



SPICEC 2023

**Seberang Perai
International Conference
on Ecotourism and
Conservation Efforts**

**The Ecotourism Ensures Environmental
Balance And Sustainability:**

**'The Power &
Aspiration of Rivers'**

4 & 5 October 2023

**The Light Hotel, Seberang Jaya
Penang, Malaysia**



spicec.mbsp.gov.my

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Chief Minister of Penang

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GUEST OF HONOUR



**TUAN YANG TERUTAMA TUN DATO' SERI UTAMA
AHMAD FUZI BIN HAJI ABDUL RAZAK**

**YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI
OF THE STATE OF PENANG**



**YAB Tuan
Chow Kon Yeow**
Chief Minister of Penang

Opening Remark From The Right Honourable **Chief Minister of Penang**

It brings me immense pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all the distinguished delegates, esteemed speakers, and enthusiastic participants of SPICEC 2023. First and foremost, my heartfelt congratulations go out to the entire committee, led by YBhg Dato' Azhar bin Haji Arshad, Mayor of Seberang Perai City Council (MBSP), for their outstanding efforts in conceiving and orchestrating this auspicious event. Despite the challenging 2-year hiatus in 2020 caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, MBSP has demonstrated resilience and determination by reviving SPICEC for the third time, following the successful conferences in 2016 and 2018.

Under the thought-provoking theme, "The Power & Aspiration Of Rivers," I perceive this conference as the ideal forum for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and ideas, and to forge collaborative pathways towards a sustainable future. Together, we hold the potential to achieve significant strides in the preservation of our river biodiversity, aligning with the goals set forth in the Penang2030 vision.

I firmly believe that with these collective endeavours, alongside our enhanced infrastructure, world-class attractions, and unwavering commitment to hospitality, Penang is poised not only to reclaim its former glory but also to redefine itself as a premier destination. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to MBSP for realizing this historic conference, which plays an integral role in our post-pandemic recovery strategy. Let us march forward with determination, optimism, and unity as we craft a future for Penang and its thriving tourism sector that is both sustainable and prosperous.

Thank you.

Message from **Mayor of Seberang Perai City Council**

Distinguished Guests and Delegates,

Welcome to Seberang Perai!

This week, we are honoured to host 'Seberang Perai International Conference On Ecotourism And Conservation Efforts' (SPICEC 2023). This year's SPICEC 2023 will focus on the theme "The Power & Aspiration Of Rivers". This theme, not only promotes the importance of river conservation and preservation in Seberang Perai but at the same time, indirectly accentuates some golden prospects and eco-tourism potentials of Seberang Perai rivers like Sungai Perai, Sungai Muda, Sungai Krian, and others.

We are honored to have distinguished guests and industry experts who will be sharing with us their valuable insights and experiences. We also welcome to have more than 350 participants from all walks of life, regions, and backgrounds, to explore the facets of our tourism, particularly, eco-tourism sector. I am also honored to see a great deal of international engagements and participations, especially with renowned speakers who will share their experiences and expertise.

Through several tourism-based programmes, SPICEC aims to promote sustainable tourism among government agencies and the industry; develop tools for protected/sensitive area management; and support implementation of multilateral environmental agreements related to tourism.

In addition to that, Seberang Perai has many eco-tourism destinations that can attract travelers from all around the world. Thus it is of utmost importance all of them are well-conserved. I wish all of you a successful and fruitful time here, with high hopes that after leaving Seberang Perai, you will form new connections, garnered valuable experiences and most importantly, create long-lasting memories of our city.



**YBhg. Dato' Azhar
bin Haji Arshad**

Mayor of Seberang Perai
City Council

SPECIAL GUEST



YB Dato Sri Tiong King Sing

Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



**Dato' Seri Paduka Maimunah
binti Mohd Sharif**

(UN Habitat)



Dr Taej Mundkur

(Wetlands International)



Prof. Dr. Amran bin Hamzah

(UTM, Skudai Johor)

PROGRAMME - SEBERANG PERAI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ECOTOURISM AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS (SPICEC 2023)

