

THE SABAH SOCIETY PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE REPORT 2010/2011

1. INTRODUCTION

As year winds to a close, it is a good time to pause and reflect on the progress made during the 2010/2011 year. It is my privilege to summarise the accomplishment of the Sabah Society for the year and, by doing so, frame the path forward for the coming year.

As 2010 kicked off, we established an aggressive agenda to improve the Society's financial standing besides noting that our organization has reached its 50th year of existence and hence, the need to celebrate our Golden Jubilee. To that end, the Committee did the following:

- Reorganize ourselves into functional or working groups;
- Improve the Treasurer and financial reporting;
- Establish a liaison to the Past Presidents, with a view towards getting their feedbacks and inputs for the Golden Jubilee publication and celebration;
- Improving interaction with members of the Society via the social network.

In other words, 2010/2011 represents a milestone that gives us all an opportunity to review our progress (over the last 50 years).

The Sabah Society Committee 2010/2011:

President	Datuk Chan Chew Lun
Vice-President	Terence Pang
Immediate-Past-President	Puan Zahra Yaacob
Hon. Secretary	Maimie Scott
Hon. Treasurer	Sandy Pike
<u>Committee Members</u>	Dr Heng Aik Cheng
	Peter Pike
	Lee Pein Cheong
	Beat Hochuli-Blume
	Gina Hamilton
	Dr Robert Ong Kim Leong
Co-opted Member <i>(Chairman, Sandakan Branch)</i>	Datuk Joseph P. Guntavid
Ex-Officio <i>(Director, Sabah Museum)</i>	
Hon. Editors	Kay Lyons
	Dr Ravi Mandalam

2. MANAGEMENT

The Committee enhanced the Society's management, designating Committee members to spearhead some activities. The **Vice-President, Terence Pang** and **Dr Heng Aik Cheng** assisted me with the planning to improve the various programmes carried out by the Society and also communicating with the Chief Minister's Department towards securing

funding for the programmes carried out by the Society. The Immediate-Past-President, Puan Zahra Yaacob continued to give her full support to the Society, especially in documenting the achievements of the Society from 1985–2010 for inclusion in the Society’s Commemorative publication. To Dr Ravi Mandalam and Kay Lyons, they have been the pillar of strengths in editing the society’s annual journal (*Sabah Society Journal*) and the three publications launched during my term of office.

The following officials too were deeply involved in ensuring the successful implementation of the Society’s activities in 2010/2011:

Hon. Secretary, Ms Maimie Scott shouldered the main responsibility of managing and supervising the administration of the Secretariat. Together with the then Administrative Assistant, Ms Veronica Crispinus, she ensured that all monthly Committee Meetings and reports are prepared and that talks are well publicized. Unfortunately, Veronica resigned in December 2010 and Ms Monica Low was appointed to succeed her on 6 March 2011.

Hon. Treasurer, Ms Sandy Pike did a brilliant job of improving the financial reporting system besides updating the financial manual for the Committee and Secretariat to strictly adhere to. She was constantly in contact with the Auditor’s office and together with Hon. Secretary, rearranged the society’s publication holdings, which facilitated a much smoother stock checking carried out on 27 December 2010.

Committee Member, Peter Pike continued to be responsible for the Society’s social network, improving interaction and communicating with members through our more informative website. He was also given the additional task of being the Organising Chairman for the Sabah Society’s Golden Jubilee Dinner Celebration, which we are all aware, was successfully held on Saturday, 19 March 2011.

Another **Committee Member, Mr Beat Hochuli** assisted with writing press releases and communicating with the press while **Lee Pein Cheong** handled the photography matter. However, he was very much involved with his official duties out of Sabah and missed some of the major assignments for the Society.

Ms Gina Hamilton was in charge of reviving the Society’s field trips for members and did a great job. She managed to coordinate the following excursions:

Field Trip	Date	No. of Participants	Amt Collected
Tenom Agricultural Park and Fatt Choi Coffee	July 3–4, 2010	10	RM100
Cycling in Kota Belud	Aug 14, 2010	10	RM100
Sabah Tea Plantation	Aug 25–26, 2010	6	RM 60
Klias Wetlands	Jan 29–30, 2010	14	RM140
Mesilau Agro Trip	March 26–27, 2010	10	<u>RM100</u>
		Total	<u>RM 500.00</u>

Earlier Sandy Pike led a group of 4 members trekking Maliau Basin from 9–14 June 2010.

