

### UMS biodiversity workshop from today

29 March, 2005

**Kota Kinabalu:** A two-day biodiversity workshop will be held at the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ITBC), Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) beginning today (Tuesday).

According to a statement released by the programme co-ordinator for the Bornean Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conservation (BBEC) programme, Kotaro Taniguchi, the workshop is aimed at exposing the participants to various issues on biodiversity, including conservation, plants, insect, amphibian and mammals.

"We also want them (participants) to know what biodiversity is and to brainstorm and discuss how best information on biodiversity should be disseminated to all levels of society," he said.

He said this was the first series of biodiversity workshops which will run annually in conjunction with International Biodiversity Day.

Kotaro said some 15 participants from various organisations such as the Sabah Foundation, Science and Technology Unit, Sabah Wildlife Department, Sabah Parks, Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) and UMS will attend the workshop.

The course is conducted by the Research and Education Component (REC) and is jointly organised with the Public Awareness Component of the BBEC programme in Sabah, which is supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica).

The BBEC is a joint programme of the Sabah government, UMS and Jica. The programme commenced in February 2002 and has organised many activities such as seminars, workshops, trainings, expeditions and dialogues aimed at establishing a comprehensive and sustainable approach of biodiversity and ecosystems in Sabah.-  
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