



**Tropical Science
Foundation**



MEDIA RELEASE
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FORM PARTNERSHIP WITH SARAWAK RESEARCH CENTRES TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE CHALLENGES IN TROPICS

KUCHING, 16 October 2024 – International tropical research centres are encouraged to form partnerships with the Sarawak research centres to find solutions to the challenges faced by countries in the tropics. In his keynote speech during the Official Dinner of the 2nd International Conference on Tropical Sciences (TropSc 2024), Sarawak Premier, The Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg highlighted, “There are a few key tropical biodiversity centres in Sarawak such as Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Sarawak Biodiversity Centre (SBC), Sarawak Tropical Research Peat Institute (TROPI), Mulu National Park and Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation (IBEC). Through these centres, Sarawak plays an essential role in addressing biodiversity loss and offers valuable insights and practical solutions that can be utilised by tropical countries facing similar environmental challenges.”

“We are dedicated to fostering research, embracing innovation, and supporting community-led conservation initiatives to ensure these ecosystems thrive for future generations. On behalf of the Sarawak government, I want to reaffirm our steadfast commitment to conserving and sustainably managing our tropical treasures,” he added.

It was echoed by Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, YB Tuan Chang Lih Kang. In his speech, he emphasised, “We are investing in research and innovation, strengthening policies that protect our natural heritage, and fostering partnerships with local communities, the private sector, and international organisations to ensure our progress is inclusive and enduring.”

“The Sarawak Government’s commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) exemplifies our dedication to preserving this natural beauty while fostering economic growth and social equity. Our natural resources are not merely assets; they are our heritage, and we have a solemn responsibility to protect them for future generations,” remarked the Chair of Tropical Science Foundation, Academician Tan Sri Datuk Dr Ir Ahmad Tajuddin Ali FASc, during his welcoming speech.

With the theme ‘Harmonising Humanity with Nature,’ TropSc 2024 aims to provide a platform for stakeholders to position the Tropics within global development and identify necessary government, private sector, and academia interventions. The conference will feature high-level policymakers, industry leaders, and researchers engaging in a collaborative environment to explore innovative solutions and strategies for sustainable development.

One of the key outcomes anticipated from TropSc 2024 is the ‘Kuching Declaration of the Tropics’, which will encompass deliberations on the challenges and opportunities of the Tropics, paving the way for collaboration and strategic action among the stakeholders of the Tropics. The Kuching Declaration of the Tropics will align with the Kuala Lumpur Communique on the Tropics presented during the 1st International Conference on Tropical Sciences.

The 2nd International Conference on Tropical Sciences, held from 16 to 17 October 2024, brings together local and international experts to discuss critical issues affecting the tropics. These issues will be discussed in four tracks: Tropical Agriculture, Tropical Architecture and Engineering, Tropical Medicine, and Tropical Natural Resources. In addition to the four main tracks, there will be three special themes covering Climate Change in the Tropics, Open Science in Tropical Biodiversity, and Protection of Indigenous and Local Knowledge in the Tropics.



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The conference is hosted by the Tropical Science Foundation (TSF) with the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) as the co-organiser, as well as the collaboration with Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) and supported by the Sarawak Government.

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About Tropical Science Foundation

The Tropical Science Foundation, established on 11 June 2010, and formerly known as the Mahathir Science Award Foundation (MSAF), is dedicated to advancing tropical sciences. Its mission is to benefit tropical regions and the global community through its initiatives.

The Foundation focuses on three main objectives:

Promoting Tropical Sciences: The Foundation supports research, education, and collaboration in fields such as Tropical Medicine, Agriculture, and Engineering, and organises events to foster knowledge exchange and networking.

Awards and Grants: The Foundation bestows the Mahathir Science Award to recognise significant contributions in solving tropical issues through science. It also acknowledges young innovators and provides grants to support impactful research and initiatives.

Indigenous Knowledge: The Foundation works to protect cultural heritage and integrate indigenous knowledge into sustainable development, collaborating with local communities to enhance conservation efforts and development projects. Through these efforts, the Foundation aims to address key challenges and improve well-being in tropical.