3. CONNECTING WITH PAST PRESIDENTS

Together as a team, we were able to get in touch with Past Presidents, especially those residing abroad, to bring them together for the Society’s 50th Anniversary Celebration. We managed to communicate with all the Past Presidents and have all of them lined up during the Golden Jubilee Dinner. (Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Joseph Pairin Kitingan,

Dr Richard Dingley, Datuk Lai Kuen Fong and Patricia Regis were unable to join us on that momentous event)

4. MEMBERSHIP

Life membership remains high at 126 out of a total of 206 members in 2010 compared to 222 members in 2009. The Committee is very worried with the declining numbers of members and is still looking into new ways to sustain members' interest and ensure that all present members continue to dutifully pay their membership fees. Meanwhile, life membership remains closed.

5. TALKS HELD IN 2010

Throughout 2010, the Society held about 16 talks and another 8 talks were held from January–April 2011. Most of the talks are well attended by both members and guests.

Please refer to **Appendix 1** for the details of the talks held.

6. 'MAGIC BOX' COLLECTION

In conjunction with each talk held, the Society is able to raise funds donated by generous members and guests through its Magic Box Collection, where a total of RM2,501.00 was collected from January–December 2010 while another RM2,215.00 was collected between January–April 2011.

January–December 2010

January–April 2011

January	—	559.00
February	—	656.00
March	526.00	780.00
April	511.00	220.00
May	—	
June	263.00	
July	442.00	
August	123.00	
September	83.00	
October	392.00	
November	161.00	
December	—	

TOTAL **RM 2,501.00**

RM 2,215.00

7. ART EXHIBITIONS HELD IN 2010

<u>Date</u>	<u>Artist</u>	<u>Theme/Title</u>
Jan–Feb 2010	Christianne Goonting	Spirit of Light
Mar–Apr 2010	Dianne Gee	Paintings of Sabah
June 2010	Group Exhibition	Artistic Moments
Aug–Sept 2010	Ishak Salehudin	Nature
Oct–Nov 2010	Toney Gondolos	Wild Man of Borneo
Jan–Feb 2011	Joint Exhibition: Flanagan Bainon (Photographer) and Chong Su Chung (Printer)	This is Borneo: Sabah —Part 1

March–April 2011
April–May 2011

Group Exhibition
Group Exhibition

All the Turtles
Whispers of Binsuluk

8. STOCK CHECK

Stock-checking of the Society's holdings was carried out on 27th December, 2010 with the following details:-

	<u>Titles</u>		<u>No. of Copies held</u>
01.	A Pocket Guide to the Birds of Borneo	-	969
02.	A Field Guide to the Mammals of Borneo	-	545
03.	Kinabalu: Summit of Borneo	-	1,823
04.	The Tamparuli Tamu	-	1,060
05.	Orchids of Borneo Vol. 1	-	264
06.	Orchids of Borneo Vol. 2	-	0
07.	Orchids of Borneo Vol. 3	-	811
08.	Orchids of Borneo Vol. 4	-	900
09.	Birds of Borneo (Large Book)	-	13
10.	The Hugh Low Trail	-	282
11.	East Kinabalu	-	279
12.	Tales and Traditions from Sabah	-	843
13.	Japanese Immigrants and Investments in North Borneo	-	165

Post stock check:

14.	The Sabah Society 1960–2010 (Golden Jubilee)	6
15.	The Kotal Route Sketches: Royal Society Kinabalu Expedition 1964	224

