

Borneo History Seminar opens at ICC

By Sonia K

THE Brunei History Centre under the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports yesterday officially opened the Borneo History Seminar at the International Convention Centre (ICC).

The three-day seminar, themed "Pemuliharaan Sejarah dan Tamadun Borneo: Ke Arah Pengukuhan Negara Bangsa", has been organised in conjunction with the Silver Jubilee celebration of Brunei History Centre.

Present as the guest of honour was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Dewa Major General (R) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awg Hj Mohammad bin Hj Daud.

A welcoming speech was delivered by Dr Muhammad Hadi bin Muhammad Melayong, Deputy Principal of the Brunei History Centre, who is also the chairman of the seminar.

Meanwhile, in the guest of honour's speech, he said if the seminar is taken positively, he is certain that it will raise the morale on the importance of history in nation building.

A person who omits historical facts or is ignorant towards history will always be juvenile or has not grown up. In nation building, it needs to have a mature nation - mature in thinking, taking actions, in differentiating what's precious or not, what's good or sinful in facing various world-wide human behaviours or antics.

In the area of nation building, particularly in strengthening it, history has left three heritages about their brilliance - behavioural heritage, language heritage and art heritage.



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports delivering his speech



Dr Muhammad Hadi presenting his welcoming remark

By combining the three heritages together, for example, such as architecture, philosophy, history, exploration from one continent to another, poems and classical Malay poetry, we will feel the zeitgeist or the passion of that time. Passion is built on the heritage of nation building and this has to be exposed to the current generation because the country that we live in now does not exist in vacuum unless there is unity with passion and linkages to the past generation, the minister added.

He also said that under the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, there are three departments that directly handle such zeitgeist or passion - Brunei Museums, the Language and Literature Bureau and the Brunei History Centre.

These three departments take important roles to bring out the glorious passion of the past, whether through artefacts, monuments or even manuscripts that are related to history, literature and culture.

The minister also hoped that in implementing the said core business, those three agencies will carry out smart partnership to avoid overlapping with work.

The event also saw the main working paper being presented by Pehin Jawatan Dalam Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama Dr Hj Awg Mohd Jamil Al-Sufri, entitled "Tulisan Jawi Alat Penyampaian Ajaran Islam", as well as 13 other working papers by participants, including Prof Dr Syarif Ibrahim Al-Qadrie, Prof Madya Dr Hj Hashim bin Hj Abd Hamid, Mat Zin Mat Kib, Henry Bong, Dr Hj Asbol bin Hj Mail, Dr Yabit Alas and Saat bin Hj Awg Damit.

Today's event will see 27 other papers to be presented, covering a wide area of interesting topics on Brunei and Borneo history.

PHOTOS: SONIA K