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Summit on rainforest conservation in October

Environmentalists and experts expected to issue Belum blueprint at the event



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ENVIRONMENTALISTS and experts from a range of disciplines including academia and public policy will be gathering to tackle issues affecting rainforests globally, as well as discussing rainforest conservation and sustainable use at the Belum Rainforest Summit 2016 (BRainS 2016).

The summit, which is organised by Pulau Banding Foundation in collaboration with the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry, the Perak State Government, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) and Belum Conservation Malaysia, will be held from Oct 17 to Oct 22 at the Belum Rainforest Resort.

Issues such as biodiversity conservation, climate change and sustainable resource management are among the themes to be highlighted in BRainS 2016.

The summit is expected to bring together 200 participants comprising policy makers, scientists, forest administrators, government officials, politicians, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and universities.

The Belum Rainforest Blueprint, an internationally applicable design plan for rain-

forest conservation and sustainable use, will be produced at the end of the summit and it will be sent to the United Nations Scientific Advisory Board.

In his speech at the launch of the inaugural summit on Aug 1 at Menara Mustapha Kamal, Petaling Jaya, Pulau Banding Foundation's trustee and Emkay Group executive director Ahmad Khalif Mustapha Kamal expressed his desire to see the summit yield results in the form of action.

"Pulau Banding Foundation believes in small actions that make a big impact and we hope that people would take part in becoming the solution instead of just becoming part of the problem.

"This summit is unique because we would not just be talking on the issue, but we will be producing a blueprint to be adopted and reinforced by Pulau Banding Foundation which will also be shared with the rest of the world," said Ahmad Khalif.

The summit will feature keynote speakers including World Bank Group international finance corporation senior operation officer Dr Michael Brady, International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) president Prof Dr Michael Wingfield and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) chair Dr Hoesung Lee.

The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity (TEEB) advisory board chair Pavan Sukhdev, Science advisor to the Prime

Minister Prof Emeritus Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid and Sabah Forestry Department director Datuk Sam Mannan are speaking at the summit as well.

"We want to do more than just publish papers, we want to think ahead and prepare for long-term rainforest management that will benefit all stakeholders while remaining true to our goal of sustainability and conservation," said Pulau Banding Foundation chief executive officer Datuk Dr Abdul Rashid Ab Malik.

A youth summit on a similar theme will be held concurrently at the Belum Adventure Camp on Pulau Banding where youth leaders will work together on forming an action plan for conservation and sustainability which would be presented on the last day of BRainS 2016.

Going live together with the launch of BRainS 2016 is BRainSfeed, a dedicated social engagement platform that delivers content related to Belum-Temenggor rainforest, sustainability and conservation.

The portal also provides information on BRainS 2016 and aims to engage with the public and inspire them to participate in rainforest conservation efforts with the hashtag #getinvolved.

At an estimated 130 million years old, making it older than the Amazon Rainforest, Belum-Temenggor is the second largest rainforest in Malaysia and is rich in biodiversity besides being the home to 14 of the world's most endangered ani-

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mals including the Malayan tiger, Malayan sun bear, the white-handed gibbon, Asiatic elephant and the Malayan tapir.

Visit www.brainsfeed.org and follow it on social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat) to learn more about BRainS 2016, the youth summit and the Belum-Temenggor rainforest.



Ahmad Khalif (left) and Dr Abdul Rashid looking at a scale model of Pulau Banding island during the launch of BRainS 2016 and BRainSfeed.