Sabah Society Journals

16.	<i>Sabah Society Journal</i> Vol. 17 (2000)	-	165
17.	<i>Sabah Society Journal</i> Vol. 18 (2001)	-	110
18.	<i>Sabah Society Journal</i> Vol. 19 (2002)	-	95
19.	<i>Sabah Society Journal</i> Vol. 20 (2003)	-	133
20.	<i>Sabah Society Journal</i> Vol. 21 (2004)	-	357
21.	<i>Sabah Society Journal</i> Vol. 22 (2005)	-	117
22.	<i>Sabah Society Journal</i> Vol. 23 (2006)	-	276
23.	<i>Sabah Society Journal</i> Vol. 24 (2007)	-	315
24.	<i>Sabah Society Journal</i> Vol. 25 (2008)	-	368
25.	<i>Sabah Society Journal</i> Vol. 26 (2009)	-	363
26.	<i>Sabah Society Journal</i> Vol. 27 (2010)	-	346

9. BOOK SALES IN 2009

	<u>Titles</u>	<u>Copies Sold</u>	
		2009	2010
01.	A Pocket Guide to the Birds of Borneo	338	361

02. A Field Guide to the Mammals of Borneo	215	122
03. Kinabalu: Summit of Borneo	53	27
04. The Tamparuli Tamu	36	45
05. Orchids of Borneo Vol. 1	35	11
06. Orchids of Borneo Vol. 2	sold out	—
07. Orchids of Borneo Vol. 3	32	—
08. Orchids of Borneo Vol. 4	5	3
09. Birds of Borneo (Large Book)	—	-
10. The Hugh Low Trail	31	3
11. East Kinabalu	6	0
12. Tales and Traditions from Sabah	35	22
13. Journals	19	22
14. Slip-in case for item 3	9	
15. Japanese Immigrants & Investment In North Borneo	-	51
Total Books and Journal sold	814	669

RM 30,303.77 RM 23, 449.00

10. PUBLICATIONS AND BOOK LAUNCH

2010 also saw the Society being active with its monograph publications followed with three book launches, namely

1. **Japanese Immigrants and Investments in Borneo** by Yutaka Shimomoto was launched on Wednesday, 14 July 2010 at the Society's secretariat by Datuk Tham Nyip Shen, former Deputy Chief Minister of Sabah. (Datuk Tham is a Life Member of the Society and he also financed the printing of this publication)
2. **The Sabah Society 1960–2010** (edited by Dr. Ravi Mandalam and Kay Lyons) was specially published to coincide with the Golden Jubilee Dinner Celebration on Saturday, 19 March 2011. YAB Datuk Seri Panglima Musa Haji officially launched this commemorative publication. Aman, Chief Minister of Sabah during the Dinner. The entire publication cost was sponsored by the President, Datuk CL Chan.
3. Just a week ago, the Society launched another monograph on **The Kotal Route Sketches Royal Society Kinabalu Expedition 1964 With Original Field Sketches of Professor E.J.H. Corner** (Text and Photographs by Dr Ravi Mandalam). The auspicious event was officiated by Mr John K. Corner (son of the late Professor E.J.H. Corner) and Mr Chu Chee Kuen, (who donated RM30,000.00 towards the printing cost of this book and the *Sabah Society Journal* 2010) on 19 April, 2011.

11. THE SABAH SOCIETY JOURNAL

During the term of the present committee, one of the issues that has been debated is the present form and format of the Sabah Society Journal. As you are all aware, the Society has published its journal without fail every year during its 50-year-long existence. It has now been proposed that the Journal be published online in an electronic form, to save

printing cost, move with the times and make the journal available to a wider readership. However, there are also misgivings expressed by some members about discontinuing the printed form of the journal, which has been featured in the Society's constitution and which has been in circulation for 50 years as well as being a permanent record for ready reference and a preferred medium for many older members and the academic community.

Evidently there are many points for and against this proposal and considering the importance of the issue, in my e-mail to all members, I have requested all of you to give it some thought and indicate as to your preference of options of the future of the *Sabah Society Journal*, i.e.,

1. Continue to publish only the printed journal;
2. Change over completely to an electronic journal;
3. Change over to electronic journal and produce a limited number of printed journals for members who requested a printed journal.

The outgoing Committee hopes that all members give due consideration at all the three options given above and express your preference for any one of them. Your opinion will greatly assist the new committee to make a decision on this matter.

12. OTHER EVENTS (2009) TO WHICH THE SOCIETY WAS INVITED, AND WHERE A COMMITTEE MEMBER ATTENDED AND REPRESENTED THE SOCIETY

The Society has been frequently invited to participate in a number of events and meetings organized by different government agencies and NGOs.

