

## **SARAWAK STATE OFFICIALS CLOSING THE DIGITAL GAP THROUGH BORNEO ICT4D IN THE FIELD**

Kota Samarahan, 30 September – Fifteen Sarawak state government officials who are currently enrolled in Master in Information Technology Management (MITM) in Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) presented their community-based research projects at the Borneo ICT4D in the Field Symposium. The symposium was held at the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology (FCSIT) on Friday 30 September 2022.

Borneo ICT4D in the Field is a community-centred program organised from 12 to 30 September 2022 and it is one of the enrichment programs specially designed for the first batch of state officials taking MITM. ICT4D stands for Information, Communication & Technology for Development. UNIMAS proposed four research themes that involved Sarawak Digital Economy and its initiatives for the officers to investigate at the community level within the given period. The themes were agriculture, digital services, digital government and ICT.

In the first week of the program, the officers engaged with communities from Kampung Terbat, Kampung Temong Mawang, Kampung Danu & Kuching residents from Taman Lebunda, Taman Demak Indah and Sourabaya Height to find research problems. Focus group discussions between the community representatives and the officers were also conducted to propose ICT-based solutions or methods. After the site visits, the officers then continued to study the findings with supervisors from FCSIT and refine problem statements or reviewing related literature.

The last day of the program is the symposium for the officers to present analyses and to show their proposed solutions in front of panel members who gave feedback on their solutions and supply ideas for way forward.

The symposium was attended by Abang Muhammad Syafiq Abang Mohtar and Dayang Patinas Awang Jos from the Human Resource Development and Management Unit, Sarawak Premier's Department. Dr Dayang Hanani Abang Ibrahim, Deputy Director of Centre for Technical Excellence (CENTEXS) Digital Academy also attended the symposium as one of the panel members.



Research theme: Agriculture; Officers: Stonton Morse, Kenneth Topit, Mohd Amirul & Rezuan Abdul Rashid; Area: Kampung Terbat



Rezuan explaining the computer vision methods for counting fish based on current literature

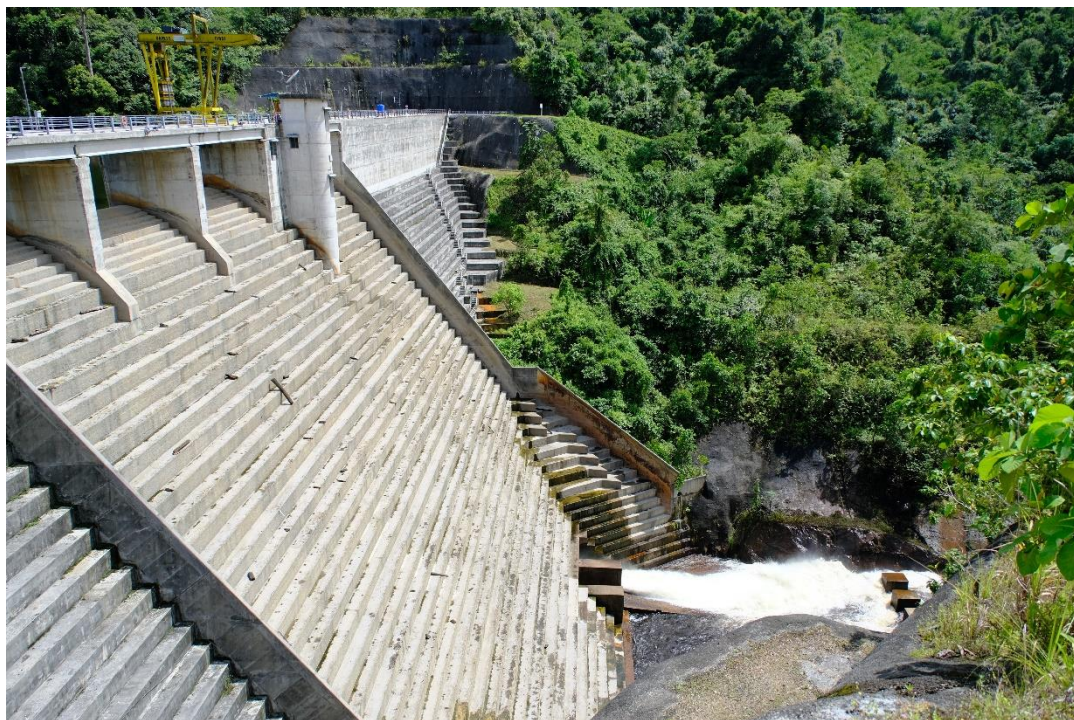


Community briefing led by Mariati Samat to obtain responses from the community about Sarawak's initiatives on digital government for the people





Activities conducted by another group of officers to conduct investigation at Kampung Danu on Bengoh Dam



Bengoh Dam, water catchment area capable of storing 114 million cubic metres of water



Sarawak state officials with UNIMAS FCSIT lecturers at the symposium