

UNIMAS
UNIVERSITI MAI AYSIA SARAWAK

**INSTITUTE OF
BORNEO STUDIES**



**Sesi pembentangan
kertas kerja bagi
Konferensi
Antaruniversiti Se
Borneo-Kalimantan
Ke-1**

The Institute of Borneo Studies (IBS) was formerly known as the Institute of East Asian Studies (IEAS), and was established on 1st March 1997. As the Institute of East Asian Studies, it was set up to take advantage of the university's strategic location to encourage a deeper understanding of current and projected change in the regional and global socio-economic environment. The institute was the first of its kind in the region in an ASEAN country. Its role was to coordinate and promote a range of interdisciplinary programmes and activities to advance a better understanding of the evolving political economy of the East Asian region in a global context, taking into account the social, cultural, religious and historical character of the nations, states and civilisations in the region. The founding director was Professor Dr Michael Leigh. After more than 25 years of operation, the institute is now led by Professor Dr Poline Bala who is currently serving as the 6th Director for the institute.

In 2015, the institute was renamed to the Institute of Borneo Studies. The renaming gave a renewed and re-energised perspective to the research institute. It evolved to become a research institute that orientates its approach to connects people, sites, values, and the environment across areas (especially the Borneo region).

The Institute advocates a transnational and multi-disciplinary research perspective and collaboration that recognises society's challenges and requires regional efforts to address them. Scientific collaboration between scholars who work from Borneo or regard Borneo as their 'calling' provides the much-needed research and innovation backbone for supporting people's aspirations for a decent life, a quality education, mutual tolerance, and sustainable living.