



“Organic ASIA – The Way Forward”

Innovations, Challenges and Collaboration for the Future!

28th – 31st October 2008

Sarawak Cultural Village, Kuching Sarawak Malaysia

Organised by:



In collaboration with:



Supported by:



SARAWAK
CONVENTION BUREAU





INTRODUCTION:

Organic Asia 2008 – The Way Forward

Sarawak Development Institute in collaboration with Ministry of Modernisation of Agriculture (MOMA) Sarawak, International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is proud to host Organic Asia 2008 from 28th – 31st October 2008 at the Sarawak Cultural Village, Kuching, Malaysia. Themed The Way Forward, the conference in Sarawak will:

- show case innovations in production, processing and market development in the region
- provide input on best practice for organic policy and building sustainable organic sectors in collaboration with UNCTAD and IFOAM
- host policy framework and public - private sector partnerships discussions between stakeholders
- facilitate action planning on harmonisation in organic norms and collaboration in certification to facilitate trade in organic products within the Asia region.

The conference is projected to be the first in a series of regional conferences on Best Practice for Organic Policy and Building Sustainable Organic Sectors in collaboration with IFOAM and UNCTAD.

BACKGROUND

Organic is an accepted concept and a growing trend globally and in the Asia region. Statistics show impressive expansion of the sector in recent years. Driven initially by exports, local markets are taking off in the region. Greater sector growth can be expected in the immediate future.

Market growth in Europe and the USA, which push demand for organic production in the region, is a boon that may turn into a constraint for sector development in the future. Local sector

development in the region is in danger of being constrained by governments' endeavour to establish credibility and gain market access to EU and USA markets through establishing similar regulatory requirements.

Such export inspired requirements, are not all appropriate to the production and sector development conditions in the region. They are likely to inhibit local sector development with stringent production and conformity assessment requirements. Requirements the EU and USA organic industry did not have to contend with at a similar early stage of their own development. Moreover, not all production and processing of organic products in the region in the future, will be exported to the EU, USA or Japan.

Future growth lies within the region

According to the United Nation Conference on Trade and Development [UNCTAD], up to 70 percent of trade in agriculture products in Asia is inter-regional. Although inter-regional trade in organic products is not significant today, it can be expected to match conventional trade flows as the sector further mainstream.

There is a need to review as well as collaborate in regulatory development in the region to avoid obstacles to trade and sector development in the near future.

HOST ORGANISATION'S OBJECTIVES

Organic is a well established trend and niche market in Malaysia. Sarawak, the biggest state in Malaysia, believes organic agriculture offers development opportunities in line with sustainable development initiatives taken to develop the State. Organising this conference provides an opportunity for a large number of interested parties in Sarawak and Malaysians, amongst other participants from the region, to learn about the latest developments related to organic agriculture in the region, develop business or research contacts as well as collaborate in sector development in the region.



PARTICIPATION

The conference offers a great opportunity for all interested parties in the region, i.e. producers, processors, traders, retailers, certification service providers, consultants, researchers, non-governmental organisations, sector associations, civil servants, policy makers, to learn about the latest developments related to organic agriculture, develop business or research contacts as well as collaborate in sector development in the region.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Please refer to our website (www.sdi.com.my) for the conference programme.

Eco-wildlife excursions before and/or after the conference can be arranged upon request.

Table top exhibition

Table top exhibition space for participants and local suppliers will be available on request.

INPUT PARTICIPATION

If you have an innovative production or processing or marketing case or sector development initiative to present, write to Ong Kung Wai, Conference Programme Coordinator at kungwai@tm.net.my.

Deadline: 31st July 2008

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Present your organisation at the conference. Sponsorship packages starting from Euro 1,000 are available. Visit or contact the Conference Secretariat for more information or to discuss different sponsorship options.

THE HOST CITY

Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, Malaysia's largest state, is simply unique. Home to over 26 ethnic groups, the residents of Kuching take great pride in their fascinating city, a pride that is reflected in their attitude to visitors.

