

Asean+3 Youth Environment Champs to meet in Brunei



Student from various schools participating in the National Youth Environment Forum 2010 held at the Goldstone Ballroom, Centrepoint Hotel, Gadong. Picture: BT/Yusri Adanan.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

Thursday, April 15, 2010

BRUNEI will be hosting the "Asean Plus Three Youth Environment Forum 2010 (Ayef)" later this month to promote and exchange environmental ideas among the region's youths.

Scheduled to be held from April 22 to 25, the forum themed "Creating a Climate for Change" is expected to be attended by some 120 participants aged 15 to 25, including 60 from Brunei.

The forum aims to inculcate a sense of ownership of the environment among the young population of the Asean Plus Three countries, while placing emphasis that their well being and the environment lie in their hands.

In addition, the forum can also enhance youths' knowledge and understanding on current and emerging regional environmental issues and cooperative programmes and promote youth participation and involvement in environmental endeavours.

Activities organised to help achieve the forum's objectives include presentations on environmental issues, team-building sessions, country presentations on roles and contributions of youths in environmental protection and management, field trips and dialogue on opportunities and challenges for regional youth cooperation.

Each member country is required to produce a country paper presentation which entails the current status of environmental concerns, including environmental issues and problems and best practices adopted, as well as the initiatives carried by member country youth networks and organisations in addressing the issues.

The paper should also include the importance of the role played by youths in bridging the gap to address challenges of effective environmental management in achieving sustainable development

and suggestions on possible ways and means on how the youth can cooperate together to realise their goal of sustainable development.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Development's Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation held the 2010 National Youth Workshop on Environment yesterday at the Centrepoint Hotel, to prepare the participants for Ayef.

"This (workshop) aims to develop our young population as citizens who are environmentally literate, imbued with environment ethics, willing and capable to play their part to preserve, conserve and utilise the environment in a sustainable manner for the benefits of present and future generations," said Director of Environment, Parks and Recreation Hj Mohd Zakaria Hj Sarudin.

Themed "You(th)s Can Make a Difference", Hj Mohd Zakaria explained that the strategic directions of the workshop are embodied in the three target areas of educating and informing the youths, involving and engaging the participants to take ownership of the environmental protection and conservation stewardship role.

Invited speakers had been scheduled to set the stage for the participants of the two-day workshop on the different aspects to approach environmental issues on reducing carbon footprint, rethinking waste, sustainable food and water resources and conserving biodiversity.

The Brunei Times