The Light Hotel, Seberang Jaya, Penang, Malaysia

TIME		4 OCTOBER 2023 (WEDNESDAY)	
08:00 am	REGISTRATION		
08:30 am	Opening Ceremony & Culture Performance		
08:45 am	Welcoming Speech: YBhg. Dato' Azhar bin Hj Arshad Mayor of MBSP		
09:00 am	Opening Remark : Chief Minister of Penang		
09:10 am	Keynote Speech : YB Dato Sri Tiong King Sing Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC)		
09:20 am	Inauguration By His Excellency Yang di-Pertua Negeri of The State Of Penang		
09:30 am	TEA BREAK		
10:00 am	Press Conference		
10:30 am	Keynote Address 1 : Dato' Seri Maimunah Mohd Sharif (UN Habitat)		
10:45 am	Keynote Address 2 : Dr Taej Mundkur (Wetlands International)		
11:00 am	Keynote Address 3 : Professor Dr. Amran bin Hamzah (UTM, Skudai Johor)		
PARALLEL SESSION			
CLUSTER	Cluster 1 : (Aspirations of River) Moderator : Mr. Ahmad Zabri Mohamed Sarajudin	Cluster 2 : (Ecotourism) Moderator : Mr. Tan Choo Eng	Cluster 3 : (SDG Themes) Moderator : Ms. Ong Bee Leng
11:30 am - 12:00 pm	Presenter 1 : Prof. M. Rafee Majid (UTM, Skudai Johor)	Presenter 1 : Dr. Prachyakorn (Prince of Songkla University Hatyai, Thailand)	Presenter 1 : Datuk Seri Mirza Mohammad Taiyab Beg (AESTOM, Kuala Lumpur)
12:00 - 12:30 pm	Presenter 2 : Ts. Dr.Hj.Mohamad Nasran Dato' Prof Dr. Nasehir Khan (MBSP)	Presenter 2 : Prof. Dr. Long Pham Hong (University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi)	Presenter 2 : Mr.Vincent Chow (Malaysian Nature Society)
12:30 - 01:00 pm	Presenter 3 : Dr. Foong Swee Yeok (USM)	Presenter 3 : Dr. Hum Gurung (BirdLife International)	Presenter 3 : TPr. Ts. Norliza Hashim (URBANICE, Kuala Lumpur)
01:00 pm	LUNCH BREAK / EXHIBITION		

PROGRAMME - SEBERANG PERAI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ECOTOURISM AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS (SPICEC 2023)

The Light Hotel, Seberang Jaya, Penang, Malaysia

4 OCTOBER 2023 (WEDNESDAY)

PARALLEL SESSION

2:30 - 3:00 pm	Presenter 4 : Dr. Khairunnisak Latiff (UPM)	Presenter 4 : Prof. Noel Scott (Edith Cowan University, Australia)	Presenter 4 : Ms. Karen Shephern (Gastronomy)
3:00 - 3:30 pm	Presenter 5 : Prof. Dr. Mohd Remy Rozainy Mohd Arif Zainol (USM)	Presenter 5 : Dr. Munira Azman (UPSI)	Presenter 5 : Ms. Justine Vaz (The Habitat Foundation)
3:30 - 4:00 pm	Presenter 6 : Mr. Julien Thomas Hodson-Walker (Walrus Design, KL)		
4:00 - 4:30 pm	TEA BREAK		
8.00 - 10.30 pm	Closing Ceremony & Dinner SPICEC 2023 (Location : The Light Hotel, Seberang Jaya)		

5 OCTOBER 2023 (THURSDAY)

08.00 - 08.30 am	Registration For Site Visit Participants (1st Floor, The Lights Hotel)
08.30 - 12.00 pm	Site Visit (Location : Jeti Sg Dua - Air Hitam Dalam - Pasar Bisik)



Seberang Perai (formerly known as Province Wellesley) was a British colony in 1800 and its administration was then located in Penang.

Covering an area of 4893 sq. km. it was populated by only five thousand people but this swampy jungle was progressively developed into agricultural land starting from pioneering explorations in 1850.

PARELLEL SESSION 1

ASPIRATIONS OF RIVER



MODERATOR :

MR. AHMAD ZABRI MOHAMED SARAJUDIN
Director of Urban Services Department,
MBSP

PROF. M. RAFAE MAJID

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
(UTM, Skudai Johor)



**Cheonggyecheon:
Inspiring Urban River Restoration Worldwide**

Seoul's Cheonggyecheon Stream has become an inspiration to cities throughout the world looking to revitalise their urban rivers. Its many achievements are examined in this overview, with an emphasis on the wide variety of advantages they provide for the environment, society, green infrastructure and even tourism.

Cheonggyecheon Stream today functions as a multifunctional venue that smoothly combines environmental, social, and economic activities thanks to a visionary restoration that took place in 2005. The stream's revitalization has delivered significant environmental benefits in addition to offering a tranquil recreational space with pedestrian-friendly paths and aesthetic attractions.

It has developed into a lively community centre that encourages participation in and appreciation of cultural pursuits, offering residents and guests alike its welcoming atmosphere that promotes wellbeing and social interaction. The stream has additionally developed into a well-known tourist destination, presenting beautiful scenery, conducting cultural events, and encouraging neighbourhood businesses.