General information on Kuching:

- Sarawak, the state of Kuching city covers an area of 125,000 sq. km., the largest of Malaysia's 13 states. It is located in the heart of Southeast Asia, nestled between Peninsula Malaysia to the west and Indonesia to the south and east.
- Sarawak enjoys a tropical climate with average daytime temperatures of 23 to 32 degrees celsius.
- Our national language is Malay, however, English is widely spoken throughout the State.

For more information, please visit www.kuching.net.my or www.sarawaktourism.com

CONFERENCE VENUE

Tucked away on the foothills of legendary Mount Santubong, 35 km away from Kuching is Sarawak's fascinating cultural showcase, the award winning "Sarawak Cultural Village." This living museum depicts the heritage of the major racial groups in Sarawak and conveniently portrays the respective lifestyle amidst 14 acres of equatorial vegetation. Here, it is possible to see Sarawak's ethnic diversity at a glance.

For further information, please visit www.scv.com.my

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title: Prof. Dr. Mr Mrs Ms Others: _____

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Organisation/Company: _____

Designation: _____

Telephone (please include country & area code): _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____

(Street/P.O. Box)

State/Province: _____ Postcode: _____

Country: _____

* Please note that halal and vegetarian food will be served during the conference

"The Conference Secretariat will print delegates' contact details in the list of delegates for distribution to fellow delegates."

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Full Conference Registration: _____ RM480/Euro 96/USD150
Registration fee inclusive of conference refreshments and lunches and conference materials.

Cocktail Reception, 27th October 2008 _____
RM 50/Euro 10/USD15

Theme Gala Dinner, 28th October 2008 _____
RM145/Euro 30/USD45

For accompanying person:

Title: Prof. Dr. Mr Mrs Ms Others: _____

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Conference Meal Package _____ RM 35/Euro 7/USD11 per day
(Include refreshments and lunch only)

Please indicate total day(s) you intend to attend the Conference:
_____ day(s)

Social Program: Cocktail Reception, 27th October 2008
_____ RM 50/Euro 10/USD15

Theme Gala Dinner, 28th October 2008
_____ RM 145/Euro 30/USD45

Total Registration Fees: RM/Euro/USD _____

Mode of Payment:

- Cash
 Service Order (*applicable to Malaysian government sector only*)
 Local Cheque

Only cheque drawn from a Malaysian bank is acceptable and made payable to Sarawak Development Institute. Kindly indicate your name, contact number and Organic Asia 2008 at the back of your cheque

- Telegraphic Transfer

A copy of the transfer instructions must be faxed/mailed to the Conference Secretariat. Transfer instructions must include name of delegate and organisation/company name with full address and contact details

* Payment can be made in Malaysian Ringgit (RM), Euro or US Dollar, Proforma invoice can be provided upon request.

SDI's Banker: Bank Islam (M) Bhd.
Jalan Kulas, 93400 Kuching Sarawak Malaysia
Account number: 11013010019440

Please submit your completed registration form and payment before or by 30th September 2008. Online registration form is also available on www.sdi.com.my

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Yes, I would like to sponsor this event. Please fax/email to me the sponsorship details
 No, I do not want to sponsor this event

CONFERENCE TERMS & CONDITIONS

The Terms are to be read by you together with any terms, conditions or disclaimers provided in these pages.

1. General Terms & Conditions of Registration

These terms and conditions form the basis of the registration between the Conference Secretariat and the conference delegates.

- i. Confirmation of registration will be acknowledged by email or fax within 2 weeks of receiving the completed registration form. Conference participation will only be confirmed upon receipt of the correct payment on or before the said due date as stated in the registration form. Otherwise, the Conference Secretariat will release your booking without further contact being made.
- ii. The Conference Secretariat reserves the right to decline any booking or part thereof.
- iii. Delegates are advised to obtain confirmation from the Conference Secretariat before committing to accommodation and travel arrangements.

