Brunei Darussalam CONFERENCE On Forest to Reef

PROGRAMME BOOK

Brunei Darussalam CONFERENCE on Forest to Reef

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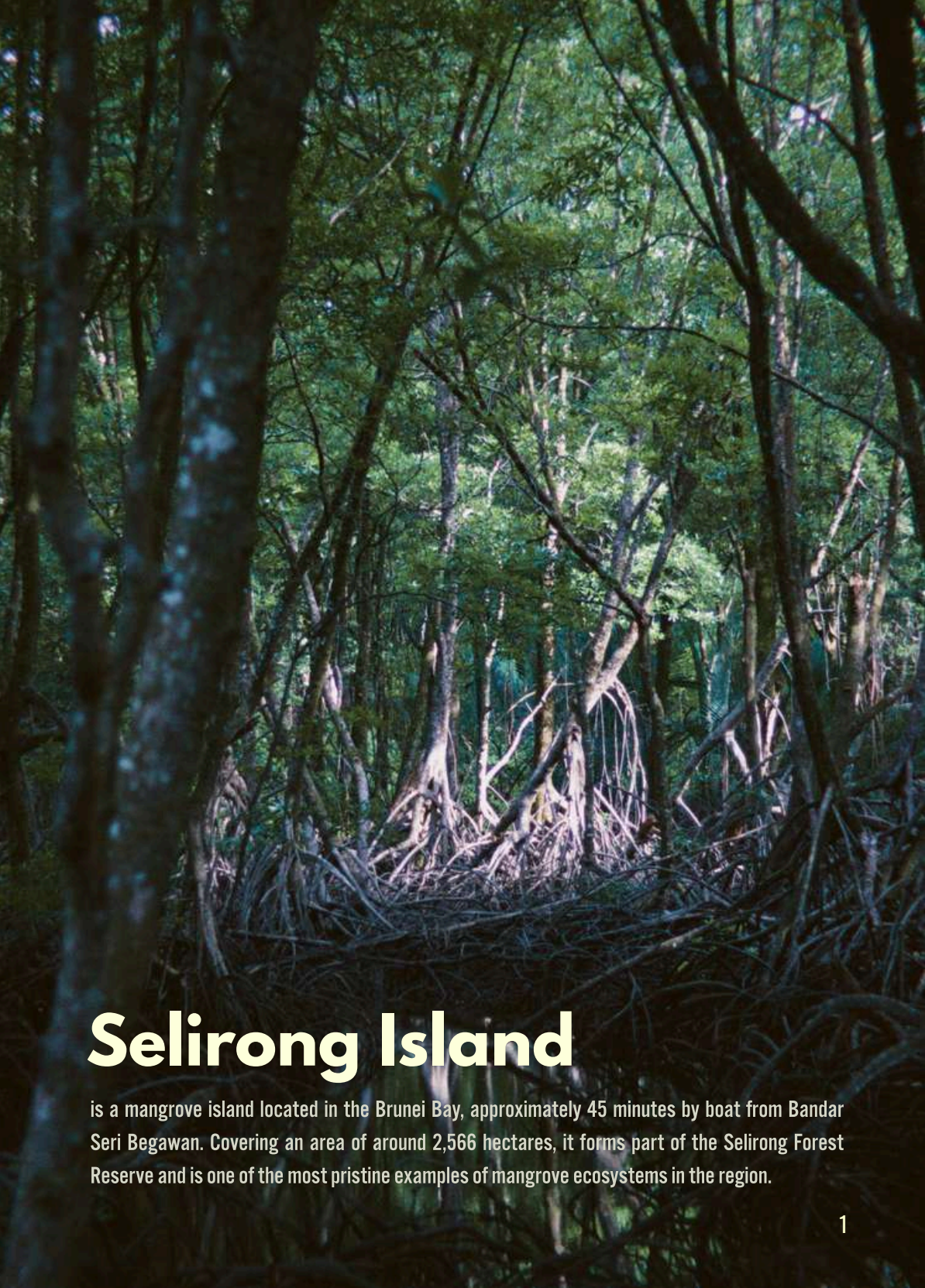


Selirong Island

is a mangrove island located in the Brunei Bay, approximately 45 minutes by boat from Bandar Seri Begawan. Covering an area of around 2,566 hectares, it forms part of the Selirong Forest Reserve and is one of the most pristine examples of mangrove ecosystems in the region.

Introduction

Global warming, as a result of increasing anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases, is accelerating at an unprecedented pace, leading to widespread climate change impacts such as rising temperatures that cause warmer oceans, a higher frequency of extreme weather events, sea level rise, and disruptions to ecosystems and livelihoods worldwide.

Forests, especially mangrove forests, play a pivotal role in addressing the impacts of climate change by acting as natural carbon sinks, absorbing significant amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Mangrove forests are particularly important as they are also part of blue carbon ecosystems, which include seagrasses and salt marshes, due to their ability to capture and store carbon while providing essential coastal protection.

These ecosystems deliver critical services such as preventing soil erosion, reducing sedimentation, and maintaining water quality in rivers and coastal areas. By reducing the flow of sediments and pollutants into marine ecosystems, forests and blue carbon ecosystems help protect coral reefs from degradation and ensure the stability of coastal areas against extreme weather events and rising sea levels. Healthy coral reef systems further contribute to climate resilience by acting as natural buffers, protecting coastlines from erosion and storm surges, supporting biodiversity, and contributing to carbon cycling.

Forests, blue carbon ecosystems and coral reefs in Southeast Asia are diverse, highly productive, and could be a global hotspot for carbon sequestration and storage. However, these ecosystems remain highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Hence, recognizing the "Forest to Reef" connection, and understanding the interconnected role of forests, coastal ecosystems and coral reefs in enhancing resilience to climate change, is essential for effective management planning and fostering a sustainable blue economy.

Within this context, the Brunei Darussalam Conference on Forest to Reef aims to promote the sustainable management and conservation of Brunei Darussalam's rich ecosystems, spanning its pristine rainforests to its marine environments, while emphasizing the critical role of blue carbon ecosystems in global carbon sequestration and the ecological linkages between forest-to-reef systems in supporting healthy ecosystems and mitigating climate change.

Selirong Island

Pelong Rocks

Key Objectives

1. To connect policy-makers, academics and non-governmental sectors with an international network of biodiversity leaders and provide a powerful platform to share knowledge, research findings and best practices globally;

2. To explore opportunities for blue and green economic growth, including eco-tourism, carbon market initiatives, and other innovative approaches that leverage the value of forest-to-reef and blue carbon ecosystems;

3. To provide essential opportunities for capacity-building, education, and skill development, and to strengthen a network of professionals and advocates focused on the significance of interconnected ecosystems for biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation, and disaster risk reduction; and

4. To incorporate adoption of international best practices and new economic opportunities in the forest-to-reef continuum into the national action plan and strategies.

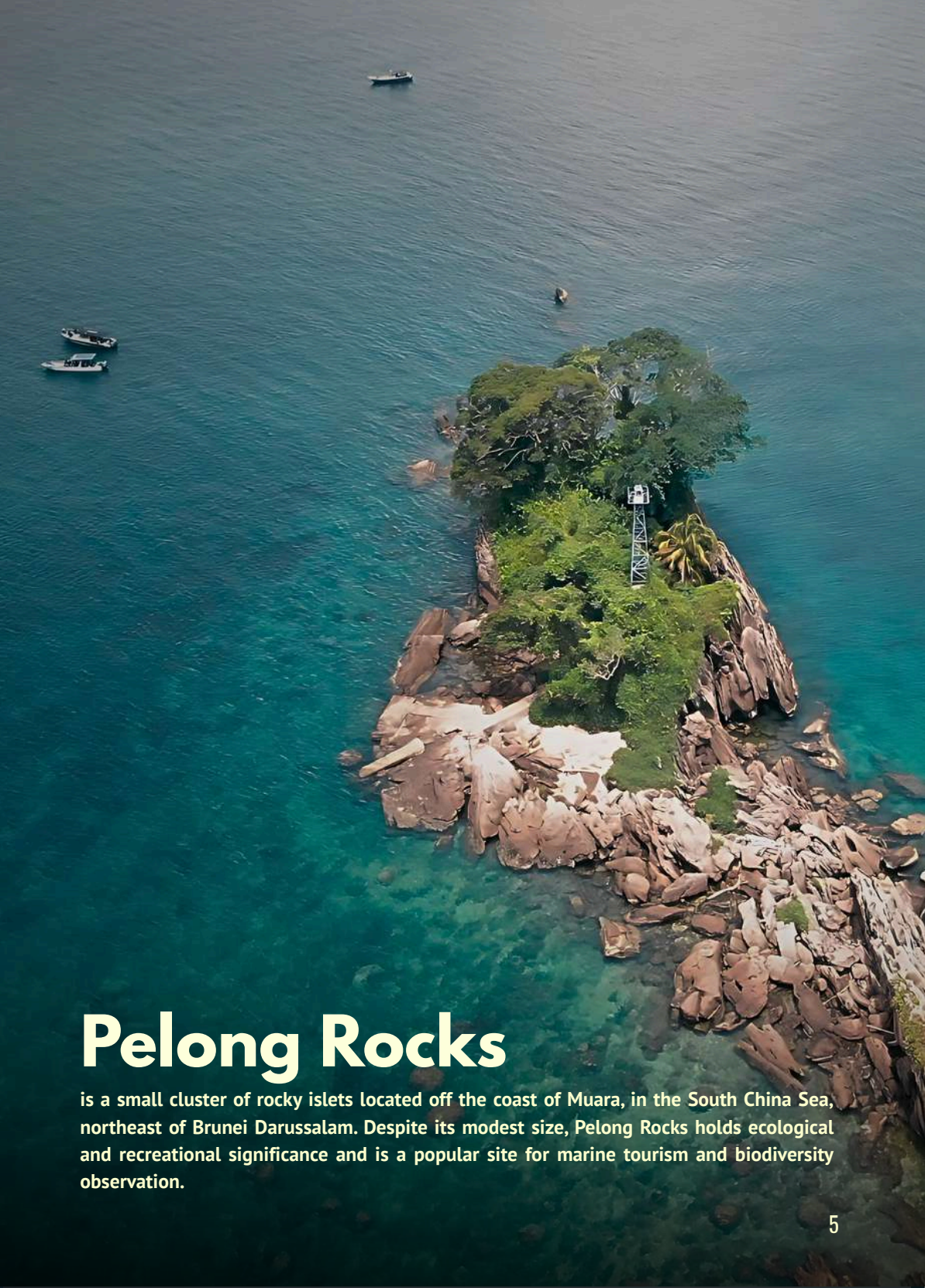
Expected Outcomes

1. An international biodiversity network that fosters collaboration, shares global best practices, and drives multi-sectoral initiatives tailored to local needs are established;

2. In-depth understanding of blue and green economies, including eco-tourism, carbon market initiatives, and other innovative approaches that leverage the value of forest-to- reef and blue carbon ecosystems;

3. Enhanced professional through training, mentorship, and interdisciplinary education to lead biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience efforts; and

4. National action plan and strategies in the forest-to-reef continuum are further improved and enhanced with the incorporation of international



Pelong Rocks

is a small cluster of rocky islets located off the coast of Muara, in the South China Sea, northeast of Brunei Darussalam. Despite its modest size, Pelong Rocks holds ecological and recreational significance and is a popular site for marine tourism and biodiversity observation.

