

Media release

Kuching

28 August 2001

For immediate release

Sarawak hosts the region's first institutional research association conference

The development of post-secondary policy, management and research activities in South-East Asian institutions will be the focus of the region's first South East Asian Association for Institutional Research (SEAAIR) Conference in October.

The conference, to be held in Kuching and jointly organized by Swinburne Sarawak Institute of Technology and Sarawak Development Institute, will be the first one held by SEAAIR, which was formed in 2000.

Dr Zoraini Wati Abas, Chair of the SEAAIR Interim Management Committee, said that the conference was timely, given the priority of education and particularly post-secondary education in the region.

"Governments in the region, including our own in Malaysia and Sarawak, have made it clear that education is a high priority for the development of their countries. This conference is therefore timely in exploring critical topics such as on-line and flexible learning, quality assurance and encouraging research activities across institutions and regions," said Dr Zoraini.

The conference will feature a number of high-profile international speakers, including:

- Professor George Gordon, University of Strathclyde, Scotland
Implementing Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education
- Dr David Woodhouse, Executive Director, Australian Universities Quality Agency
Establishment of the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA)
- Professor M K Tadjudin, Chairman, National Agency for Accreditation of HE, Jakarta
The Indonesian National Accreditation System for Higher Education
- Dr John Muffo, Director, Academic Assessment, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, USA
The efficiency and effectiveness of teaching and learning in the 21st Century
- Puan Zita Hj. Mohd Fahmi, National Accreditation Board (LAN), Kuala Lumpur
What are LAN's plans for the future?

The conference will be held from 23 to 25 October. There is also a professional development workshop on 22 October featuring Dr John Muffo talking on surveys to improve institutional effectiveness.

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For more information on the conference, please contact Ms Caroline Hon, Swinburne Sarawak, tel (6082) 416 353 or email: chon@swinburne.edu.my
Also see www.swinburne.edu.my/seaair.htm for more details.