Additionally, Cheonggyecheon Stream also serves as a good example of green infrastructure design, fusing green areas with sustainable design ideas. Its success story serves as motivation for cities of the world to restore neglected rivers into landscapes that are sustainable and people-centered. Cities may rethink their urban rivers, fostering sustainability and improving the quality of life for their residents, by modelling their efforts after Cheonggyecheon's successes.

**TS. DR. HJ. MOHAMAD NASRAN
BIN DATO'PROF DR NASEHIR KHAN**



**Assistant Director
Engineering Department, MBSP**

Alteration of Tecoma chip wood waste into microwave-irradiated activated carbon for amoxicillin removal: Optimization and batch studies

Amoxicillin (AMOX) in wastewater can promote antibiotic resistance in bacteria and affecting aquatic ecosystems, due to inadequate removal by conventional wastewater treatment plants. This study aimed to (i) optimizing Tecoma chip wood based activated carbon (TCAC) to adsorb amoxicillin (AMOX) using response surface methodology (RSM) and (ii) evaluating AMOX adsorption through batch and continuous modes. The RSM revealed the optimum conditions to be 657 W, 20 min and 0.99 g/g for radiation power, radiation time and impregnation ratio (IR), respectively. These optimum conditions resulted in AMOX removal efficiency of 88.07 mg/g and 27.68 % of TCAC's yield. The BET surface area and total pore volume of TCAC were 924.85 m²/g and 0.3485 cm³/g respectively. The surface of TCAC was occupied with several functional groups namely primary amine, hydroxy, alkyl carbonate and terminal alkyne. These functional groups enhanced the adsorption process by forming hydrogen bond with AMOX molecules. The isotherm study revealed that AMOX-TCAC adsorption system obeyed the Langmuir model and the maximum monolayer adsorption capacity, Q_m is 357.14 mg/g. Pseudo-second order (PSO) model fitted the best for the adsorption of AMOX by TCAC in the kinetic studies. Boyd plot divulged that the rate limiting step in the adsorption process was the film diffusion. Thermodynamic study confirmed the adsorption process to be endothermic, spontaneous, and physically controlled conditions.

DR. FOONG SWEE YEOK

**School of Biological Sciences,
Universiti Sains Malaysia**



**Enhance Ecotourism Potential of Sungai
Perai and Sungai Kerian in Penang**

Rivers play crucial role in supporting lives on earth. It links land and ocean via nutrient transport and provides for flora and fauna at the riparian zones. However, many rivers especially in developing countries are deprived of their ecological roles and functions. Land use changes that involve water diversion and water quality degradation are especially disruptive to river ecosystem. Addressing these issues requires concerted effort from all stakeholders. One of the tools in use to sustain and revive important habitats is ecotourism. The many ways ecotourism contributes towards nature conservation include: provide economic incentives, create education and awareness, encourage environment stewardship amongst local people and support for conservation, research and monitoring of habitat. Malaysia has many successful ecotourism initiatives that have contributed towards habitat protection. A few notable examples are the Taman Negara National Park, Kinabatangan River, Mulu National Park and Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre. On a smaller scale, fireflies ecotour in Nibong Tebal, Seberang Perai Selatan is a relatively new initiative in Penang (operated since 2007). This short stretch (8 km) of mangrove-lined riparian zone of Sungai Kerian receives about 5,000 tourists yearly. Nonetheless, this fireflies ecotourism activities have quite a handful of challenges. The natural regeneration of *Sonneratia caseolaris* (local name: Berembang), the preferred mangrove species used by adult fireflies, was disrupted by wake and wash generated by motorboats. Attempts have been made since 2018 to help rehabilitate the riparian zone by planting bigger and stronger *S.caseolaris* seedlings. This presentation will share some of the lesson learned and best practise in *S.caseolaris* planting. It is with the hope that similar fireflies ecotourism effort can be copied to other sites in Seberang Perai Utara, especially in Ayer Itam Dalam Education Forest. Overall, the success of an ecotourism site requires collaboration amongst local communities, government, tour operator and tourist themselves to ensure long-term sustainability.