Thematic Topics

- The Role of Blue Carbon Ecosystems;
- Ecosystem Synergies: Linking Forests and Reefs for Biodiversity Conservation;
- Innovations in Monitoring and Restoring Forest and Coastal Ecosystems;
- Ecosystem Valuation: The Economics of Ecosystem Services in Forests and Coastal Ecosystems;
- Blue Carbon Ecosystems as Climate Solutions; and
- Expedition on Forest to Reef – Findings

PROGRAMME

Day 1, Tuesday, 17th June 2025

7:30 - 8:15 am	Arrival of guests and registration of participants
8:20 am	Arrival of Guest of Honour Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism
8:25 am	Event Commences: Recitation of Doa
8:30 - 9:00 am	Welcoming Remarks and Opening Cermony
9:00 - 9:15 am	Keynote Speech 1: Mangrove: From Roots to Shoots The Status, Functions and Blue Carbon Contributions of Malaysia's Mangroves
9:15 - 9:30 am	Keynote Speech 2: Technology in ASEAN Blue Carbon Market
9:30 - 9:35 am	Presentation of Token of Appreciation to Keynote Speakers
9:35 - 9:55 am	Visit to Exhibition Booths
9:55 - 10:10 am	Coffee Break

KEYNOTE SPEAKER 1
Dato' Dr. Ismail Haji Parlan
Director General
Forest Research Institute Malaysia

KEYNOTE SPEAKER 2
Mr. Sudono Salim
Chief Growth Officer and Co-Founder of Jejakin, Indonesia

PROGRAMME

Day 1, Tuesday, 17th June 2025

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM CONFERENCE ON Forest to Reef

	Thematic Topic 1: The Role of Blue Carbon Ecosystems
10:10 - 10:15 am	**Introduction by Moderator** *Mr. Andry Napitupulu*
10:15 - 10:35 am	**Carbon Sequestration Potential in Terrestrial Forests, Mangroves, and Seagrasses: Conservation Strategies and Challenges** *Prof. Ts. Dr. Mohd Nazip Suratman*
10:35 - 10:55 am	**Harnessing Blue Carbon Ecosystems: Financial Mechanisms for Enhanced Climate Action and Biodiversity Outcomes** *Dr. Venkatachalam Anbumozhi*
10:55 - 11:15 am	**Blue Carbon Mangrove Ecosystems: Big things (often) come in small packages** *Dr. Kartika Anggi Hapsari*
11:15 - 11:35 am	**Connected Biomes: What do we know about localised inputs of carbon into blue carbon habitats?** *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Rozaimi Jamaludin*
11:35 - 11.55 am	**Brunei Bay as a Functional Blue Carbon Seascape for Marine Megafauna in the South China Sea** *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Juanita Joseph*
11:55 - 12:25 pm	**Q & A Session**
12:25 - 12:35 pm	**Presentation of Token Appreciation to Speakers & Moderator**
12:35 - 1:30 pm	**Lunch & Networking Session**

THEMATIC TOPIC 1

MODERATOR

Mr. Andry Napitupulu
British Embassy Jakarta, the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), British Embassy Jakarta, Indonesia

SPEAKER

Prof. Ts. Dr. Mohd Nazip Suratman
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia

SPEAKER

Dr. Venkatachalam Anbumozhi
Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Japan

SPEAKER

Dr. Kartika Anggi Hapsari
University of Göttingen, Germany

SPEAKER

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Rozaimi Jamaludin
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Bangi , Malaysia

SPEAKER

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Juanita Joseph,
Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Malaysia

PROGRAMME

Day 1, Tuesday, 17th June 2025

Brunei Darussalam CONFERENCE on Forest to Reef

1:30 - 1:35 pm	Thematic Topic 2: Ecosystem Synergies: Linking Forests and Reefs for Biodiversity Conservation Introduction by Moderator *Mr. Mohd Tahsin Wong*
1:35 - 1:55 pm	Nature's Twin Carbon Engines: Linking Forest and Reef Systems For Blue Carbon And Biodiversity Conservation *Dr. Affendi bin Suhaili*
1:55 - 2:15 pm	Biodiversity Corridors in ASEAN: Leveraging Regional and Sub-Regional Cooperation to Strengthen Interconnectivity among Species and Ecosystems for Biodiversity Conservation *Mr. Timothy Pasicolan*
2:15 - 2:35 pm	Linking Terrestrial and Marine Ecosystems Conservation: UK Experiences in Southeast Asia *Mr. Andry Napitupulu*
2:35 - 2:50 pm	Coffee Break
2:50 - 3:10 pm	Managing Impacts on Marine Ecosystem: Successful case studies in Brunei *Mr. Ahmad Diniy bin Rosli*
3:10 - 3:30 pm	Mangrove forests as nature-based solution to climate change impacts in low lying regions (virtual) *Dr. Piyali Chowdhury*
3:30 - 3:50 pm	Q & A Session
3:50 - 4:30 pm	Presentation of Token Appreciation to Speakers & Moderator
	End of Day 1

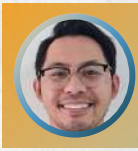
THEMATIC TOPIC 2

MODERATOR
Mr. Mohd Tahsin Wong
Chief Executive Officer,
Poni Group Sdn Bhd, Brunei Darussalam

SPEAKER
Dr. Affendi bin Suhaili
Forest Department Sarawak, Malaysia

SPEAKER
Mr. Timothy Pasicolan
ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB), Philippines

SPEAKER
Mr. Andry Napitupulu
The UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), British Embassy Jakarta, Indonesia



SPEAKER
Mr. Ahmad Diniy Bin Rosli
DHI Water & Environment (B) Sdn Bhd., Brunei Darussalam

SPEAKER
Dr. Piyali Chowdhury
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), United Kingdom

PROGRAMME

Day 2, Wednesday, 18th June 2025

Brunei Darussalam CONFERENCE On Forest to Reef

7:30 - 8:00 am	Arrival of Participants
8:00 - 8:05 am	Thematic Topic 3 : Innovations in Monitoring and Restoring Forest and Coastal Ecosystems Introduction by Moderator *Ms. Ines Saragih*
8:05 - 8:25 am	Innovations in Monitoring and Restoring Forest and Coastal Ecosystems *Mr. Gerry Ong & Mr. Tun Shien Foo*
8:25 - 8:45 am	Integrating Drone, AI, and Satellite Technologies for Forest Monitoring in Brunei *Dr. Daphne Teck Ching Lai*
8:45 - 9:05 am	Mapping Carbon Stocks in Tropical Forests and Mangroves: A Remote Sensing-Based Approach to Biomass and Carbon Estimation *Dr. Nurul Ain Mohd Zaki*
9:05 - 9:20 am	Coffee Break
9:20 - 9:40 am	Recent Advances in Geospatial Technology for Monitoring Forest and Coastal Ecosystems *Dr. Hao Tang*
9:40 - 10:00 am	From Canopy to Coral: Innovations in Monitoring and Restoring Forest and Coastal Ecosystems (virtual) *Dr. Silvia Huber*
10:00 - 10:20 am	Q & A Session
10:20 - 10:30 am	Presentation of Token of Appreciation to Speakers & Moderator

THEMATIC TOPIC 3

MODERATOR

Ms. Ines Saragih
Forestry and Biodiversity Advisor, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GiZ), Indonesia

SPEAKER

Mr. Gerry Ong
ASEAN FLAG &
Mr. Tun Shien Foo
Arkadiah Technology Pte. Ltd.
Singapore

SPEAKER

Dr. Daphne Teck Ching Lai,
Universiti Brunei Darussalam,
Brunei Darussalam

SPEAKER

Dr. Nurul Ain Mohd Zaki,
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)
Perlis, Malaysia

SPEAKER

Dr. Hao Tang
National University of Singapore,
Singapore

SPEAKER

Dr. Silvia Huber
DHI A/S, Denmark

PROGRAMME

Day 2, Wednesday, 18th June 2025

Brunei Darussalam CONFERENCE On Forest to Reef

10:30 - 10:35 am	**Thematic Topic 4: Ecosystem Valuation: The Economics of Ecosystem Services in Forests and Coastal Ecosystems** **Introduction by Moderator** *Dr. Joyce Teo Siew Yean*
10:35 - 10:55 am	**The Living Economy: Turning Ecological Stewardship into Recognised Economic Value** *Mr. Timothy Joseph Bennet*
10:55 - 11:15 am	**Rapid Assessment of Wetland Ecosystem Services (RAWES): An approach supporting wetland management** *Mr. Norman Emmanuel C. Ramirez*
11:15 - 11:35 am	**Empowering Local Community in Sustainable Forest Management through Community-Based Ecotourism Programme** *Ms. Mukrimah Abdullah*
11:35 - 11:55 am	**Valuing Nature: The Economics of Ecosystem Services in Forests and Reefs (virtual)** *Ms. Ranitya Nurlita*
11:55 - 12:15 pm	**Ocean Accounts: a Foundation to Sustainable Ocean Development** *Dr. Ramadian Bachtiar*
12:15 - 12:35 pm	**From Liability to Asset: An Adaptive Crocodile Conservation Management Approach in the Phillippines** *Mr. Rainier Ibanez Manalo*
12:35 - 12:55 pm	**Q & A Session**
12:55 - 1:05 pm	**Presentation of Token of Appreciation to Speakers & Moderator**

THEMATIC TOPIC 4

MODERATOR

Dr. Joyce Teo Siew Yean,
Assistant Vice Chancellor (Global Affairs),
Universiti Brunei Darussalam,
Brunei Darussalam

SPEAKER

Mr. Timothy Joseph Bennet
Earth Returns Group, Australia

SPEAKER

Mr. Norman Emmanuel C. Ramirez
Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia (RRC-EA), Korea

SPEAKER

Ms. Mukrimah Abdullah
Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Malaysia

SPEAKER

Ms. Ranitya Nurlita
Wastehub Alam Lestari, Indonesia

SPEAKER

Dr. Ramadian Bachtiar,
British Embassy Jakarta, Indonesia

SPEAKER

Mr. Rainier Ibanez Manalo, Crocodylus Porosus Philippines Inc., Philippines

1:05 - 2:05 pm	Lunch & Networking Session
2:30 - 5:00 pm	Visit Programme (Optional)

VISIT PROGRAMME (OPTIONAL) - 18th June 2025
2:30pm - 5:00pm

Sungai Damuan

Mangrove Tours to Sungai Damuan

Interested participants may register with any of the available travel agents at their respective booths located in the lobby.
Please note that participation is at their own expense.

