

1997–2004 (IEAS)

The charter of the IEAS is to encourage a deeper understanding of change in the regional and global socio-economic environment. Specifically, the role of the Institute is to facilitate a range of interdisciplinary programs and activities to advance understanding of Borneo/Kalimantan in a regional perspective.

Implementation:

1. Creating an active seminar program to stimulate academic enquiry within UNIMAS, to focus upon research and to link with researchers from outside UNIMAS, and outside Sarawak. To date there have been 96 seminars, led by 57 scholars visiting from overseas, and the balance by local researchers. [See attached list of seminars]
2. Establishing close links with the faculties, centers and institutes of the University, through joint sponsorship of seminars, research projects and supervision of postgraduate students.
3. Compiling a Directory of Scholars researching Borneo/Kalimantan. This directory is now available, with an online facility for updating information, as there are inevitably gaps that can be filled this way.
4. Surveying research published to date, and dissemination in a series of six Bibliographies, that are regularly being updated. These include a Biomedical bibliography and bibliographies of studies on the Malay, Melanau, Kedayan, Iban, Chinese, Bidayuh, Lundayeh–Lun Bawang–Kelabit and Orang Ulu communities.
5. Publishing monographs on topics of contemporary interest. Already 9 has been published (see information below) and three more are in preparation.

2005–2013 (IEAS)

Here are the objectives of the institute:

1. To initiate contemporary research that will enhance understanding of the processes of change. Where possible the IEAS will do so in conjunction with other organizations, and with scholars, both from within and outside Sarawak.
2. To disseminate research findings through the publication of monograph, bibliographies and working papers, and to assist the distribution and marketing of scholarly books produced by Unimas, the Yayasan Budaya Melayu Sarawak, the Sarawak Literary Society, the Borneo Research Council and the Dayak Cultural Foundation. The IEAS has in place a number of exchanges with research institutes throughout the world, and thus acts as a gateway, as a portal for research on Borneo/Kalimantan from a regional perspective.
3. To expand the availability of research materials to local scholars, in order to extend and deepen available holdings on Borneo, available in Borneo.
4. To facilitate the exchange of ideas through an active series of open seminars [to which a broad range of interested persons are regularly invite] convening of international forums, workshops and conferences, and participation of IEAS academic staff in international conferences.

2015 (IBS)

Here are the objectives of the institute:

1. To initiate contemporary research that will enhance understanding of the processes of change. Where possible the IBS will do so in conjunction with other organizations, and with scholars, both from within and outside Sarawak.
2. To disseminate research findings through the publication of monograph, bibliographies and working papers, and to assist the distribution and marketing of scholarly books produced by Unimas, the Yayasan Budaya Melayu Sarawak, the Sarawak Literary Society, the Borneo Research Council and the Dayak Cultural Foundation. The BS has in place a number of exchanges with research institutes throughout the world, and thus acts as a gateway, as a portal for research on Borneo/Kalimantan from a regional perspective.
3. To expand the availability of research materials to local scholars, in order to extend and deepen available holdings on Borneo, available in Borneo.
4. To facilitate the exchange of ideas through an active series of open seminars [to which a broad range of interested persons are regularly invite], convening of international forums, workshops and conferences, and participation of IBS academic staff in international conferences.

2016–2019 (IBS)

Here are the objectives of the institute:

1. Identify and spearhead research activities focusing on communities, organizations and industries in Borneo.
2. To establish a collaborative research network through MoU and MoA with various institutes, universities, government agencies, and organizations across Borneo, Peninsular Malaysia and neighboring countries.
3. To organize programs, courses, workshops, conferences, seminars, colloquia, academic discussion, dialogue sessions related to research as well as sharing of research outputs.
4. To generate revenue by providing consultancy services as well as promoting and marketing of R&D; products.
5. To develop a portal, repository, database, and create web linkages to other research entities in Borneo.
6. To increase visibility and enhance UNIMAS' brand name by upholding scholarly culture in its research activities.

2020 – Present (IBS)

Here at the Institute of Borneo Studies, we strive to build a local and international network that aims to:

1. Provide leadership and support for a range of research Programmes in different areas of Borneo Studies. To this end, the institute serves as a platform for local and international scholars to advance research activities and programmes on Borneo's culture, society, history, industry and the links between society, nature, environment and forces of change on the island of Borneo.
2. Establish a "Borneo Knowledge" repository at the university accessible to scholars/researchers, undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as members of the public.
3. Facilitate collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to overcome Borneo's issues and challenges. Addressing Borneo issues require multilevel collaboration between different political, business, civic and local leaders and drawing upon a variety of disciplines.
4. Create a network of collaborations and partnerships through with universities, research institutions, and non-governmental organisations in Sarawak, Sabah, Brunei and Kalimantan and beyond.
5. Foster and organize dialogues between academics, politicians, businesses, local communities and civil society pertaining to the development, dissemination and application of Borneo knowledge.
6. Organise workshops and forums specifically aimed at providing models, analytical frameworks and conceptual tools that define and shape the direction of Borneo Studies as a target field of inquiry within specific field.