**PROF. DR. MOHD REMY
ROZAINY MOHD ARIF ZAINOL**

**Universiti Sains Malaysia,
Nibong Tebal**



**How Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)
Pioneering the Green Drainage System in Malaysia?**

River Engineering and Urban Drainage Research Center (REDAC) is the first research centre at the USM Engineering Campus which was accorded the Higher Institution Centre of Excellence or HICoE for service on 9th October 2014 with a niche area on Sustainable Urban Stormwater Management. REDAC has been active in research and consultancy projects on Sustainable Urban Stormwater Management since 1997. Among the project sponsors are Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE), Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry (MoA), Department of Irrigation and Drainage (JPS), Prime Minister's Economic Planning Unit (EPU), Seberang Perai Municipal Council (MPSP) and Public Works Department (JKR). REDAC has received more than RM 20 million for the last ten years to conduct research and innovation. A green sustainable urban stormwater management system known as Bio-Ecological Drainage Systems (BIOECODS) was designed by REDAC and subsequently constructed at the USM Engineering Campus, Penang in 2002. BIOECODS attempts to solve three major problems commonly encountered in Malaysia namely flash floods, river pollution and water scarcity. By implementing BIOECODS, it will help preserve the natural characteristics of the existing river ecosystem. A presentation on BIOECODS was made at the 11th International Conference on Urban Drainage, Edinburgh, United Kingdom (UK) in September 2008. The national pilot project on sustainable urban drainage system (SUDS) namely Bio-Ecological Drainage System (BIOECODS) has continuously received visitors from national and also international.

JULIEN THOMAS HODSON-WALKER

Walrus Design, KL



'Aspiration of Rivers'

What is a river? What is its purpose? Why are rivers important? and to whom and what are they important? These questions help determine what a river aspires to be.

As a purely natural phenomenon the aspiration of a river is simple. A river's aspiration is, however, often in conflict with how humanity chooses to use rivers.

Balancing the natural aspiration of a river with the needs, wants and expectations of humanity will be critical to not only supporting and preserving natural riparian environments, but also for supporting the needs of humanity.

There needs to be a paradigm shift in public attitudes towards rivers to allow humanity's aspiration of rivers and the aspiration of a river to sustainably coexist. Our lives may depend on it. Is eco-tourism enough to highlight the plight of rivers, educate the public on their importance and get the message across?

Aspirations can only be met when there is strong policy, oversight, enforcement, and regulation. Malaysia is a relatively young country with custodial responsibility for some of the oldest natural environments on the planet and rivers run through them all.

After the signing of the Pangkor Agreement in 1874, the area of Province Wellesley was increased to 74012 sq. km. Population had by then increased due to the opening of the new townships of Butterworth and Bukit Mertajam.

The areal coverage of Seberang Perai currently stands at 73841 sq. km. The reduction in area is due to changes in the alignment of Sungai Muda (Muda River) which demarcates the border between Kedah and Penang.

PARELLEL SESSION 2

ECOTOURISM



MODERATOR :
MR. TAN CHOO ENG
MBSP Councillor

DR. PRACHYAKORN CHAIYAKOT

Prince of Songkla University Hatyai,
Thailand



**Lesson learned from community-based
tourism management in the conflict area:
A case study of three border
provinces in Southern Thailand**

Tourism is a product cannot be delivered to customers. The tourist must come to touch it for themselves. Restriction from the disaster affected both tourist movement and tourism supply chains including airport, accommodation, restaurants, events, and indoor and outdoor activities (Gössling et al., 2020). The conflict incident from terrorism has not only created an impact on the people way of life, but it has also impacted to grass root economic and quality of life. The unrest situation in the southern border provinces, Songkhla, Satun, Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat have taken part since 2004 until present day between state troops with unnamed groups and invisible energy. There have been violence incidents 9,047 times, 5,836 dead, 12,541 Injured, and 885 disabled in city and rural village during 2004-2022 (Southern Border provinces Administrative Center, 2023). Most of them are vulnerable group including women, children, and Buddhist monks. General business sector including tourism have been affected from this chaos. Ritchie BW, Jiang Y (2019) stated that tourism sector is intensively fragile from natural and manmade disasters. The violence, in the earlier time, erupted everywhere particular in remote area where a majority of community ecotourism village located, certain community was suffered from violence situations from conflict of different religious people within community and external unstable situations. Once the violence situation has been declined in 2015 after 10 years of conflict, Tourism activity in some potential community was renewed again. This research, therefore, need to survey community tourism resources, investigate tourism member adaptation to manage tourism after match, and summarize as lesson learned community ecotourism management approach of community in three provinces, Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat, during 2013-2022. There are five community-based tourism (CBT) were selected to study i.e., Banchulabhorn Pattana 9, Banchulabhorn Pattana 10, Banchulabhorn Pattana 12, Ban Sai Khao, and Meaung Labu. Field work, focus group discussion, and in-depth interview were used to collect data. Key informants consist of, village head, imam, member of tourism group, local tour operators, relevant government organizations, NGO, and tourist who visited community.

PROF. DR PHAM HONG LONG



**Faculty of Tourism Studies,
University of Social Sciences
and Humanities,
(Vietnam National University, VIETNAM)**

**Forest welfare services and
the trend of ecotourism development in protected areas**

The term “Forest Welfare Services” refers to social and cultural services for the population based on forests and forest resources that aim to improve human health and well-being (Forest Welfare Promotion Act of the Republic of Korea, 2015). The forest welfare services could be considered as part of the Forest Cultural Ecosystem Services (FCES). They are the way in which the benefits of FCES reach a wider range of end users. In practice, the aim is welfare services to be provided to the population through purposeful interactions with forests for improving human health and well-being. The main types of Forest Welfare Services include: Forest therapy, education, culture, sport activities, and recreation.