Ubd Botanical Garden

Visit to UBD Botanical Research Centre

Please visit the hospitality table at the lobby for registration and further information.

- BND8 for event visitors for guided tours, inclusive of the entrance fee.
- BND3 for students from primary & secondary schools in Brunei Darussalam.
- BND5 for students from Higher Education Institutions in Brunei Darussalam.

PROGRAMME

Day 3, Thursday, 19th June 2025

Brunei Darussalam CONFERENCE on Forest to Reef

7:30 - 8:00 am	Arrival of Participants
8:00 - 8:05 am	Thematic Topic 5: Blue Carbon Ecosystems as Climate Solutions Introduction by Moderator *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Rozaimi Jamaludin*
8:05 - 8:25 am	Financing the Blue Frontier: Unlocking Investment for Blue Carbon Solutions (virtual) *Mr. Win Sim Tan*
8:25 - 8:45 am	Scaling Climate Change through AFoCO Mangrove Initiative *Mr. Ari Bima Putra*
8:45 - 9:05 am	Water Conflicts in a Changing Climate - Exploring the intersection of water scarcity, climate change and global conflict *Mr. Nicholas LaValle*
9:05 - 9:20 am	Coffee Break
9:20 - 9:40 am	Adaptive Blue Urbanisation: Protecting Wetlands and Enhancing Blue Carbon Stocks *Mr. Gabriel Yong*
9:40 - 10:00 am	Land and Sea Climate Solutions: Forest, Reef and Blue Carbon Ecosystems in Action *Dr. Aaron Teo*
10:00 - 10:20 am	Aerial Recon & Recovery Initiative, Thailand *Dr. Sol Milne*
10:20 - 10:50 am	Q & A Session
10:50 - 11:00 am	Presentation of Token of Appreciation to Speakers & Moderator

THEMATIC TOPIC 5

MODERATOR

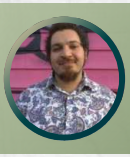
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Rozaimi Jamaludin, Head of Marine Science Program, Faculty of Science and Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

SPEAKER

Mr. Win Sim Tan, Verra, Malaysia

SPEAKER

Mr. Ari Bima Putra, Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), Korea



SPEAKER

Mr. Nicholas LaValle
Clean Valley CIC, United State of America

SPEAKER

Mr. Gabriel Yong
Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam

SPEAKER

Dr. Aaron Teo
DHI Water & Environment (S) Pte. Ltd., Singapore

SPEAKER

Dr. Sol Milne
Arial Recon and Recovery Initiative (ARRI) Global, United Kingdom

PROGRAMME

Day 3, Thursday, 19th June 2025

Brunei Darussalam CONFERENCE on Forest to Reef

11:00 - 11:05	**Thematic Topic 6 : Expedition on Forest to Reef - Findings** **Introduction by Moderator** *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rahayu Sukmaria Haji Sukri*
11:05 - 11:15	**Tracking Carbon in Mangrove Waters at Selirong: Optical Sensor Analysis of TOC, DOC, BOD, and COD** *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stefan Gödeke*
11:15 - 11:25	**Assessing of Macro- and Microplastic Pollution in Coral Reef Ecosystems** *Dr. Suppakarn Jandang*
11:25 - 11:35	**Mangrove Island Ecology: Investigating Tree Diversity, Soil Properties, and Microbial Communities in Pulau Selirong, Temburong, Brunei Darussalam** *Ms. Hazimah Haji Mohd Din*
11:35 - 11:45	**Rapid Flora Diversity Survey in Mangrove Forest of Pulau Selirong, Brunei Darussalam** *Ms. Hazimah Haji Mohd Din*
11:45 - 11:55	**Insect abundance, diversity and species richness of Pulau Selirong, Brunei Darussalam** *Mr. Mohammad Farid Abdullah*
11:55 - 12:05	**Biodiversity Survey of Avian and Mammal Species in Pulau Selirong** *Dr. Salwa Abd Khalid*
12:05 - 12:15	**Fish assemblages in a mangrove ecosystem at Selirong Island** *Dr. Siti Rafhiah Haji Abd Kahar*
12:15 - 12:25	**Exploring the marine invertebrates of Pulau Selirong** *Ms. Lee Huan Chiao*

THEMATIC TOPIC 6

MODERATOR

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rahayu Sukmaria Haji Sukri
Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research (IBER), Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam

SPEAKER

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stefan Gödeke
Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam

SPEAKER

Dr. Suppakarn Jandang
Center for Ocean Plastics Studies (COPS), Kyushu University, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

SPEAKER

Ms. Hazimah Haji Mohd Din
Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research, UBD, Brunei Darussalam

SPEAKER

Mr. Mohammad Farid Abdullah
Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research, UBD, Brunei Darussalam

SPEAKER

Dr. Salwa Abd Khalid
Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research, UBD, Brunei Darussalam

SPEAKER

Dr. Siti Rafhiah Haji Abd Kahar,
Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research, UBD, Brunei Darussalam

SPEAKER

Ms. Lee Huan Chiao
Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam

PROGRAMME

Day 3, Thursday, 19th June 2025

Brunei Darussalam CONFERENCE on Forest to Reef

12:25 - 12:35 pm	Q&A
12:35 - 1:45 pm	Lunch & Networking Session
1:45 - 1:55 pm	Using AI, IoT, Aerial Imaging & Digital Technology for Biodiversity Assessment & Feasibility Studies for Potential Blue Carbon Markets in Mangrove Areas *Mr. Antonio Umbu Soru*
1:55 - 2:05 pm	Selirong Mangrove Reserve's Potential for Eco-Tourism and to be an ASEAN Heritage Site *Ms. Recheal Jane Ronnie*
2:05 - 2:15 pm	Selirong Mangrove Reserve Forest Health and Factors Contributing to It *Dr. Chance William Sullivan*
2:15 - 2:25 pm	Chemical Composition, Tannin and Phenolic Compounds in Fresh Leaves of Tree Species from Pulau Selirong, Temburong, Brunei Darussalam *Dr. Salwana Md. Jaafar*
2:25 - 2:35 pm	Examining Pulau Selirong's eligibility in joining international network of protected areas *Mr. Timothy Pasicolan*
2:35 - 2:55 pm	Q & A Session
2:55 - 3:05 pm	Presentation of Token of Appreciation to Speakers & Moderator
3:05 pm	Closing Ceremony

THEMATIC TOPIC 6

SPEAKER
Mr. Antonio Umbu Soru
Jejakin, Indonesia

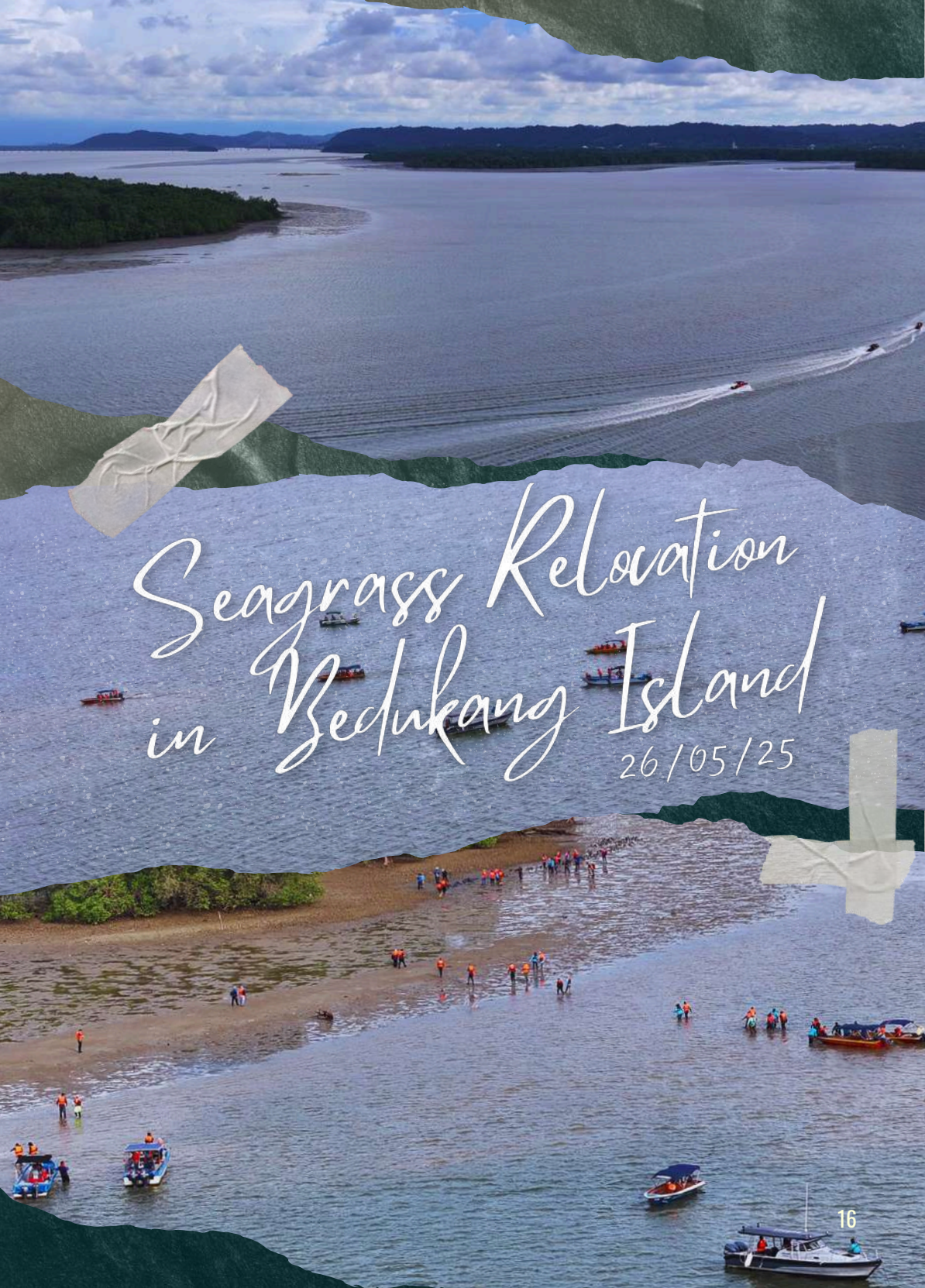
SPEAKER
Ms. Recheal Jane Ronnie
KK Wetlands, Sabah, Malaysia

