should encompass raising awareness and acquiring new values, knowledge and skill, which ultimately lead to changes in people's perception and attitude towards environmental protection and biodiversity.

Len, who is also SFC managing director, disclosed that SFC endeavoured to share with others as well as learn from others through various educational activities aimed to show positive attitude, appreciation and care to natural heritage through experiential and participatory learning. He hoped that through SFC's efforts, the public would be aware of biodiversity degradation and its environmental impact.