This presentation provides an overview of Forest Welfare Services and the development of ecotourism and tourism in protected areas in Vietnam, covering both theoretical ideas and practical issues. Additionally, it is going to offer an extensive collection of best practices and lessons learnt from the development of ecotourism and forest welfare services in other countries.

DR HUM GURUNG

BirdLife International (Asia) Secretariat,
Singapore



Ecotourism as a Tool for Nature-based Solutions

Ecotourism is a form of nature-based tourism. Nature-based Solutions (NbS) include conservation actions which are carried out with the collaboration of local communities, focusing on key conservation issues such as the management of protected areas, protection of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), restoration of degraded lands and forests, protection of ecosystem services, including water resources, coastal areas, river basins, alpine areas, and magnificent landscapes. Ecotourism also generates green jobs and provides economic benefits for host communities, conservation agencies and authorities managing natural areas and promoting destination areas for conservation and sustainable development. Birdwatching and firefly tourism are unique ecotourism products which generate not just economic opportunities but are also important for human well-being including mental health. Birds play an important role in the dispersal of seeds throughout many natural areas including barren lands and landslides prone areas which are important natural processes of NbS. Environmental education is an important element of ecotourism in raising awareness towards the conservation of natural areas and cultural values, both among local communities and tourists. Ecotourism can embrace the indigenous communities' conservation values and sustainable conservation approaches which could be an important tool to promote NbS in environmentally sensitive natural areas.

PROF. DR NOEL SCOTT

Edith Cowan University, Australia



**“Wildlife tourism in Asia
and the Pacific.”**

Wildlife tourism in the Asia and the Pacific region has become popular and is expected to continue so after COVID-19. This paper provides a series of recommendation for Sustainable development of wildlife tourism and discusses guidelines for wildlife viewing in the wild. Currently, wildlife viewing is based around biodiversity hotspots and iconic species and opportunities for expanding viewing of plants and fungi are discussed. Good practice criteria such as attention to effective protected area management, sound environmental policy, planning for growth in tourism numbers, management of overcrowding, tour guide training, attention to animal welfare and monitoring the impacts of tourism on wildlife are considered. Appropriate consideration to promotion and marketing of wildlife tourism is highlighted. Key challenges include unsatisfactory protection of the wider environment, misinterpretation of what is required to achieve sustainability and inadequate visitor management by park agencies and tour operators. The impact of COVID-19 on wildlife tourism provides the opportunity to reflect on previous wildlife tourism operations and to maintain and improve wildlife tourism into the future.

DR. NUR MUNIRA AZMAN

**University Pendidikan Sultan Idris
(UPSI)**



**Conserving the jewel of Penang:
The potentials of the East Asian - Australasian Flyway
for Sustainable Economic Development**

The coastal area of Teluk Air Tawar-Kuala Muda, IBA (Important Bird & Biodiversity Area) is the only mangrove in good condition left, in the state of Penang. Every year, its vast mudflats provide an important stopover to tens of thousands (estimated at 20, 000) of migratory shorebirds of various species as they pass through the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. This area also provides unvaluable ecosystem services to the locals which it includes the important area for local's fishing spot, coastal protection, and nursery to various marine organisms in the area. To ensure that the place is protected and, its ecological and economic importance are preserved, it is very important to lift its potential by promoting and developing community-based ecotourism in the area. This project is aimed to increase political concern and awareness in the state Penang so that the ecosystem and these endangered species can be maintained and fully protected. During the migratory season, there is a high demand for boat rentals by the community of bird watchers which this shows a good sign of ecotourism development in the area. Bird watching plays an important and growing role in the tourism industry as it brings direct and indirectly economic benefits in many countries and communities. Fishermen and other community members can generate alternative livelihood not only benefit them, but also encourage them to preserve and protect biodiversity and wetland ecosystems there. All these activities are not only targeting bird watchers but also students, the general public and tourists in general.

In 1896, the first Municipal Ordinance was introduced to ensure the smooth administration of local authorities in Penang. In 1913 another legislation was introduced in Penang and this permitted the creation of a Rural Board in Province Wellesley. The evolution of local government continued in 1952 when two Local Authorities and three Rural Authorities were established. These three Rural Authorities were merged to become the District Authority in 1961.

On 1st July 1974, under the local government law the three authorities were combined to form The Board of Administration of Seberang Perai Local Government.