SPEAKER
Dr. Chance William Sullivan
ADS Environmental Services, Malaysia

SPEAKER
Dr. Salwana Md. Jaafar
Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research, UBD, Brunei Darussalam

SPEAKER
Mr. Timothy Pasicolan
ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), Philippines

3.05 pm	Arrival of Guests
	Arrival of Guest of Honor Yang Mulia Dayang Noralinda binti Haji Ibrahim Deputy Permanent Secretary II, Minisry of Primary Resources and Tourism
3:10 - 3:30	Summary of Conference
3:30 - 3:45	Closing Remarks
	End of Conference



Seagrass Relocation in Bedukang Island

26/05/25

Keynote Speakers

Dato' Dr. Ismail Haji Parlan

Director General, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)

Dato' Dr. Ismail Haji Parlan was appointed as the fifth Director General of Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) effective 30 April 2021.

He started his career at FRIM as a Research Officer on 16 August 1996 specialising in the management and conservation of wetland forest ecosystems, especially peat swamp forests in Malaysia.

He obtained his PhD. from University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) in 2009 and MSc. (Forest Management) from University Putra Malaysia (UPM) in 2001. He completed his BSc. in Forestry in 1996 with the Chancellor's Gold Medal received during the 20th UPM Convocation. He has produced over 200 technical publications and articles in journals, books, guidelines as well as reports.

He received the FRIM Outstanding Service Award in 2004 and 2017 as well as other group awards for research and publication projects. He is also a representative of FRIM and the country for international forums such as the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC, ITTO), United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), Asia Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT).

Currently, he is the Chairman of the Sino-ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes (SANFRI) under the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) and headed the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) from 2021 to 2024. He is the International Council Representative of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) for Malaysia. He is also a Board of Director for the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and Johor National Park Corporation (PTNJ).

In conjunction with the 72nd Birthday of the DYMM Sultan of Selangor, he was awarded the Setia-Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah (S.I.S.) medal on 11 December 2017. He was accorded the Johan Mangku Negara (J.M.N.) award on 4 December 2023 by His Majesty the DYMM Yang di-Pertuan Agong (Malaysia); and on 27 July 2024, he was conferred with the Darjah Setia Pangkuan Negeri (D.S.P.N) award, which carries the title 'Dato' in conjunction with the 75th birthday of Penang Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak.

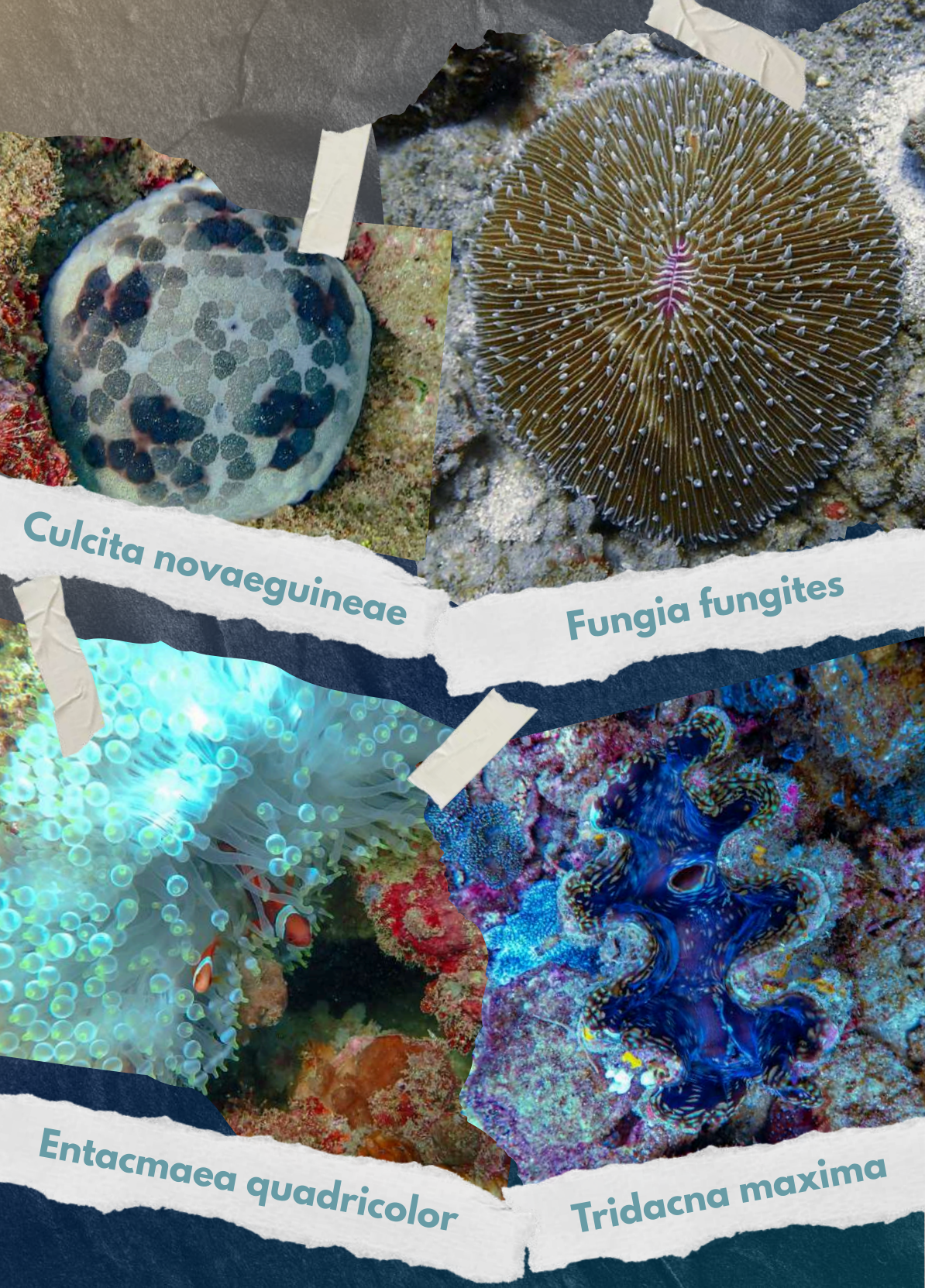
Keynote Speakers

Mr. Sudono Salim
Chief Growth Officer and Co-Founder of Jejakin, Indonesia

Sudono Salim is an accomplished growth strategist and executive based in Jakarta, Indonesia. Currently serving as Chief Growth Officer at PT. Jejak Enviro Teknologi (Jejakin) since September 2020, he drives innovation in environmental technology solutions.
Previously, Sudono led enterprise sales at Caroline.id, where he expanded operations and pioneered the Caroline Selection concept for the premium used-car market, securing major clients such as TPI Rent (Grab), Gojek, and Mayora. As Managing Partner at AiChat, he established the Indonesian entity and built the team from the ground up, focusing on AI-powered chatbot applications.

Sudono also co-founded Mezaic, a boutique creative agency, achieving consistent 50% year-over-year sales growth and winning key accounts like BCA and Dextone. Earlier, as Sales & Marketing Manager at Indo Tirta Abadi, he increased sales by 22% and managed major accounts including Danone and Coca-Cola Amatil.

He holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Monash University (2009–2011). Sudono is recognized for his expertise in digital marketing, management, and corporate finance, and is known as a fast learner, risk-taker, and team player.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Fungia fungites
Entacmaea quadricolor
Tridacna maxima

Moderators

Mr. Andry Napitupulu
British Embassy Jakarta, the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom

Andry Napitupulu is the SE Asia Lead for Nature, Biodiversity, and Marine Environment at the British Embassy, the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). His role is a Southeast Asia regional function to implement UK objectives on nature, biodiversity and marine in the region, through variety of delivery model such as technical assistance, dialogues, UK expertise, diplomacy and external engagements. He joined the Embassy since 2018 and focussed his work on sustainable forest management in Indonesia. Nature-based solutions is one of his area of interest to deliver UK commitments in nature and biodiversity into the region and working together with practitioners, academia, private sectors and governments. Prior working with UK Government, Andry has been working over a decade on climate change adaptation and disaster management across Indonesia, including mainstreaming nature-based solution into policy decision-making processes. Andry gained his bachelor's degree in Spatial Planning and awarded German Academic Exchange Services (DAAD) scholarship in Public Policy and Good Governance in 2009.

Mr. Tahsin Wong
Chief Executive Officer, Poni Group Sdn Bhd

Thye is CEO of Poni Divers and Founder of Poni Foundation. Since founding Poni in 2009, he has grown it into an award-winning group advancing Brunei's diving scene. He leads marine conservation efforts, including the country's first Coral Propagation Program and Project LAUT Brunei.

