

# Curtin to host BRC Conference

BY NORNI MAHADI

**MIRI:** The Borneo Research Council (BRC) 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Conference will be held here for the first time.

The conference themed 'Borneo: Continuity, Change and Preservation' will be hosted by Curtin University of Technology Sarawak Campus from July 5-7.

Organising chairman of the conference, Bibi Aminah Abdul Ghani said it was an honour for Curtin Sarawak to be the host for the conference as the previous event was held at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) in Kota Samarahan.

Speaking in a press conference at ParkCity Everly Hotel Miri (PEHM) yesterday, Bibi Aminah who is also Senior Lecturer of Curtin Sarawak said the conference provided an ideal knowledge-sharing platform on traditional cultures, beliefs, identities, knowledge and any aspects intrinsic to Borneo which never really disappeared.

She added that people of the land incorporated con-

temporary elements into traditional quintessence in continuously dealing with and adapting to often inevitable change.

The objectives of the conference are to promote Borneo-related research in the social, biological and medical services to enable research communities, government departments and relevant parties to keep abreast of the ongoing research and its results.

It also draws attention to urgent research, findings and conclusions, coordinate the flow of information from diverse sources pertaining to Borneo, disseminate rapidly initial findings and outcomes of research activity as well as inform interested sections of the public about research in Borneo.

"To date, we have received nearly 100 abstracts and papers. More papers are expected to be submitted over the next few weeks," she said.

The paper presenters, among others, are academicians from Australia, United States of America, Russia, Germany, Indonesia, Brunei, Sabah, Sarawak and Japan.



(FROM LEFT) Siti Kasmah, Bibi, Rama and Levas at the press conference.

Among the papers of interest are 'The Migration of Iban', 'History of Brunei' and 'The Lost City of Tanjong Pura'.

Chief Minister Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud is expected to launch the conference on July 5.

The co-organising chairman Rama Venkatasawmy said apart from the main theme, a wide range of sub-themes would be addressed during the plenary sessions and discussion panels.

The sub-themes are biodiversity and ecology, cultural heritage and hybridisation, education and indigenous communities, ethnicity, diversity and identity, gender and social transformation, health and healing, history, anthropology and archaeology, human resources and industrial relations, Information Communication Technology (ICT), Media and Communication, languages, marine resources, migration,

diaporas and border issues, property and land issues, psychology, security issues, sustainable development and tourism.

Thus, Rama who is also a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mass Communication and School of Business Curtin Sarawak welcomes members of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), government bodies and interested members of the public to participate in the

conference.

The daily registration fee for the conference is RM180 per person which includes the day's sessions, conference abstracts/notes, morning and afternoon teas and lunch.

Full registration costs RM350 which includes all sessions, conference abstracts/notes, conference pack, morning and afternoon teas, lunches, welcoming reception and conference dinner.

More information can be obtained via [www.curtin.edu.my/brc2010](http://www.curtin.edu.my/brc2010) or by contacting Levas Mejus at 085-443910 or by emailing the conference secretariat at [brc2010secretariat@curtin.edu.my](mailto:brc2010secretariat@curtin.edu.my).

Also present was a member of the organising committee Siti Kasmah Haji Mohd. Kassim who is also an Associate Lecturer at the School of Foundation & Continuing Studies Curtin Sarawak.