Finally, under the Local Government Act 1976, history was created on 15th Dec 1976 when the Board was succeeded by and recognized as the Municipal Council of Seberang Perai or MPSP, the largest local authority in Malaysia.

Today, MPSP administers three main Districts with 54 localities.

The Municipal Council of Seberang Perai has been granted elevated to city status by His Majesty The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah on 12th Dec 2017.

PARELLEL SESSION 3

SDG THEMES



MODERATOR :

MS. ONG BEE LENG
Chief Executive Officer, PWDC

DATUK SERI MIRZA MOHAMMAD TAIYAB BEG

Chairman of Ex Staff of Tourism Malaysia



Growing Interest in Ecotourism and the Prospect of River based Tourism Development Malaysia

Ecotourism development in the last decade can be considered as an antidote to the threats of human civilization caused by industrialisation, the era of urbanization and rapid commercialisation. The power of rivers in human survival is beyond any doubt. The human settlement today can all be drawn back to their origin to some rivers; like Amazon and Mississippi in America, Rhine and Danube in Europe, Nile and Tigris in Africa, Mesopotamia and the great rivers of Asia namely Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra, Irrawady, Mekong, Menam Chao Phraya, Yang Tze etc.

In our local context, although Malaysia is popularly associated with the sea as it is both a peninsular on the mainland Asia and coastal states in the island of Borneo, there are a few sizable rivers running across the fertile plains from the central highlands. The Kinabatangan and Tenom River in Sabah, the Sarawak River, Sg Pahang and Sg Perak in the central region of the mainland and smaller rivers but not lesser important like Sg Muda in Kedah, Prai River here, Sg Terengganu and Sg Kelantan. Even the industrialized and highly commercial Klang Valley too developed at the confluence of Sg Gombak and Sg Batu. Both of which end up as the Klang River.

Major ecotourism based resort developments along the rivers today are Taman Negara on the banks of Sg Tahan, Kinabalu National Park, the Kinabatangan Nature Sanctuary, Mulu National Park, and Skrang River Safari. Where else on the peninsula, some new developments along the lines of heritage and recreation have given greater attention to the rivers. The most notable examples are the Sg Melaka River Cruise and the River of Life project at the heart of Kuala Lumpur.

This conference has addressed a very timely issue. Just as all the rivers swelled and flooded their plains recently. While an airborne virus (Covid-19) kept us at home for awhile to remind us of our origin and destiny. In the local context, our rivers today are getting all the attention they deserve. We can expect the changing role of rivers from the backyard of homes to come to the front. From dump sites to recreational areas. Most importantly its environmental and ecological issues; which is to bring back its water quality and its rich and healthy marine life. More than being a costly affair, society will soon realize that it is an essential matter for their own survival and has great profit potential. My short presentation will illustrate some visuals and slides to cite relevant examples for the statements and comments made in this paper.

MR. VINCENT CHOW

Malaysian Nature Society



**IMPACTS OF LANDUSE ON AN
URBANISED RIVER IN SOUTHWEST
JOHOR BAHRU :
A CASE STUDY IN RELATION TO ITS PHYSICAL AND
CHEMICAL STATE AND HOW THESE AFFECT
FISH FAUNA COMPOSITION IN ITS UPPER,
MIDDLE AND LOWER COURSES. , SUNGAI SKUDAI**

Urbanised rivers often undergoes anthropogenic abuses and comparatively only in their degree. This paper discusses how such a river in Southwest Johor Bahru, namely Sg. Skudai, has now assumed a different form and functions over the years due to the high impacts of development along its banks. The pressure of human activities has affected its water condition, quality of riverine mudbanks and encroachment of its buffer zone. The buildup of solid waste at the river bottom has impacted the fishing activity of the riverine folks as the badly silted river makes navigation by boat difficult and compounded by the presence of invasive, alien fish fauna has totally changed the livelihood of the local folks. The prevailing river condition indicates a very salient point that, any urban river that undergoes extreme human impacts will be very challenging to revert it to its previous pristine conditions.

MS. KAREN SHEPHERD

Gastronomic



**Gastronomic Tourism and the Creative City:
A Kuching case study**

Kuching, Sarawak became Malaysia's first Creative City under UNESCO in October 2023 in the field of Gastronomy. Under its action plan, the city is preparing collaborative gastronomic tourism packages to highlight its key heritage products and food processes to an international audience. With gastronomic tourism identified as a key trend for travel, this talk will discuss how UCCN views tourism as a sustainable development driver, providing examples from other creative cities, and also describe what Kuching is doing to integrate gastronomy and creativity into its city's tourism profile.