The Hon. Secretary, Ms Maimie Scott and Immediate-Past-President, Puan Zahra Yaacob represented the Society at the some of the meetings organized by Economic Planning Unit, with regards to the presentation of completed studies made by foreign researchers in Sabah. The then Administrative Assistant, Ms Veronica Crispinus attended all meetings on Sabah Environmental Education Network (SEEN) coordinated by the Environment Protection Department.

Since 2007, the Society has been privileged to be invited by the Sabah Forestry Department to be in the Forest Management Planning Team (FMPT) for Ulu Segama and Malua Forest Reserves Committee. The Chairman of the Sandakan Branch, Dr Robert Ong, and Dr Arthur Chung, represented the Society at the FMPT meetings, which are usually held in Sandakan.

Other invitations extended to the Society were:

6 April International Conference "Discover Borneo" at Tun Hamdan Mini Theatre, Menara Tun Mustapha, KK.
Attended by Ms Maimie Scott

23 June Invitation to the International Workshop on Human-Crocodile Conflict (HCC) Sabah at Hyatt Regency Kinabalu, Sabah.
Attended by Ms Maimie Scott & Ms Wendy Hutton

27 July Invitation to the Signing Ceremony of the MOU between the Royal Society and Danum Valeey Management Committee on the Rainforest Research &

Training Programme in Danum Valley for the next 5 years at The Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort & Spa, KK.

Attended by Ms Maimie Scott

- 21 Sept Seminar on Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Facilitation Fund (FF) Organised by Sabah Economic Development and Investment Authority (SEDIA) at Le Meridien Hotel, KK.
- 11–15 Oct Invitation to Exhibition, Workshop and Concert, Sabah Music Cultivation and Preservation Project by The School of Arts, UMS.
- 8–9 Nov International Conference on “Forest and Climate Change — Decoding and Realising REDD in the Heart of Borneo (HoB), with Specific Focus on Sabah” at The Magellan Sutera, Sutera Harbour Resort, KK.
Attended by Dr Stephen Sutton

13. SANDAKAN BRANCH

Kindly refer to the separate **Annual Report of the Sandakan Branch 2011.**

14. THE SABAH SOCIETY GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

The highlight of the Society's achievement for this year was the successful holding of the Golden Jubilee Celebration, showcasing the achievement of the Society over the last 50 years, since its formation in 1960. The Organising Chairman of this event is Peter Pike and together with his team, comprising Bill and Rina Jamieson, Sandy Pike and Phoon Sook Peng an interesting programme was laid out for the evening. 10 Gold tables at RM2,500 and 32 tables at RM1,250 were sold.

The Guest of Honour for the evening was none other than the Chief Minister of Sabah, YAB Datuk Seri Panglima Musa Haji Aman who also launched the special Commemorative Monograph **The Sabah Society 1960–2010** (Edited by Dr Ravi Mandalam and Kay Lyons). For the first time to the Society was able to gather eight Past-Presidents who had served the Society since 1968 and who also received special commemorative trophy from the Guest-of-Honour. Mr Tan Jiew Hoe, a Singaporean philanthropist and an Honorary Member of the Sabah Society, who has been contributing generously to the printing of the various publications of the Society was also present and his contributions acknowledged.

In his speech, the Chief Minister also announced that an initial grant of RM10,000.00 has been allocated for the Society for its publication programme.

Meanwhile, the keynote address was delivered by Prof. Dr. Danny Wong Tze Ken of University of Malaya on “Recent Development on the Study of Sabah History”.

The Golden Jubilee Dinner was well covered by the local media and which all of you can refer to at our Society's website.

CONCLUSION

2010–2011 has been an exciting year, but there is still much to be done. Continuous improvement by its very definition implies that we will be working constantly to improve

the benefits that all members will receive from the society, one of the premier learned societies of Sabah.

In conclusion, the Society looks forward to the continuing co-operation of all members, and having more people participating in our activities, particularly the younger members.