Moderators

Ms. Ines Saragih

Forestry and Biodiversity Advisor, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GiZ), Indonesia

Ines Saragih is a forester with over a decade experience in forest conservation, climate change, and sustainable development—across Indonesia and the ASEAN region. She has experience from on-the-ground project implementation to high-level policy engagements at ASEAN levels, which shaping her foundation and practical understanding on natural resources management. She holds a master's degree in Forest and Nature Conservation from the Wageningen University (WUR), the Netherlands and undergraduate degree in Forest Resources Conservation from Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), Indonesia. Currently, Ines serves as a Forestry and Climate Advisor at GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), where she plays a key role in building partnerships among government agencies, development organizations, and the private sector. She supports the development of climate-related forestry initiatives that benefit both social and environment aspect. Ines responsibilities include designing project monitoring systems, providing technical advice and facilitating capacity development across multi stakeholders. Before that, she was a Forest Specialist under the USAID-funded Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) Kalimantan program. In this role, she was responsible for supporting non-government organizations, academia, as well as community organizations to promote the sustainable forest management and to facilitate social forestry, ecotourism, and to pilot renewable energy in remote areas of Kalimantan in Indonesia. Ines is very committed to the sustainable nature and continues to champion regional collaboration in ASEAN for more climate-resilient future.

Dr. Joyce Teo Siew Yean

Assistant Vice Chancellor (Global Affairs) Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam

Dr. Joyce Teo is currently serving as the Assistant Vice Chancellor and Vice President (Global Affairs) at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). In this pivotal role, she leads the university's internationalization efforts and strategic partnership initiatives. Dr. Teo's distinguished career at UBD includes key administrative positions such as Coordinator of UBD's APEC Studies Centre, Director of International & Public Relations Office, Inaugural Director of Institute of Policy Studies, and Dean of UBD School of Business & Economics. Beyond her university responsibilities, Dr. Joyce Teo is recognized as one of the country's leading economists. Her expertise encompasses a wide range of issues related to international trade relations, with a particular focus on ASEAN and APEC. She holds significant professional appointments, including serving as a Member of the APEC HRD Working Group (Capacity Building Network) and as a Country Representative for Track Two international projects related to AEC, EAFTA, CEPEA, NEAT, among others. Dr. Teo earned her PhD in Economics from the University of Queensland, specializing in labour economics and econometrics.

Moderators

Associate Professor Dr. Mohammad Rozaimi Jamaludin

Head of Marine Science Program, Faculty of Science and Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

Dr. Rozaimi is the Head of Marine Science Program in the Faculty of Science and Technology, and an Associate Professor at UKM. He has focused on blue carbon since his PhD days in Edith Cowan University, Australia. During his time there, he was part of a consortium, led by the Marine and Coastal Carbon Biogeochemical Cluster of CSIRO, to identify hotspots of regional carbon storage. He had just concluded work supported by the European Commission that involved European, Indian, and Malaysian counterparts, to build a comprehensive mechanism for preserving marine ecosystems. He is now establishing joint efforts with regional peers, having been appointed as an Adjunct Professor in the Universitas Airlangga of Indonesia. Locally, he is actively involved with the Global Mangrove Alliance while researching blue carbon in tropical estuarine systems.

Associate Professor Dr. Rahayu Sukmaria Haji Sukri

Associate Professor, Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research (IBER), Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam

Dr Rahayu Sukri is currently an Associate Professor in Plant Ecology with the Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research (IBER) and the Curator of the UBD Botanical Research Centre at Universiti Brunei Darussalam. She received her PhD in 2010 from the University of Aberdeen. As a tropical forest ecologist, she has over 20 years of research experience working in Brunei's forests. She is the Principal Investigator of the IBER Forest Plots Network and represents Brunei Darussalam on the Scientific Advisory Committee to the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity. Her current research focuses on biodiversity and conservation, particularly on plant ecology, diversity and community composition, peat swamp ecology, the impact of invasive Acacias on natural ecosystems in Brunei and the reforestation and revegetation of degraded peatlands in Brunei. She currently leads IBER's research projects on Brunei's forests, in collaboration with local and international partners.

Gold-Ringed Cat Snake

Kingfisher

Saltwater Crocodile

Proboscis Monkey

Speakers

Professor Mohd Nazip Suratman

Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia

Professor Mohd Nazip Suratman is an Honorary Professor of Forestry at the Faculty of Applied Sciences and a Principal Fellow at the Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia. He holds a B.Sc. in Forestry from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and an M.S. from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL), USA. He was awarded the prestigious Canadian Commonwealth Fellowship to pursue his Ph.D. at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada, where his research focused on the application of remote sensing for sustainable forest management.

Professor Nazip has been actively involved in numerous international collaborative research projects, resulting in publications in high-impact, peer-reviewed journals. To date, he has authored or co-authored more than 200 research publications and 15 books. His research interests span several key areas of forestry, particularly forest modelling, forest ecology, and biodiversity.

His most recent contribution is a book chapter in Concepts and Applications of Remote Sensing in Forestry, published by Springer in January 2023. He and his colleagues are currently working on an edited volume entitled Global Biodiversity Loss: The Risks on Sustainability, expected to be published by Springer in early 2026. In recognition of his scholarly achievements, he received the UiTM Best Researcher Award in 2015 and the Top Talent Award in 2021. He also served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) at UiTM from 2018 to 2021. Professor Nazip can be reached by email at nazip@uitm.edu.my.

Dr. Venkatachalam Anbumozhi

Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Japan

Venkatachalam Anbumozhi is a Senior Research Fellow for Innovations at the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Indonesia. His previous positions include Director for Research Strategy and Innovations, Senior Capacity Building Specialist at the Asian Development Bank Institute, Assistant Professor at the University of Tokyo, Senior Policy Researcher at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, and Assistant Manager at Pacific Consultants International, Tokyo. He has published several books, authored numerous research articles, and produced many project reports on climate-smart development, blue economy, and financing green infrastructure design. Anbumozhi was invited as a member of the G20 task force on Green Cities Living Lab, the US-ASEAN advisory group on Blue economy, APEC Expert Panel on Green Growth, and the ASEAN Panel for promoting climate-resilient growth. He has taught sustainable technologies, international cooperation for sustainable development goals, and innovative finance for inclusive growth at the University of Tokyo. He obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo.

Speakers

Dr. Kartika Anggi Hapsari

University of Göttingen, Germany

Anggi Hapsari is a tropical wetland ecologist at the Albrecht-von-Haller Institute. Her research focuses on tropical peatlands and mangroves, exploring their long-term ecosystem dynamics, drivers of change, their response to perturbations and ecosystems interconnectivity. She also focuses on blue and teal carbon research, estimating ecosystems capacity for their storage and sequestration, understanding their recoverability, manageability, vulnerability, and provenance. She had coordinated and participated in research projects in Indonesia, Colombia, Peru, Brazil, and Germany.She has been working on tropical coastal wetland since 2012 since her initial training as a field ecologist at the Jenderal Soedirman University, Indonesia. She was awarded a PhD in Biodiversity and Ecology at the University of Goettingen, Germany in 2018 and proceeded her research career to date. In the meantime, she also contributed to teaching at the University. Anggi Hapsari has published multiple scientific articles and was invited to write for scientific magazines with broader, non-specialist audience. She won Maria Sibylla Merian Awards by the Society for Tropical Ecology (GTOE) in 2016 and 2018, and was shortlisted for Harper Prize by the British Ecological Society in 2018. She was invited to speak at multiple international conferences, including as keynote and distinguished speaker for the "Disaster risk reduction in peatland ecosystem" (webinar) Jakarta, Indonesia in 2021 and the "Global Landscape Forum" in Bonn, Germany. She assumed roles and provide services in academic system including as member of evaluation and selection committees for academic research positions. She has been serving as reviewer for multiple international journals including Nature Communication, Ecological Indicators and Anthropocene, for the Global Mangrove Alliance COP28 Policy Brief, and for NERC (UKRI) Fellowship. Since 2024, Anggi Hapsari is serving as Associate Editor for Estuarine, Costal and Shelf Science (Elsevier).

Associate Professor Dr. Mohammad Rozaimi Jamaludin

Head of Marine Science Program, Faculty of Science and Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

Dr. Rozaimi is the Head of Marine Science Program in the Faculty of Science and Technology, and an Associate Professor at UKM. He has focused on blue carbon since his PhD days in Edith Cowan University, Australia. During his time there, he was part of a consortium, led by the Marine and Coastal Carbon Biogeochemical Cluster of CSIRO, to identify hotspots of regional carbon storage. He had just concluded work supported by the European Commission that involved European, Indian, and Malaysian counterparts, to build a comprehensive mechanism for preserving marine ecosystems. He is now establishing joint efforts with regional peers, having been appointed as an Adjunct Professor in the Universitas Airlangga of Indonesia. Locally, he is actively involved with the Global Mangrove Alliance while researching blue carbon in tropical estuarine systems.

Speakers

Associate Professor Dr. Juanita Joseph

Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Malaysia

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Juanita Joseph is a molecular ecologist and marine turtle biologist at the Borneo Marine Research Institute, Universiti Malaysia Sabah. With more than 25 years of experience, she has significantly advanced research on sea turtle ecology, health, and genetics in Malaysia and across Southeast Asia. Her research encompasses conservation genetics, health assessments, and migratory patterns of sea turtles, integrating these findings into broader coastal ecosystem management strategies within blue carbon habitats. Dr. Joseph serves as Malaysia's Technical Advisor for the Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area (TIHPA), contributing to transboundary conservation efforts between Malaysia and the Philippines. Her leadership has been pivotal in establishing genetic research frameworks for marine turtles in Malaysia, and she actively collaborates with regional working groups to inform conservation policies. In recognition of her outstanding contributions, Dr. Joseph was honoured with Sabah's Best Biodiversity Researcher award in 2024. Her work not only enhances scientific understanding but also informs practical conservation initiatives, emphasizing the critical role of interconnected coastal ecosystems in climate resilience and biodiversity preservation.

Dr. Affendi Suhaili

Forest Department Sarawak, Malaysia

Dr. Affendi Suhaili is the Head of the Forest Technology and Geospatial Division at the Forest Department Sarawak. With over 30 years of experience in forestry, he specializes in airborne hyperspectral sensing, precision forestry, and geospatial applications for tropical forest management. Dr. Affendi holds a PhD in Precision Forestry from Universiti Putra Malaysia, with a research focus on the application of hyperspectral remote sensing in forest monitoring. He has played a pivotal role in advancing Sarawak's forest technology initiatives, including the development of adaptive digital systems such as the Enterprise Forest Information Management System (EFIMS) and COMOS. He also leads Sarawak's technical contributions in blue carbon and coastal restoration programs, focusing on mangrove ecosystems as nature-based climate solutions.

