

Headline	Sarawak finalising strategic plans, definition on social forestry		
MediaTitle	Borneo Post (Kuching)		
Date	18 May 2016	Color	Full Color
Section	Home	Circulation	89,224
Page No	5	Readership	267,672
Language	English	ArticleSize	332 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 4,527
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 13,581



## S'wak finalising strategic plans, definition on social forestry

**MIRI:** Sarawak is finalising its strategic plans and definition on social forestry that will lead to a national roadmap on social forestry in Malaysia.

To achieve such goal and enhance coordination and implementation of social forestry programmes and activities in Malaysia, a three-day workshop is being conducted here from yesterday.

The outcome of the workshop will be combined with that formulated by Sabah and Peninsular Malaysia to form a comprehensive national definition and outline a roadmap for social forestry in Malaysia.

Currently Malaysia, comprising three regions (Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak), where forestry is a state matter has yet to have a roadmap on social forestry.

Sarawak Forestry director Sapuan Ahmad when officiating at the workshop here said it was high time that Malaysia had its own social forestry.

"Malaysia needs to have its own authentic social forestry, not copied from other countries. For them they are well developed.

"Social forestry is important if we are to talk about conservation of our forest.

"Without it we can't talk if the people's stomach is hungry because the forest plays important role in the lives of our people," he said.

It is estimated that about 12 per cent of Malaysia's current population of 31 million are natives and aborigines who, at varying degrees, still depend on forest resources to sustain their daily livelihood.

Sapuan said in Sarawak it is even more pressing with 1.3 million or 50 per cent of the total population of 2.6 million depending heavily on the forest.

"For those in the interior especially the Penans, the forest

is their supermarket," he said, adding that although much has been done by the Sarawak government over the years in sustainable forest management, a national social forestry is a must.

Social forestry in particular contributes to food security, addressing climate change, achieving sustainable forest management and catering to the socio-economic needs of rural population.

Meanwhile, six papers were presented yesterday as part of the workshop, which also included discussions on proposal for the Sarawak roadmap on social forestry.

Among the papers were 'Community participation in conservation', 'Ecotourism: It is a right choice?' and 'Agroforestry, Concepts and Approaches'.

Some 60 representatives from government departments and agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil organisations and the private sector including academicians attended the workshop.

Among those present were Forestry Department acting deputy director Jack Liam, who is the workshop organising chairman; and Dr Lim Fah Hui, Fellow of Social Forestry Programme (FRIM), moderator of the workshop.



Sapuan (seated centre), flanked by Lim (right) and Jack, poses for a photo with participants of the workshop.