

Headline	Brainstorming on ways to preserve Belum rainforest		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	03 Oct 2018	Color	Full Color
Section	Metro	Circulation	201,943
Page No	3	Readership	605,829
Language	English	ArticleSize	457 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 24,379
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 73,137



PERAK

Brainstorming on ways to preserve Belum rainforest

Sustainable management main topic of discussion at summit

THE Belum Rainforest Summit 2018 (Brains) themed "Forest Biodiversity and Community: A Balanced Approach for Sustainable Development" that took place at the Belum Rainforest Resort in Gerik, focused on sustainable rainforest management.

Representatives from non-governmental organisations, government agencies and universities came together to preserve the country's 130 million-year-old rainforest.

Over 80 delegates comprising researchers, conservationists, members of the local communities, and government officials discussed on pertinent issues affecting the survival and sustainable use of the Belum-Temenggor rainforest complex (BTRC).

The complex is 130 million years old, and one of the oldest virgin rainforest complexes on earth.

Raja Di-Hilir Perak Raja Iskandar Dzulkarnain opened the summit organised by non-profit Pulau Banding Foundation, with the assistance of Malaysian Nature Society, World Wide Fund for Nature Malaysia, Perak government, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and Emkay Group, a sustainable property developer on Pulau Banding.

Building on the success of its summit held in 2016, the event expanded its scope to incorporate representatives not only from research institutions, but also government agencies, economic planning units, and organisations representing the special interests of stakeholders.

The foundation's chief executive officer Datuk Dr Abdul Rashid Ab Malik said this year's conference marks a new milestone for Brains as representatives from both the local and Federal governments joined in the discussion.

He said among the government agencies present were the Forestry Department, Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan) and FRIM.

"The Belum Rainforest Summit series was developed by the foundation as a bi-annual



Efforts are being mapped out to focus on sustainable rainforest management for Belum.

conference in which researchers, conservationists, and other stakeholders could come together to share their knowledge on tropical rainforest biodiversity, and conservation as well as discuss ideas on how best to preserve and protect the fragile ecosystem of tropical rainforests.

"The emphasis this year is on making use of the BTRC's resources in a sustainable manner that benefits all stakeholders without neglecting the importance of wildlife conservation," he added.

Dr Abdul Rashid added that in addition, topics such as future scientific expeditions into BTRC, and an action plan to combat illegal activities such as poaching were also on the agenda.

He said the foundation has worked to pro-

mote BTRC through outreach campaigns both locally with students and residents around the rainforest, and internationally, by working with their partner organisations such as the International Union of Forest Research Organisations.

"By bringing together all relevant stakeholders, we hope to be able to develop comprehensive and holistic solutions to the issues affecting the usage of our tropical rainforests.

"I am pleased that we are able to involve representatives from Perhilitan and the state government.

"Moving forward, I hope to expand the scope of Brains even further as the survival of Belum-Temenggor affects all of us in the country, and the earth," he added.