Let me emphasise here that the Society owes its success for the past year to the hard work and support of all the Committee Members and to all of the a BIG THANK YOU for everything. My special thanks go to Peter Pike for his untiring *E-efforts* to keep us connected electronically as well as for his hard work, as Organising Chairman, in organising the successful Golden Jubilee Celebration. A special thank you to is recorded to Maimie Scott, the Hon. Secretary for all her efforts in taking care of the Secretariat and coordinating with Hyatt Regency Kota Kinabalu all the art exhibitions held at the Secretariat. Not to forget a thank you to Sandy Pike, who, as Hon. Treasurer has been very strict with our expenditure and who kept reminding the committee to improve its financial standing and not to be in the red. To Gina Hamilton you have have been wonderful in coordinating the excursion trips. To our hard working editors, Ms Kay Lyons and Dr Ravi Mandalam, our thanks and appreciation.

To those who will be joining the Committee line-up tonight, I appeal to you to be more committed and seriously focus on revitalizing the Society's activities. Otherwise, we will not be able to attract young bloods to build the next lineage of Society's leadership.

My sincere thank to all of you members who have contributed so much to the Society, especially those who donated generously to our *magic box* as per circulated during the talks.

To the new Committee, let me wish them every success in the next chapter of initiating another 50 years of achievement. I am optimistic of an active committee for the coming years, now that the secretariat affairs are running smoothly. We must turn our minds to reaching new heights and it is up to each and every member to do your part in ensuring the success of this Society.

Thank you.

Datuk Chan Chew Lun
President,
The Sabah Society 2010/2011

APPENDIX 1

TALKS: JANUARY–DECEMBER 2010

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Speaker(s)</u>
Jan 27th	In the footsteps of Lilian Gibbs	Vicky Ng & Team
March 9th	Centennial Climb of Mount Kinabalu; In the Footsteps of Lilian Gibbs”	Vicky Ng, Rina Jamieson Catherine Chu, Jane Chong, and Tengku Puteri Soraya
March 10th	Rehabilitation of Orang Utans	Datuk Mike Steel
Mar 16th	Golden Jubilee 50th Anniversary Highlights of the last 50 years	Past Presidents & Office Bearers
March 31st	Honey Bees of Borneo	Dr Nikolaus Koeniger, Dr Gudrun Koeniger and Salim Tingek
April 13th	Borneo Maritime History — Exploration Trade	Ross Ibbotson
April 15th	Medicine on the Frontiers of Rainforest Conservation: Healthcare to Heal the Planet	Dr Hotlin Ompusunggu and Elizabeth Blast
June 9th	The Individual and the Environment: Recycling and Plastic Recovery	Joseph Lee
June 24th	The Sea Bajaus of Semporna	Dr Clifford Sather
July 1st	Tawau: The Making of a Tropical Community	Ken Goodlet
July 14th	Japanese Immigrants and Investments in North Borneo	Yutaka Shimomoto
Aug 19th	The Town Twinning of Kota Kinabalu and Vladivostok	Joannes Solidau
Sept 7th	Oil and Gas Explosion Hazards (with reference to deep horizon blowout)	Jean-Paul Boeldieu
Oct 3rd	Land Snails of Sabah and Botanical Sketching in the Field	Dr Jaap Vermeulen Ms Katja Anker
Oct 5th	New Orchid Discoveries in South East Asia	Peter O’Byrne
Oct 28th	Insects and also the People of Papua New Guinea that he met at the National Day Celebration	Dr David Rentz
2 Nov	Architectural Treasures of Sabah – A Sketchbook	Dianne Gee

TALKS: JANUARY–MARCH 2011

Jan 18th	Photography and Printing	Flanagan Bainon and Chong Su Chung
Jan 25th	The Excavation of the Belitung Wreck	Dr Michael Flecker
Feb 10th	Three Came Home	Film Show
Feb 21st	The Proboscis Monkey	Dr Ikki Matsuda
Feb 24th	Anurans (frogs and toads) in the East Coast of Sabah	Kelvin Kueh
March 3rd	A Kenyan Safari	Hiew Chee Fah
March 8th	Turtle Conservation in Kudat	Ray & Francesca Winfield
March 31st	Kalimantan Borneo 2010	Lilianne Agama