Background

The Heart of Borneo (HoB) Initiative is a voluntary, transboundary cooperation between three ASEAN countries (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesian Kalimantan and the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak). The vision of the (HoB) Initiative is to conserve and efficiently manage the rich biodiversity within the approximately 22 million hectares of contiguous tropical forests – namely highlands, foothills and lowland rainforests – that straddle the borders of these three countries on the island of Borneo.

The State Government of Sabah has shown its commitment to the Heart of Borneo by designating approximately 4 million hectares of the state’s landmass, including important inland and highland forest ecosystems, as part of this initiative.

HoB’s Natural Capital

Sabah’s portion of the HoB is endowed with extremely rich natural capital. It is the extension of the economic notion of capital (manufactured means of production) to goods and services relating to the natural environment. Natural capital is thus the stock of natural ecosystems (e.g., timber, carbon, water and biodiversity) that yields a flow of valuable ecosystem goods or services for the future. Natural capital may also provide services such as recycling waste, water catchments and erosion control. Since the flow of services from ecosystems requires that they function as whole systems, the structure and diversity of the system are important components of natural capital. Natural capital is the foundation of all human economic activities and it is of utmost importance that economic development is in harmony with the sustainable utilization of our natural capital.

Conference Objectives

Various HoB conferences held in the past had deliberated on their protection, their special link to climate change and their role in green economy development. The HoB 2012 conference with the theme of ‘Shaping and Nurturing Sabah’s Future Together’ reviewed the progress achieved over the last 5 years since HoB was initiated and attempted to seek sustainable solutions beyond the forests in order to bring the State under sustainable pathways, which is key to conserve HoB. Various inputs and ideas were gathered from the conference with promise of a revised Strategic Plan of Action to bring HoB into the millennium. It was also during this conference that the concept of Forever Sabah was introduced as a 25-year solution to support Sabah’s transition to a diversified equitable green economy.

As a follow up to the above conferences, this HoB 2013 conference will be dedicated to the HoB’s natural capital, and the efforts to further unleash their potential, including special focus on promoting economic activities that can be sustainably generated from natural capital. The aim is to identify and implement innovative ventures with responsible financing that could add economic and ecologic value to the HoB.

What the Conference offers

The HoB 2013 Conference offers two (2) important outcomes:
1. The Revised Heart of Borneo Strategic Plan of Action for Sabah; and
2. The Forever Sabah Solutions

These two documentations combined, will path the next wave of conservation in Sabah and promote innovative approaches to generate new physical and financial capital, leading to the promotion of the greater agenda of sustainable development or green economy in Sabah.

Speakers

This conference will bring in key resource persons to speak on cutting edge issues and state-of-the-art solutions to further unleash the potential of HoB’s natural capital for sustainable growth.

Exhibition

An exhibition will be set up during the Conference to showcase relevant research work currently being undertaken in the State to increase better understanding of the potential of natural capital in Sabah.
**Who Should Participate?**
This Conference is open to all interested parties i.e. policy and decision makers, planners, managers, relevant Government Agencies and relevant stakeholders such as Non-Governmental Organizations, private sector, Forest Management Unit (FMU) Holders, Oil Palm Companies, Financing Institutions and Universities.

For those interested, kindly please submit the registration form, as appended below, to the Secretariat through any of the following:
- Email to: sabahob2013.conference@gmail.com
- Fax to: The Secretariat
  International Conference on Heart of Borneo
  Locked Bag 68, 90009 Sandakan
  Sabah, MALAYSIA
  Fax: +6089-672085/ +6089-669396/ +6089-671680

Participation is **FREE** and subject to ‘First Come First Serve’ basis. The closing date for registration is on 1st October 2013. Registration after this date will be subjected to a fee.

For further enquiries, please contact the following officials:
- Frederick Kugan: +6089-242 777 (phone) or frederick.kugan@sabah.gov.my (email)
- Michelle Yip Sue Sem: +6089-242 757 (phone) or suesem.yap@sabah.gov.my (email)
- Rita Garcia: +6089-242 788 (phone) or rita.garcia@sabah.gov.my (email)

**Transportation**
Transportation to and from the airport and the Conference venue can be arranged upon request.

**Accommodation**
Participants are kindly advised to make their own accommodation arrangements. For list of hotels in Kota Kinabalu City and their contacts, please visit: [http://www.sabahtourism.com/sabah-malaysian-borneo/en/](http://www.sabahtourism.com/sabah-malaysian-borneo/en/)

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**Field Excursion**
Specialized study tours to key project sites within the HOB Landscape will be organized and advised at the later stage.

**Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1 (11th November 2013)</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00 am</td>
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<td>Registration of Participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 am</td>
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<td>Opening Ceremony</td>
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<td>11.00 am</td>
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<td>Keynote Address</td>
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<td>1.00 pm</td>
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<td>Session 1 – The Forever Sabah Solutions</td>
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<td>5.00 pm</td>
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<td>End of Day One</td>
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<td>7.00 pm</td>
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<td>Welcoming Dinner</td>
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**Day 2 (12th November 2013)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00 am</td>
<td>Session 2 - The Revised Sabah HoB Strategic Plan of Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.00 pm</td>
<td>Session 3 - Research &amp; Development in the HoB</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.00 pm</td>
<td>Conference Resolutions and Closing Ceremony</td>
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**Conference Venue**
The Magellan Sutera Harbour Resort, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, MALAYSIA

**Our Partners**

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**Registration Form**

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<tr>
<th>Full Name (Datuk/Datin/Prof/Dr/Mr/Ms*)</th>
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