MS. JUSTINE JAY VAZ

The Habitat Foundation



**“Three Rivers:
Malaysian rivers as Centres of Culture,
Heritage, and the Foundation for Environmental
sustainability and Economic Development”**

Since time immemorial, Malaysian rivers have shaped the nature of human settlements and the towns that have grown up around them. Using three simple case studies from ongoing THF initiatives, we showcase some of the distinctive river floodplains of Malaysia in order to explore how thoughtful natural resource management and sensitive development can ensure that rivers can contribute to societal wellbeing, support local livelihoods, and provide the basis of a thriving sustainable tourism economy.

SPEAKERS



PROF. M. RAFAE MAJID
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
(UTM, Skudai Johor)



**TS. DR. H.J. MOHAMAD
NASRAN BIN DATO' PROF
DR NASEHIR KHAN**
Assistant Director
Engineering Department, MBSP



DR. FOONG SWEE YEOK
School of Biological Sciences,
Universiti Sains Malaysia



DR. KHAIRUNNISAK LATIFF
(UPM)



**PROF. DR. MOHD REMY
ROZAINY MOHD ARIF ZAINOL**
Universiti Sains Malaysia,
Nibong Tebal



**JULIEN THOMAS
HODSON-WALKER**
Walrus Design, KL



DR. PRACHYAKORN CHAIYAKOT
Prince of Songkla University Hatyai,
Thailand



PROF. DR. PHAM HONG LONG
Faculty of Tourism Studies,
University of Social Sciences and Humanities,
(Vietnam National University, VIETNAM)

SPEAKERS



DR HUM GURUNG
BirdLife International (Asia) Secretariat,
Singapore



PROF. DR NOEL SCOTT
Edith Cowan University,
Australia



DR. NUR MUNIRA AZMAN
University Pendidikan Sultan Idris
(UPSI)



**DATUK SERI MIRZA
MOHAMMAD TAIYAB BEG**
Chairman of Ex Staff
of Tourism Malaysia



MR. VINCENT CHOW
Malaysian Nature Society



TPr. Ts. NORLIZA HASHIM
(URBANICE, Kuala Lumpur)



MS. KAREN SHEPHERD
Gastronomic



MS. JUSTINE JAY VAZ
The Habitat Foundation

TECHNICAL VISIT SPICEC 2023

01



GUIDED BIRD WATCHING TRIP BY BOAT

(Optional Pre-conference Tour)

Date : 3rd October 2023 (Tuesday)

(Pre-registration Required, Limited Seats, RM50.00 per person)



ITINERARY

- Depart From Hotel The Lights 9.00 am (Transport provided)
- Participants please be at Lobby The Lights Hotel 15 minute before Depart.) or
- Meet at Sungai Tembus Unit Nelayan Jetty, Pasir Gebu, Penaga at 10.00 am (Transport noT provided)
- Important Bird & Biodiversity (IBA) Area, proposed RAMSAR and Migratory Waterbird Flyway Site. 20,000 Migratory Shorebirds and Waterbirds plus 3,000 Local Waterbirds.





02

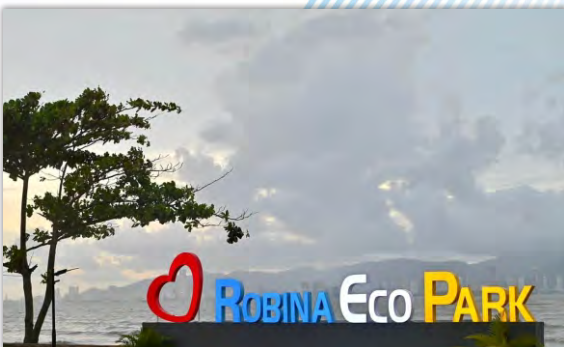
SPICEC 2023 TECHNICAL VISIT : The Power & Aspiration Of Rivers

Date : 5th October 2023 (Thursday)
(Pre-registration Required, Limited Seats)

ITINERARY

- Depart From The Lights Hotel 8.00 am
(Transport provided)
- Participants please be at Lobby The Lights Hotel 15 minute before Departure
- Estimated arrival time at The Lighs Hotel 01.30 pm
- Join the visit along Perai River, starting from Pengkalan Machang Jetty towards to Labuh Banting Jetty and ending at Hutan Pelajaran Air Hitam Dalam. Participants will experiance the freshwater swamp forest and bird wacthing activities and also enjoy traditional breakfast with local demonstration activties at Labuh Banting. Participants also will be taken to Pasar Bisik, Kuala Muda Penaga (TBC) to have a closer look at the unique activities of fishermen selling thier catch.





