

OPENING SPEECH

Yang Berhormat
Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah
Minister Of Tourism, Creative Industry, and Performing
Arts, Youth, Sports and Entrepreneur Development,
Sarawak

Networking Dinner
Come Discover Bumi Kenyalang 2023 (CBDK 2023)

22 May 2023

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Esteemed guests from Indonesia:

Dr Jamil H. Syarif, MA

Rector of Institut Agama Islam Negeri Pontianak,
Indonesia

Dr Purwanto, SH

Rector of Universitas Panca Bhakti Pontianak, Indonesia

Professor Dr Garuda Wiko

Rector of Universitas Tanjungpura Pontianak, Indonesia

Esteemed guest from Cambodia:

Dr Hor Peng

Rector of the National University of Management,
Cambodia

Yang Berbahagia

Professor Dato Dr Jamil bin Haji Hamali

Rector of Universiti Teknologi MARA Sarawak

Foreign delegates and participants, ladies, and gentlemen.

Salutations

(To be confirmed by the organiser on the day of the event)

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and good evening to all.

1. Alhamdulillah. Praise be to Allah S.W.T for His grace and blessings that made it possible for us to gather here today for the **Networking Dinner** exclusively for the ***Come Discover Bumi Kenyalang 2023*** programme.

2. It is a privilege for me to be part of this momentous occasion and to welcome international participants and guests, especially from Cambodia and Indonesia to the beautiful state of Sarawak. I hope you have had a good time and enjoyed the programme so far.

3. Congratulations to **Yang Berbahagia Professor Dato Dr Jamil bin Haji Hamali, UiTM Sarawak Rector**, and the organising team for this successfully organised programme. A special thank you to UiTM for the outstanding effort in helping to promote Sarawak.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. I am glad to announce that this programme was funded by the **Ministry of Tourism, Creative Industry & Performing Arts Sarawak** with a total grant of **RM73,812.00**.

5. The ***Come Discover Bumi Kenyalang 2023*** is an **International Inbound Mobility Programme** organised by the **Office of International Affairs (OIA) of UiTM Cawangan Sarawak**.
6. The phrase – *Bumi Kenyalang* is loosely translated to “**Land of the Hornbills**” or the **Rhinoceros Hornbill** to be exact. Sarawak hopes to soar high like this magnificent bird and the programme is one of the many initiatives to help propel Sarawak into the international limelight.
7. It cannot be denied that the rapid globalisation of economies and markets has increased the need for international mobility programmes that promote cross-cultural exchange and learning.
8. This programme will, therefore, provide participants with valuable opportunities to gain international experience, expand their networks, and improve their skills.

9. The way I see it, this two–week international mobility programme is not just a platform for participants to expand their knowledge about Sarawak but a practical avenue to develop networking opportunities that will help to strengthen international bonds, foster cultural awareness, and promote each other’s countries as well.

Ladies and gentlemen,

10. The Sarawak state government has been working hard to develop all potential economic areas in this state and to progress as a nation. As we know, education plays a vital role in national development and drives economic growth.

11. Hence, assistance from higher education institutions is very much needed to support government initiatives as they progressively prepare the younger generation to be better equipped to face future challenges and become a potential workforce locally and globally.

12. I believe that there should be no hesitation for nations and academic institutions to invest in young people by allowing them to take part in various international programmes that will equip them with cross–border knowledge and skills.

13. Students’ participation in academic programmes is much anticipated to allow comprehensive learning experiences that will enhance their academic and professional development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

14. As the Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts, Youth, Sports, and Entrepreneur Development for Sarawak, I genuinely encourage you to work with your international counterparts.

15. We need to find ways to tap into the untapped areas with potential for collaboration. Work together and make it a win–win situation.

16. Believe me when I say that international collaborations and partnerships between educational institutions can benefit the tourism industry.

17. For example, any joint academic events and programmes like workshops and conferences will attract the attention of international academicians and practitioners who are essentially foreign visitors.

18. I know it is not easy to revive the economy after the global pandemic. Major investments have been made all over the globe to bring back tourists the way it was before the pandemic era.

19. This year, Malaysia is expected to have a significant recovery in tourism. We are targeting at least **16.1 million foreign visitors** which would bring in **RM 49.2 billion in tourism revenue**. For us in Sarawak, we are expecting **3 million tourist arrivals** in 2023.

Ladies and gentlemen,

20. I understand that our guests and participants would be attending sessions presented by knowledgeable speakers virtually and physically.

21. I was also informed that they will learn to speak **Sarawakian Malay**, discover our cultural arts and crafts, dances, and musical instruments, and experience our cuisines and go on outdoor adventures during this two–week programme.

22. So, once again, I would like to congratulate the organising committee from UiTM Sarawak, and everyone involved for their hard work and dedication in ensuring the success of this programme.

23. To all participants, I hope that you will find the experience in Sarawak rewarding. If you enjoy the

experience here, encourage others to come when you return to your respective countries.

24. Let us celebrate our similarities and embrace our differences. My best wishes to all.

**Without further ado,
with *Bismillahirrahmanirrahim*,
I officiate and declare the
Come Discover Bumi Kenyalang 2023 programme
open.**

Thank you.

**Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.**