

Workshop on Meliau Range conservation

SANDAKAN: The second workshop on "Biodiversity Conservation of the Meliau Range, Ulu Tongod Forest Reserve Sabah" will be held at the Forestry Department headquarters here on Monday (April 25).

The one-day workshop is jointly organised by the Forestry Department, Global Environment Centre (GEC) and TSH Resource Berhad, with funding from Keindanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF) of Japan.

The workshop is aimed at disseminating additional information and research findings mainly from the second scientific expedition held in August, last year at the western region of the Meliau Range.

It is also to provide a platform for the participants to exchange views and opinions as well as to propose recommendations for future conservation plans for the area.

Some 70 people from various agencies such as Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Sabah Parks and JICA, among others, took part in the expedition.

The Meliau Range is located at the northern part of Telupid and eastern quarter of the Ulu Tongod Forest Reserve.

It covers about 30,000 hectares that predominantly consists of ultramafic forest and has been designated for conservation purposes under the Ulu Tongod Forest Management Plan.

Tropical ultramafic forests are one of the least studied ecosystems but there appears to be a unique biodiversity inhabiting the area based on the exploration in the area.

The tripartite partnership was formed two years ago between GEC, TSH Resources and Forestry Department. - JZJ