SPICEC 2023 COMMITTEE

Advisor

YBhg Dato' Azhar bin Haji Arshad

Chairman

Tuan Hj Baderul Amin bin Abdul Hamid

Chairman of Working Committee

TPr. Mohd Ridzal bin Abdul

SECRETARIAT

1. Puan Normaira binti Abdul Rahman
2. Puan Rosmalinda binti Rosli
3. Puan Norshazila binti Alias
4. ASP. Amirul Ariff bin Abdul Rahman
5. Puan Hasnah Binti Shaari
6. Puan Nazirah Binti Darus
7. Puan Rahida Binti Abdul Rahim
8. Puan Norsuhaibah Binti Hanbal

and

Special Thanks to

MBSP Councillors Jan 2023 - Sept 2023



SPICEC 2023

LOGISTIC & SOUVENIRS

1. Encik Mohd Hairol bin Man
2. Encik Nazri bin Abdul Wahab

PUBLICITY & MARKETING

1. Puan Siti Haslinda binti Hasan
2. Puan Siti Nurhayati binti Abdul Rahman

OPENING CEREMONY & PROTOCOL

1. Puan Norhayati binti Sulaiman
2. Sr. Zulhisyam bin Abdul

GALA DINNER

1. Encik Wan Junaidy bin Yahaya
2. Ir. Ts Kamal bin Muhammad Raini

SPICEC WEEK PROGRAM

1. LAr. Shaqhrony bin Md Yusoff @ Jamaludin
2. Sr. Nur Shakila binti Shamsudin

TECHNICAL VISIT

1. Encik Syukri bin Said
2. Encik Mohd Raisul Muhaddsin bin Hamad

LIAISON OFFICER

1. Encik Mohd Hazren bin Mohd Zahir
2. Dr. Izzat Azmeer bin Ahmad



Notes

An abstract graphic design featuring a light blue background with a grid of thin, dark blue horizontal lines. Overlaid on this are several large, flowing, organic shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from very light to a medium blue. These shapes appear to be composed of many thin, parallel lines that curve and sweep across the frame, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is a modern, minimalist aesthetic with a focus on geometric and organic forms.

01



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02

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Special Thanks...



SPICEC 2023

Ybhg Dato' Azhar bin Haji Arshad

Siti Haslinda binti Hasan

Lai Yen Yi

SECRETARIAT

David Marshel a/I Pakianathan

Zulkipli bin Ishak

Shuhada Abdul Rahim

Wong Chee Keet

A'ziss bin Zainal Abiddin

1. Hjh Norliza binti Abdullah
2. Shahrulnizad bin Abdul Razak
3. Norhayati binti Sulaiman
4. Wan Junaidy bin Yahaya
5. Abdul Fikri Ridzauudin bin Abdullah
6. Shaqhrony bin Md Yusoff
7. Normaira binti Abdul Rahman
8. Mohd Ridzal bin Abdul
9. Kamariah binti Ramli
10. Raja Mashitah binti Raja Zainal
11. Rosmalinda binti Rosli
12. Siti Nurhayati binti Abdul Rahman
13. Nurhazwani binti Mohd Ramle
14. Siti Fatimah binti Ismail
15. Azni binti Md Yusoff
16. Mohd Hairol bin Man
17. Amira binti Ahmad
18. Shafida Azyanti binti Mohd Shafie
19. Sr Nur Shakila binti Shamsudin
20. Muhammad Aidil bin Samsuri
21. Norhayati binti Kamarudin
22. Latifah binti Razali
23. Ahmad Zabri bin Mohamed Sarajudin
24. Siti Rafidah binti Abdul Halim
25. Muhammad bin Omar
26. Roslenda binti Che Ibrahim
27. Nur Zamzarina binti Othman
28. Mohd Fidaie bin Mohamad
29. Mohd Hazren bin Mohd Zahir
30. Mohamad Nizam bin Md Shariff
31. Zamzaini binti Mohamed Nazar
32. Suria binti Md Idris
33. Marina binti Zainol Abidin
34. Mohd Faiz bin Abd Halim
35. Fakhrees bin Mohd Ali
36. Nur Anisah binti Abdul Samad
37. Dr Nur Fadillah binti Ab Rahim
38. Nanthitha a/p Arunasalam
39. Nur Fuadiah binti Mohd Yusoff
40. Siti Amirah binti Zainudin
41. Esfairol bin Ali
42. Zaleha binti Zakri
43. Jaafar bin Morad
44. Mohd Biyamin bin Razak
45. Muhamad Nasir bin Abdul Salam
46. Muhamad Zulikqam bin Zulkifli
47. Muhammad Hakim bin Alwi
48. Mohd Firdaus bin Mohd Zaini



SPICEC 2023



Menara Bandaraya
Jalan Perda Utama, Bandar Perda,
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04 - 538 9700



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Majlis Bandaraya Seberang Perai



Seberang Perai City Channel



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