Croaking away

The call of frogs offers an important clue to their presence in the forest, useful in spotting them in dense leaf litter, especially when they have camouflage as good as in the Bornean Horned Toad (see top picture). Thus, both sound and sight help participants of the International Bornean Frog Race locate and take winning images of frogs.

Joining forces with Sarawak Forestry Corporation, the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) are hosting the 7th International Bornean Frog Race on April 28. Entry is limited to 100 participants, to reduce stress on the forest trails. Past races have attracted ‘racers’ from 17 countries.

Incorporating fun and educational activities, it promises an enjoyable and memorable time for all! In addition to the station-based learning activities on various conservation themes in the Junior Programme, there will be a guided walk to the enclosures of endangered species with a conservationist at the Matang Wildlife Centre. The centre is dedicated to the rehabilitation of animals such as orang-utans, gibbons, crocodiles, and many more.

The climax of the Race is the photo competition, where participants walk along a predesignated trail within the forests, take winning images and win cash prizes. There will be workshops on photography using cameras and mobile phones, and on sound, especially frog calls. A workshop on art will see artists and art teachers teaching participants art using different mediums.

Main speakers are Prof. Norhayati Ahmad (National University of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur) and Dr. Arvin Diesmos (National Museum of the Philippines).

Other activities include film screenings, lucky draws, a frog memorabilia display, and a live auction.

The 7th International Bornean Frog Race will be held at the Matang Wildlife Centre, about 30km from Kuching City. Taxis and Uber or Grab cars can easily take you there.

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