



Tokiko (right) gathers inspiration from the Mahua waterfall to write a song which she may perform in her concert here on Wednesday. - photo courtesy of BBEC

Waterfall inspires envoy Tokiko to compose song

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KOTA KINABALU: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) special envoy Tokiko Kato yesterday went on a day trip to the Crocker Range Park as part of her environmental conservation promotional tour here.

The 62-year-old popular Japanese singer visited the Mahua Crocker Range Park sub-station, which was built by the Bornean Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conservation (BBEC) Programme and funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

During the visit, where she was

accompanied by a small JICA-BBEC delegation, she viewed the trees found at the site's permanent plot for conservation studies and found time and inspiration to compose a song at the Mahua waterfall.

Among those accompanying her were BBEC expert Dr Ishida, BBEC programme coordinator Mitomori Koji, Ms Sugarwara from JICA and two Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) students.

Today, Tokiko will depart for Sandakan, where she will visit the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation centre and various other sites before

moving on to Kg Dagat in Lahad Datu, where she will spend two nights to study the effects oil palm plantations are having on the area's ecosystem.

On Wednesday, she will sing at a concert at the UMS main lecture hall, where she is expected to perform a variety of original and traditional Japanese songs apart from her rendition of local favourite "Jambatan Tamparuli".

Tokiko's tour of Sabah will continue the next day, when she will visit the various islands under the Tunku Abdul Rahman Park off Kota Kinabalu before returning to Japan on Friday.