

## FOREWORD

*Salam Sejahtera dan Salam Malaysia Madani.*

First and foremost, my heartfelt congratulations to the Entomological Society of Malaysia (ENTOMA), the Centre for Insect Systematics (CIS) of UKM, UiTM Cawangan Sarawak, and the Faculty of Science and Technology of UNIMAS for the excellent collaboration leading to the success of ISol 2023.

With the theme “**Unveiling the Hidden Prospect of Insects,**” ISol 2023 reflects the commitment to uncovering insects' untapped possibilities and benefits in various domains including agriculture, environmental conservation, biotechnology, and human health, which are often overlooked and misunderstood yet possess an immense potential awaiting to be discerned.

The study of insects or Entomology is a discipline under the field of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) which can deliver more than mere charismatic representatives of biological sciences. In fact, the variety of shapes and functions of insects can provide a wealth of lesson topics for integrating STEM disciplines making entomologists' roles more prominent in increasing the general public's knowledge of insects and their vital functions in our lives.

As Sarawak aims to achieve at least 60% of students in STEM and subsequently become a fully developed state by 2030, we wholly support any efforts and are committed to encouraging and motivating the public to venture into STEM disciplines. Stakeholders must, therefore, play their part in supporting STEM education which means enabling and encouraging student participation in this field and creating a sustainable STEM education.

The ministry has also taken various initiatives, including setting up the Sarawak Science Centre to serve as a platform to foster interest and appreciation in science and technology among the younger generation and the public. Taking these efforts into consideration, I sincerely hope that our fellow entomologists and STEM researchers can work together to increase STEM literacy in Sarawak.

Finally, I would like to thank the ISol 2023 organising committees who put their utmost effort into making this event a reality, and everyone else for the support. Wishing you an enjoyable and beneficial experience at the symposium.

**Yang Berhormat**

**Datuk Roland Sagah Wee Inn**

Minister of Education, Innovation, and Talent Development Sarawak  
Sarawak Government