Dr. Affendi has been a guest lecturer in various international forums and has published extensively on tropical forest mapping, carbon stock estimation, and spectral vegetation analysis. His contributions have been recognized with multiple national and international innovation awards.

Speakers

Mr. Timothy Pasicolan

ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB), Philippines

Timothy John A. Pasicolan is a licensed environmental planner and development professional with over a decade of experience in land use planning, environmental safeguards, and community development. He holds a BS in Human Ecology (cum laude) from the University of the Philippines Los Baños and completed an exchange program at the University of British Columbia. He currently works at the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity as a Programme Associate for the ASEAN Heritage Parks, supporting regional biodiversity conservation through field operations, data management, and site evaluation. Previously, he led programs at KMBI Development Foundation, focusing on citizen advocacy, community enterprises, and disaster response. Timothy has served as a consultant for various government and international projects, including feasibility studies, resilience planning, and social safeguards. His work spans partnerships with the World Bank, DENR, and local governments across Southeast Asia. An active volunteer, he contributes to urban poor advocacy and humanitarian efforts through groups like Martha's Hot Kitchen and Kariton Coalition. He is also a published researcher and frequent presenter at international conferences on environmental governance, climate adaptation, and social inclusion.

Mr. Andry Napitupulu

British Embassy Jakarta, the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom

Andry Napitupulu is the SE Asia Lead for Nature, Biodiversity, and Marine Environment at the British Embassy, the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). His role is a Southeast Asia regional function to implement UK objectives on nature, biodiversity and marine in the region, through variety of delivery model such as technical assistance, dialogues, UK expertise, diplomacy and external engagements. He joined the Embassy since 2018 and focussed his work on sustainable forest management in Indonesia. Nature-based solutions is one of his area of interest to deliver UK commitments in nature and biodiversity into the region and working together with practitioners, academia, private sectors and governments. Prior working with UK Government, Andry has been working over a decade on climate change adaptation and disaster management across Indonesia, including mainstreaming nature-based solution into policy decision-making processes. Andry gained his bachelor's degree in Spatial Planning and awarded German Academic Exchange Services (DAAD) scholarship in Public Policy and Good Governance in 2009.

Speakers

Mr. Ahmad Diniy Rosli

DHI Water & Environment (B) Sdn. Bhd., Brunei Darussalam

Whether he's SCUBA diving at coral reefs, catching a smooth wave for sunrise surfing, casting a line for groupers, or conducting marine environmental surveys, Diniy Rosli feels right at home when he's breathing the salty breeze of the ocean. Diniy Rosli has over 7 years' worth of experience as an environmental consultant, marine biologist and surveyor at DHI Brunei, with a strong focus on environmental impact assessment, environmental monitoring, and marine habitat restoration. Holding a degree in Marine Biology, Diniy has spearheaded successful restoration projects of seagrass and mangroves in Brunei. His work combines ecological science with practical field experience, aiming to strengthen coastal resilience, marine biodiversity, and protect marine ecosystems in the face of climate change and development pressures. Before joining DHI, Diniy volunteered at the Tropical Research and Conservation Centre (TRACC) in Sabah, Malaysia, where he was actively involved in coral reef restoration and led experimental work on transplanting hard and soft corals, deepening his expertise in reef ecosystem recovery. Diniy is passionate about bridging the gap between research, policy, and community action. His work emphasizes the importance of ecosystem-based approaches and its long-term monitoring, and conservation strategies. As part of his mission, he hopes to inspire more people to care for the ocean and promote sustainable stewardship of marine environments.

Dr. Piyali Chowdhury

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), United Kingdom

Her work includes studying the impacts of climate change (future ocean climate) on coastal processes/structures (sediment transport, mangroves, other defences) using data-driven methods and artificial intelligence. Her work spans from uncovering how global atmospheric phenomena influence regional coastal processes to identifying sources and pathways of global marine litter and its connections with climate change. Her research also encompasses the response of local/regional coasts (processes) to future changes in wave climate under various climate scenarios (extreme events and sea level rise). She has experience in designing experiments including wave-structure modelling which is used for investigating tsunami wave induced debris-dam formation and interaction with coastal vegetation and/or infrastructure. Her current research is focused on reducing risk related to coastal hazards, improving early warning systems, propagation models, perception and preparedness of risk with the use of state-of-the-art digital technologies in different phases of coastal management. Piyali is a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society and Editor of reputed scientific journals. She works on various international projects and is an advisor for marine applications in the UK.

Speakers

Mr. Gerry Ong

ASEAN Federation of Land Surveying & Geomatics (AFLAG)

Gerry is a recognised leader in the geospatial industry with over 30 years of experience. As a practising Registered Surveyor in Singapore, he holds the position of Honorary President of the ASEAN Federation of Land Surveying & Geomatics (AFLAG), a recognised NGO under the ASEAN Secretariat whose mandate is to further the interests of the Survey Geomatics profession within and beyond the ASEAN region. He currently leads AFLAG's Climate Change & Sustainability working group to bring transparency and traceability in Forestry and Biodiversity Management throughout ASEAN. Gerry also runs a geospatial technology company that provides digital twin creation solutions for urban and nature landscapes, which counts various ASEAN governments as customers. He has been deeply involved in several public sector technology modernisation

Mr. Tun Shien

Arkadiah Technology Pte. Ltd. Singapore

Tun Shien is a climate and carbon specialist with expertise in nature-based carbon project development and carbon market analysis. He currently serves as a Carbon Project Specialist at Arkadiah, a nature technology company that restores degraded landscapes through AI-enabled reforestation and geospatial innovation. At Arkadiah, he focuses on carbon project development and integrating digital measurement, reporting, and verification (DMRV) into project accounting. Prior to joining Arkadiah, Tun Shien was a Technical Carbon Specialist at Climate Impact X (CIX), where he worked closely with global carbon project developers and led the scientific evaluation of nature-based and engineered carbon removal projects. Based in Singapore, Tun Shien holds a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from the National University of Singapore (NUS). He is committed to advancing transparent, science-based climate solutions that deliver real impact on both ecosystems and communities across the region.

Chelmon rostratus

Halichoeres argus

Xestospongia sp.

Scarus rivulatus

Speakers

Dr. Daphne Teck Ching Lai
Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam

Daphne Teck Ching Lai (Member, IEEE) is a Senior Assistant Professor at the School of Digital Science, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD. She holds a PhD from the University of Nottingham and has over a decade of research experience in data science, evolutionary computation, and applied AI in fields such as geology, traffic behavior, human activity recognition, and medical data modeling. Her research extends to patent analytics and remote sensing data analysis. Dr. Lai has been recognized as the winner of the 2024 UL Research Insititutes-ASEAN-US Science Prize for Women and continues to work on AI and Data Science research while teaching courses in Data Science at UBD. She has published and reviewed over 100 articles in reputable journals and conferences.

Dr. Nurul Ain Mohd Zaki
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Perlis, Malaysia

Dr. Nurul Ain Mohd Zaki is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Built Environment, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Perlis, Malaysia. She holds a PhD in Built Environment with a specialization in Remote Sensing, along with an MSc in Geographical Information Science and a BA (Hons) in Surveying Science and Geomatics from UiTM. Her research expertise spans remote sensing, GIS, LiDAR, UAV applications, machine learning, and tropical forestry, particularly in the assessment of aboveground biomass and carbon stocks. Dr. Nurul Ain began her career as a remote sensing analyst in the private sector, where she gained extensive hands-on experience in processing high-resolution satellite imagery and LiDAR data. She then served as a government surveyor at the National Institute of Land and Survey (INSTUN), before joining UiTM as an academic. Since 2018, she has been a senior lecturer, teaching undergraduate and postgraduate courses while supervising numerous research theses on topics ranging from forest monitoring and precision agriculture to smart environmental systems. She has been actively involved in a wide range of research projects funded by national agencies, including several as principal investigator. Her recent work includes tropical tree species classification using hyperspectral and LiDAR data, coral habitat mapping using object-based image analysis, and smart agriculture monitoring systems. She has also contributed as a reviewer for high-impact journals and has published in respected outlets such as Geocarto International, International Journal of Remote Sensing, and Computers and Electronics in Agriculture. Dr. Nurul Ain is a professional member of the Institution of Geospatial and Remote Sensing Malaysia (IGRSM) and a member of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS). Her work reflects a strong commitment to advancing geospatial technologies for environmental

Speakers

Dr. Hao Tang
National University of Singapore, Singapore

Dr. Hao Tang is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Geography of NUS, and a PI at the NUS Centre for Nature-based Climate Solutions. He is a remote sensing scientist interested in mapping and monitoring ecosystem dynamics under changing climate and land use. He is PI/ Co-I of multiple NASA research grants and a recipient of the NASA Earth and Space Science Fellow and New Investigator Program. He is on the science team of NASA's Carbon Monitoring System and a Product Lead of NASA's Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation (GEDI) mission.

Silvia Huber
DHI A/S, Denmark

Silvia Huber is a distinguished Earth Observation scientist at DHI with over 20 years of experience, specializing in marine and coastal monitoring using remote sensing technologies. She has led numerous international projects and currently spearheads DHI's development of cloud-based applications that combine satellite image analytics and deep learning to map coastal habitats at scale.

Speakers

Mr. Timothy Joseph Bennet

Earth Returns Group, Australia

Tim Bennett is a 38-year veteran of the ecological and agricultural sectors and a pioneering figure in the development of financial instruments that reward environmental stewardship. With over three decades of experience in financial structuring, investment innovation, and mutual capital systems, Tim has dedicated his career to bridging the gap between ecological care and financial value. As the founder of Earth Returns Group, Tim has designed and implemented a novel assessment and asset-creation framework known as the Producer Investment Evaluation (PIE) Assessment. This system quantifies the work undertaken by land managers, communities, and governments to protect and regenerate ecosystems, turning that verified effort into ecological assets that can be pooled, reported, and traded—without ever pricing nature itself. His previous work includes the creation and direction of multiple mutual capital initiatives (MCIs) across Australia, as well as designing and developing several large scale ecologically positive horticultural developments for private and institutional investors. Tim has held Australian Financial Services Licences and has established and exited more than 20 companies. Tim is currently spearheading the global expansion of the Earth Returns concepts through partnerships in Australia, Southeast Asia (and in Brunei in particular) and Africa. He is also founding the development of a Singapore-based Variable Capital Company (VCC) under the banner of the Living Economy to manage institutional and sovereign Living Economy funds and the associated assets generated for trade in commodities, equities and bond/sukuk markets.

