



SABAH PORTS SDN BHD COLLABORATES WITH BORNEO MARINE RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON SEAGRASS TRANSPLANTATION PROJECT

Sabah Ports Sdn Bhd (SPSB) has once again engaged Borneo Marine Research Institute (BMRI), University Malaysia Sabah in marine conservation by collaborating on a seagrass transplantation project. The projects involves transplanting seagrass population found within the Sepanggar Bay vicinity to a new location.

The aim of the project is to safeguard Sepanggar Bay's seagrass inheritance from further degradation and impact by future development that is expected to take place within the Sepanggar vicinity. The restoration is expected to increase seagrass coverage at Kota Kinabalu coastal area as well as lend support to marine life habitat.

Early September this year, SPSB had engaged BMRI to conduct preliminary assessment of donor site and it was found that seagrass type *Enhalus Acroides* to be the dominating species.

Moving forward, BMRI's scope of work shall further include a workshop on proper transfer techniques, actual transplantation works and a yearlong monitoring of the relocated seagrass.

The transplantation work is expected to involve members of BMRI's faculty and students, SPSB employees as well as members from the port community.

Since 2012, SPSB and the BMRI have collaborated on various conservation projects which includes safeguarding of coral reef ecology, coral conservation in the Sepanggar area and just last year, BMRI completed the SPSB funded study on the status of heavy metal pollution in coastal sediments of Sepanggar Bay and Kota Kinabalu city.



A sum of RM20, 0000 shall be provided by SPSB for this project as well as the setting up of a seagrass transplanting simulation at BMRI's Aquarium and Museum located within the University's compound.

The cheque handing over ceremony, held on 24th October 2018, was presented by Ms Ng Kiat Min (Group Managing Director, Suria Capital Holdings Berhad cum Managing Director, Sabah Ports Sdn Bhd.) to Professor Dr. Rositah Sapawi (Director, BMRI) on behalf of the Institute.

Contact Person:

Ms. Julia Ismail

Manager, Customer Relations

Tel: 088-483399/013-8866506

Email: julia@spsb.com.my