2. Payment

- i. Payment may be made by cash, local bank cheque, service order or telegraphic transfer.
- ii. All payments can be made in Malaysian Ringgit (RM), Euro or US Dollar and accompanied by a copy of the completed registration form.

3. Cancellation Policy

- i. Any cancellation must be made in writing and will be acknowledged by email or fax. You may send a substitute person but the Conference Secretariat must be informed in writing at least 2 weeks before the actual date of the conference.
- ii. Conference registration cancelled on or before **30th September 2008** will be entitled to a 50% refund. Registrations cancelled after 30th September 2008 will not be entitled to a refund. All refunds will only be made within 2 months after the Conference.

4. Personal Information

- i. Delegate contact details will be kept on the Conference

Secretariat database for registration purpose only.

- ii. A list of all delegates, their affiliation institutions and email addresses will be included in the delegates list as stated in the registration form.

5. Liability and Personal Property

- i. The Conference Secretariat shall not be liable for:
 - any direct loss, inconvenience or damage to property of the delegates
 - indirect or consequential loss (which include pure economic loss, loss of profits, loss of business, loss of bargain, depletion of goodwill and others)

6. Visa Requirement

- i. No visa is required for a stay of less than one month for nationals of all ASEAN countries except Myanmar. For a stay exceeding one month a visa will be required, except for Brunei and Singapore nationals.
- ii. Commonwealth countries that require visas include Bangladesh, Cameroon, Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

For more visa information, please visit: <http://www.imi.gov.my>

7. Conference Programme

- i. The Conference Secretariat reserves the right to make necessary changes to the programme. Every effort will be made to keep presentations and speakers as presented. However, unforeseen circumstances may result in substitution of a presentation topic and/or speaker.

CONTACT INFO

Conference Secretariat:

Marcella Gider/Rosalind Wong/Lelia Sim

Sarawak Development Institute (SDI)

Kompleks AZAM, Crookshank Road, 93000 Kuching, Sarawak

Tel: + 6 082-415484 / 416484

Fax: +6 082-412799 / 419799

Email: mgider@sdi.com.my/rwong@sdi.com.my/lelia@sdi.com.my

Blog: www.organic-asia.blogspot.com

URL: www.sdi.com.my

ACCOMMODATION

Below is a list of recommended accommodation. Please note that delegates are responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements. Delegates are strongly advised to forward their reservation requests to the SCV/hotel of their preference the soonest possible to secure availability.

| Accommodation | Room Type | * Rate per night RM/Euro/USD |
|--|--|--|
| Theme Village Stay at Sarawak Cultural Village Pantai Damai, Santubong P.O. Box 2632, 93752 Kuching Sarawak T: +6 082 846411 F: +6 082 846 988 E: info@scv.com.my URL: www.scv.com.my | Iban Longhouse Bidayuh Longhouse Orang Ulu Longhouse Melanau Tall House | 86.25/17.30/27 (rate is inclusive of accommodation, breakfast & dinner) |
| Damai Puri Resort & Spa Teluk Penyuk Santubong P.O. Box 3058, 93762 Kuching Sarawak T: +6 082 846900 F: +6 082 846901 URL: www.damaipuriresort.com | Single/Double Rainforest Single/Double Seaview Single/Double Executive Room Single/Double Premier | 260/53/81 290/98/91 320/65/100 350/71/109 |
| Santubong Kuching Resort Jalan Pantai Damai P.O. Box 2364, 93748 Kuching Sarawak T: +6 082 846888 F: +6 082 846666 E: reservation@santubongresort.com URL: www.santubongresort.com | Single/Double Standard Room Single/Double Deluxe King/Queen | 276/56/86 390/80/122 |
| Damai Beach Resort Teluk Bandung Santubong 93756 Kuching Sarawak T: +6 082 846999 F: +6 082 846 763 URL: www.damaibeachresort.com | Single/Double Seaview Deluxe Single/ Double Superior Poolside Single/Double Chalet | 170/35/53 190/39/59 220/45/69 |

* Rates are subject to change. Please confirm with SCV/hotel of your preference