Mr Norman Emmanuel C. Ramirez

Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia (RRC-EA)

Norman has more than 20 years of professional experience in the field of program and project management, training and capacity building, and organizational development, gained through engagements with inter-government and non-government organizations. During this period, he was involved in the implementation of national and international projects supported by the European Union, World Bank, German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ), KfW Development Bank, British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund. Norman currently works at the Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia (RRC-EA) as Program Officer and is tasked to carry out its communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) program, and to coordinate the activities of the Wetland City Network, among other projects. He holds a Bachelor's degree in forestry and a Master's degree in development management.

Speakers

Ms. Mukrimah Abdullah

Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Malaysia

Mukrimah Abdullah is a passionate Research Officer specializing in social forestry and environmental economics. With a strong academic background in forestry and environmental economics, Mukrimah holds a bachelor's degree in forestry science (majoring in Parks & Recreation) and a Master of Science in Environmental Economics. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Environmental Economics, Planning and Management.Mukrimah's research focuses on integrating sustainable forest management with community development, emphasizing the socio-economic dimensions of forest governance. Her work involves economic valuation of ecosystem services, livelihood impact assessments, and the development of participatory management frameworks for social forestry programs.She has collaborated actively with local communities, NGOs, and government agencies to promote sustainable natural resource use and forest-based livelihood initiatives, including community-based ecotourism and non-timber forest product enterprises. Mukrimah is driven by a commitment to ensuring that conservation efforts create tangible benefits for the communities that coexist with forest ecosystems. Passionate about empowering rural and indigenous communities, Mukrimah believes in research that translates into meaningful, ground-level impact.

Ms. Ranitya Nurlita

Wastehub Alam Lestari, Indonesia

Ranitya Nurlita (Lita), a sustainability consultant with over a decade of experience driving impactful change in environmental conservation, circular economy practices, and community empowerment, holds a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries from IPB University and has dedicated the past ten years to tackling critical sustainability challenges. As the Founder and Managing Director of Wastehub® since 2019, she has spearheaded over 59 sustainability projects, championing social innovation through circular economy principles with notable initiatives such as the community-based coastal waste management program Oceanability, mangrove and coral reef restoration projects, and a green jobs platform boasting over 1,400 members; under her leadership, Wastehub® has responsibly managed over 40 tons of waste and provided sustainability education to more than 128,000 individuals. Lita has also extended her expertise as a UN consultant, serving as a Partnership and Reporting Expert for UNEP's EmPower II: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies (present) and a Local Smart City Consultant for UN ESCAP (2023), advising on crucial aspects like Green SMEs, smart city development, climate resilience, and access to financing. Leveraging her fisheries background, Lita effectively empowers communities to balance ecological preservation with sustainable livelihoods, developing scalable solutions for marine biodiversity, waste reduction, and responsible tourism, consistently driving transformative change in sustainability and social impact through her diverse roles.

Speakers

Dr. Ramadian Bachtiar

UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) British Embassy Jakarta, Indonesia

New Zealand, Germany, and Indonesia, complemented by 6+ years in international development organizations and civil service experience. His background combines doctoral research in marine biology with hands-on conservation projects, including coral reef monitoring and restoration. As a patent holder for reef restoration technology and published researcher on climate change impacts on marine ecosystems, he brings scientific rigor to conservation challenges. His work with UNIDO, GEF, and other UN agencies has focused on sustainable fisheries, knowledge management, and community engagement. Rama believes evidence-based policy is essential for achieving marine sustainability and he is passionate about connecting scientific research with practical conservation outcomes. Rama currently is coordinating the UK's main ODA vehicle in marine environment – the Blue Planet Fund in South & Southeast Asia.

Mr. Rainier Ibanez Manalo

Crocodylus Porosus Philippines Inc., Philippines

Mr. Rainier Manalo is a Wildlife Biologist and currently serving as the Program Director of Crocodylus Porosus Philippines Inc., a non-governmental organization of the crocodile farmers in the Philippines. Under his leadership, the organization has developed a comprehensive crocodile conservation plan that incorporates a self-sustaining mechanism designed to provide essential technical support for long-term initiatives in collaboration with the Philippine government. Mr. Manalo is firmly committed to advancing the conservation of the wild Philippine population of Saltwater crocodile (Crocodylus porosus), recognizing its significance as a vital resource through sustainable use and conservation management.In 2003, Mr. Manalo has completed the Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Course at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England, where he specialized in the breeding and conservation of endangered species. He became an active member of the IUCN Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) in 2005. His significant contributions to the development of a studbook for Crocodylus porosus at the Palawan Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Center facilitated the completion of his Master of Science degree in Marine Biology from Western Philippines University, Palawan, in 2009. Mr. Manalo is dedicated to cultivating the next generation of conservation leaders. He engaged in academic roles at Palawan State University from 2010 to 2012 and has served as an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Masters in Environmental Management Program at the Philippine Women's University from 2015 to 2023.Moreover, he has acted as a Technical Adviser to the Philippine Delegation at CITES Conferences of the Parties held in South Africa (2016), Switzerland (2019), and Panama (2022). In his capacity as one of the Regional Vice Chairmen for East and Southeast Asia within the Crocodile Specialist Group, Mr. Manalo and his team are actively pursuing the development of adaptive conservation management approaches for rural coastal communities, thereby providing science-based practical solutions that promote sustainability.

Speakers

Mr. Win Sim Tan

Verra, Malaysia

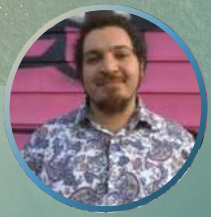
Tan Win Sim is the Regional Representative for Verra, a leading global standard-setter for climate action and sustainable development. Based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Win Sim plays a key role in advancing Verra's mission across the region by supporting policy development related to voluntary carbon markets, compliance carbon pricing and Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. With a background in wildlife conservation, environmental protection and carbon accounting, he works closely with governments, private sector partners, and civil society to foster credible climate action and drive investment in impactful carbon initiatives.He has a MSc in Environmental Protection and Management from the University of Edinburgh.

Mr. Ari Bima Putra

Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), Korea

Ari Bima Putra is an Assistant Program Officer at the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), based in Seoul, South Korea. In this role, he supports partnerships and project development efforts, particularly in the areas of mangrove conservation and climate resilience. He holds a Master's degree in Forest Resources from Kookmin University, funded by the 2021 Global Korea Scholarship (GKS), and a Bachelor's degree in Forestry from Bogor Agricultural University (IPB University) in Indonesia. Prior to joining AFoCO, he was involved in peatland restoration projects on Sumatra Island under the Korea–Indonesia Forest Cooperation Center's (KIFC). He began his journey in the forestry realm by supporting programs at the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) based in Bogor, Indonesia.

Speakers



Mr. Nicholas Lavelle

Clean Valley CIC

Nicholas keeps an open mind in a changing business world. An eight-year experienced Environmental Technician apprenticing at one of his Fathers small corporations. Performing ambient and source pollution emissions monitoring across Canada and the Caribbean for Valley Environmental Services. Collaborating with Equilibrium Environmental Services in Trinidad and Tobago. At Dalhousie Nicholas completed two co-op terms, one with Shoppers Drug Mart as a Financial Analyst and the other with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as a procurement officer. Enlightened by an Erasmus term abroad at the HAN institute of applied sciences focusing on entrepreneurship on an international scale working with an international team to bridge the gap between the arts and commerce developing cross-pollination class for the two departments. Majoring in Entrepreneurship at Dalhousie's Norman Newman Center, finishing his third co-op term on his passion Clean Valley.

In Nicholas' first year at Dalhousie University he received the Rising Entrepreneur After this great start Nicholas received a full scholarship to study International Entrepreneurship at the HAN University of Applied Science in Arnhem, Netherlands in 2018. Upon completion of this study term he was awarded an Erasmus International Certification and voted “Most Caring” by his peers. Nicholas went on to represent Clean Valley at the Global Entrepreneurial Summit in Den Hague, Netherlands in April 2019. Upon completion of his international exchange term he received an Erasmus international certification and was voted Most Caring by his peers.

Nicholas was a founder of Clean Valley, steering the company through the pandemic, creating it into a hardware as a service solution for various wastewater sources including landbased aquaculture, hydroponics and the black soldier fly industry. Scaling the company to three continents and managing its novel intellectual property as he navigates investors and client relations.

A Young Leader of America Alumni of 2023, CEO during Clean Valley's receipt of the Black Business Initiative Export Business of the Year, and the companies receiving silver of MassChallenge in Switzerland in 2023. Nicholas keeps a dynamic mind in an ever changing business environment, striving to represent his community best and build bridges to new markets across the globe.

Silver Langur

Lesser Adjutant Stork

Chameleon Forest Dragon

Striated Heron

Speakers

Mr. Gabriel Yong

Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam

Mr. Gabriel Yong is a lecturer in the Geography, Environment and Development programme at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). He has a BSc (hon.) in Geological Geophysics (Reading, 1986) and a MSc in Environmental Analysis and Dynamics (Hull, 1999). He joined UBD as a coastal geomorphologist in 1994, and taught courses on Brunei's environment, environmental systems and integrated coastal management, among others. Some relevant experiences include: A study on water quality in the Brunei Bay using GIS modelling as part of the ASEAN-Australia Coastal Zone Environmental and Resources Management Project (1999); assessment of Brunei's Integrated Coastal Zone Management experience (2000); reporting on Brunei's Coastal Environment and Resources for ASEAN COST (2007); contributing a section on Brunei in Eric Bird's Encyclopedia of the World's Coastal Landform (2010); presenting Brunei's case on Capacity Building in Sustainable Coastal Development at the 2018 World Oceans Week's workshop on Marine Affairs in Xiamen; and evaluation on Brunei's Sustainable Coastal Development Capacity Index at the Sustainable Oceans workshop in Xiamen (2023). Gabriel is currently working with a team at UBD to set up a Blue Urban Lab.

