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150 attend 10th Hornbill Workshop

MIRI: About 150 people, mostly from the conservation community, are attending the three-day 10th Hornbill Workshop which begins at Mega Hotel here today.

The workshop, with the theme "Managing Ecosystem for Sustainability", is organised by the Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd.

Wilfred S Landong, General Manager, Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation & Sustainable Forestry and Compliance, Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd, told the *New Sarawak Tribune* yesterday that Kuching was the venue of such workshops in the past. The last event was held in Kuching in 2007.

"It is being held outside Kuching for the first time and this time, the participation is more diverse," he said.

This year's participants come not only from the Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd

but also from relevant agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that are collaborating with the corporation. They include representatives from Sabah Forest Department, Sabah Parks, Johore National Parks Corporation, Forest Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) and Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia.

"There will also be a few presentations by Universiti Sabah Malaysia. We are collaborating closely with their experts in marine ecosystem management," said Wilfred.

Elaborating on why Miri has been chosen as the venue for this year's workshop, he said: "It's not only because of the theme we are working on but also because we are placing more emphasis on the marine ecosystem, especially in Kuala Lawas. We have the dugong, the famous iconic species, in Kuala Lawas."

The manatee-like aquatic mam-

mal, nicknamed the "sea cow", is a shy herbivore that inhabits the coastal areas of continents around the Indian Ocean.

"The workshop is a platform for us to manage the marine ecosystem in Sarawak," said Wilfred.

Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd as well as acting Permanent Secretary of Planning and Resource Management Ministry, will declare open the workshop where he is expected to make landmark statements on the overall management of the marine ecosystem in the state as well as talk about the laws and policies and recommendations for the future.

Wilfred will also touch on the management of the marine ecosystem in his paper "Laws and Policies Influencing Conservation of Aquatic and Marine Species and Habitat in Sarawak" which will be presented today.