Dr. Aaron Teo

DHI Water & Environment (S) Pte. Ltd., Singapore

Dr Aaron Teo was awarded a PhD in Science from the National University of Singapore and has more than 10 years of field experience in coral, seagrass and mangrove habitats in Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines. After he joined DHI Singapore in 2022, he has primarily worked in the field survey team and has been involved in surveying and managing projects on subtidal and intertidal marine habitats including baseline biodiversity surveys, impact assessments, blue carbon projects as well as large scale transplantation and restoration work for coastal habitats as part of impact mitigation.

Speakers

Dr. Sol Milne

the Aerial Recon and Recovery Initiative (ARRI) Global, United Kingdom

Sol Milne, PhD, is an aerial ecologist focused on using drone technology for conservation. His doctorate in tropical ecology from the University of Aberdeen provides a strong scientific background for his work. He co-founded and manages the Aerial Recon and Recovery Initiative (ARRI), which works to reduce the impact of lost fishing gear on coastal environments. His experience includes studying orangutans in Borneo using drones, surveying ghost gear in Greece, and contributing to marine conservation in the Maldives. Through his consultancy, Wolf Fish Ltd, Sol uses aerial surveys and helps build conservation skills for various projects. He is a certified drone pilot and speaks Malay, Indonesian, and Spanish. His work centers on applying practical technological solutions to understand and protect natural ecosystems.

Dr. Stefan Gödeke

Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam

Dr. Stefan Herwig Gödeke is an accomplished geoscientist whose career exemplifies a passion for lifelong learning and interdisciplinary expertise. After earning his Master's degree in Geology from the Technical University Freiberg in Germany, Stefan pursued a Doctorate in Geology with a specialization in Hydrogeology at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research and Eberhard-Karls University Tübingen, which he completed in 2004 with distinction. Following a stint as a research geoscientist in Tübingen, Stefan moved to Perth, Australia in 2005 where he worked as a Hydrogeologist and numerical modeller with engineering consultancies MWH and URS. Driven by a continued desire to expand his expertise, he pursued and completed a Graduate Diploma in Oil & Gas Engineering at the University of Western Australia and a Master's in Petroleum Engineering at Curtin University in 2011—all while working full-time. This academic advancement led to a career shift into petroleum engineering, first as a consultant with OPES International and then as a Reservoir Researcher with Qatar Petroleum's Research and Technology department in Doha in 2012. In 2016, he joined PETRONAS Research Centre in Malaysia, contributing to cutting-edge CO_2 sequestration projects. Currently, Dr. Gödeke is an Associate Professor at Universiti Brunei Darussalam, where he focuses on hydrogeology, environmental geology, and groundwater research in tropical environments. His international career spans across Germany, Australia, Qatar, Malaysia, and Brunei, underpinned by his expertise in hydrogeology, aqueous geochemistry, and environmental sustainability.

Speakers

Dr. Suppakarn Jandang

Center for Ocean Plastics Studies (COPS), Kyushu University, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

Dr. Suppakarn has extensive research experience in coral reef ecosystems, including coral propagation using sexual reproduction, monitoring, and conservation strategies. Her current research focuses on microplastic pollution, specifically microplastic monitoring, and accumulation in marine organisms.

Ms. Hamizah Haji Mohd Din

Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research, UBD, Brunei Darussalam

Hazimah binti Haji Mohammad Din is a Senior Research Assistant at the Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research (IBER), Universiti Brunei Darussalam. She holds a Master of Science with a major in Forest Resources and Ecological Restoration, and a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences. Since joining IBER in 2015, Hazimah has been an integral member of the Forest Ecology research team. Her work focuses on leading field-based studies, particularly in long-term forest monitoring through tree census and species identification. She also contributes extensively to ecological restoration research, supporting efforts to understand and rehabilitate tropical forest ecosystems in Brunei Darussalam. With nearly a decade of hands-on experience in tropical forest ecology, Hazimah plays a key role in coordinating field logistics, training research assistants and students, and ensuring the accuracy and consistency of ecological data collected in the field. Her contributions support IBER's mission to advance biodiversity science and sustainable forest management in the region.

Speakers

Mr. Mohammad Farid Abdullah

Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research, UBD, Brunei Darussalam

Mohamad Farid is a biodiversity researcher, specializing in botanical and tropical forest ecology studies at various forest types in Brunei Darussalam. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Master of Science in Biodiversity by Research at UBD in 2021 and 2024 respectively, conducting in-depth research on native Pinanga palms in Brunei. His academic pursuits reflect a strong commitment to ecology studies and conservation efforts. Farid currently works as a Graduate Research Assistant at the Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research, Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

Dr. Salwa Abd Khalid

Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research, UBD, Brunei Darussalam

Dr. Siti Salwa Abd Khalid is the Deputy Director of the Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research (IBER) at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), where she previously served as the Head of the esteemed Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre (KBFSC). Holding an M. Sc in Conservation Biology from the University of Queensland, Australia, and a PhD in Biology by Research from UBD, Dr Salwa is deeply committed to the ecology and conservation of Brunei's mammals and birds. Her current research focuses on the distribution of mammals in Brunei, contributing to valuable insights to conservation efforts. Dr Salwa's dedication to conservation biology is evident through her involvement in various action plans, including those for ASAP species (Critically Endangered land and freshwater vertebrates in Southeast Asia), Presbytis langurs, and Sun bear. She also actively participates in the Helmeted Hornbill Working Group under the IUCN-SSC Hornbill Specialist Group. In addition to her research pursuits, Dr Salwa plays a pivotal role in education and outreach programmes as an Education Officer at IBER. Her efforts aim to engage and inspire the community, particularly youth, in biodiversity research and conservation efforts.

Speakers

Dr. Siti Rafhiah Haji Abd Kahar

Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research, UBD, Brunei Darussalam

Dr. Siti Rafhiah Hj Abd Kahar is an Assistant Lecturer at the Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research (IBER) of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). She is an aquatic biologist with a keen interest in the biodiversity, ecology, and conservation of aquatic ecosystems, as well as the impacts of anthropogenic activities on aquatic environments. She earned her PhD from UBD, where her research examined the reproductive ecology of freshwater fishes in the pristine hill streams of Ulu Temburong National Park. Her work has provided valuable insights into the life history strategies of tropical freshwater fishes, many of which remain understudied. With over 20 years of experience in environmental education, Dr. Rafhiah Kahar also leads education and outreach initiatives at IBER, using science communication to foster environmental awareness and engagement among students and the wider community in Brunei Darussalam. In addition to her academic roles, she currently serves as the Head of the Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre - a remotely located research and education facility of UBD, where she oversees operations and supports field-based research and learning.

Ms. Lee Huan Chiao

Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam

Lee Huan Chiao is a postgraduate at Universiti Brunei Darussalam. Her current research focusses on the biodiversity associated with oyster-beds on the artificial rocky shores along the South China Sea coastline of Brunei. Her other research includes exploring the species diversity of oysters which are relatively understudied in Brunei, their ecological services as foundation species and ecological engineers, and their potential for biomonitoring of environmental pollution. Her undergraduate thesis was the first to document microplastic pollution along the coastlines of Brunei.

Speakers

Mr. Antonio Umbu Soru

Jejakin, Indonesia

Antonio Umbu is an ESG Research and GHG Product Specialist with extensive experience in carbon management and sustainability. Currently, he serves as a Research and Product Specialist lead at Jejakin, where he leads client consultations to understand their sustainability and carbon reduction goals , advises on industry best practices and regulatory requirements , and collaborates on improving carbon foot printing tools. He also develops comprehensive net-zero roadmaps and emission reduction plans for clients. Previously, as an Impact Manager at Jejakin, he consulted with clients on assessment plans , conducted carbon footprinting , and supported them on Net-zero and sustainability goal. Antonio is a Certified Integrated and Sustainability Reporting Professional (CISP) and has received training in carbon management and global goals.

Ms. Recheal Jane Ronnie

KK Wetland, Sabah, Malaysia

Recheal Jane Ronnie is currently the Manager of the Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site, where she oversees site management, conservation programmes, and public outreach for one of Malaysia's ecologically significant urban wetlands. She has been working with the Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society (SWCS) since 2016 and continues to play a leading role in advancing the Society's mission to promote wetland conservation through education, advocacy, and sustainable practices.Recheal holds a Bachelor of Forestry Science (Hons), majoring in International Tropical Forestry, from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (2016). She began her career with SWCS as an Environmental Education Officer, where she was responsible for developing and implementing environmental education programmes tailored to the needs of students, educators, and the general public. Her portfolio includes managing the Environmental Education Programme (EEP) at Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site, spearheading initiatives such as the Mangrove Conservation Programme, which involves habitat restoration, mangrove planting, and youth-led conservation efforts. With a deep passion for environmental education and community engagement, Recheal continues to inspire young people and local communities to appreciate, protect, and take action for Sabah's wetlands and biodiversity. Her long-standing commitment and leadership have made her a respected voice in environmental conservation across the region.

Speakers

Dr. Chance William Sullivan

ADS Environmental Services, Malaysia

Chance is an environmental scientist, engineer and researcher with more than 10 years experience consulting in industries such as aquaculture, coastal development, and oil and gas. He has worked for clients in Brunei, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. Chance specialises in water quality modelling, remote sensing analyses, and machine learning. In addition to his full time work, Chance is currently a PhD student focusing on remote sensing analysis of carbon in the coastal ocean. His focus is on dissolved organic carbon in mangroves and river estuaries.

Dr. Salwana Md. Jaafar

Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research, UBD, Brunei Darussalam

Dr Salwana Md. Jaafar is a tropical ecosystem ecologist with research expertise in nutrient cycling, Acacia invasion ecology, soil and plant nutrient dynamics, and conservation of tropical lowland forests. She obtained her Ph.D. in Biodiversity by Research from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), where her thesis examined the ecological impact of invasive Acacia species on nutrient cycling processes in Bornean rainforests. She joined IBER in 2022 as a postdoctoral researcher, becoming an Assistant Lecturer in 2024. Her research focuses on nutrient cycling in tropical rainforests, soil microbial communities, and belowground traits across forest types. She is actively involved in regional ecological research and field-based conservation efforts in Brunei's heath and peat swamp forests. She has co-authored over 20 peer-reviewed publications and remains committed to advancing ecological research and restoration in Southeast Asia.

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