



28 January 2008

Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad and the State Government of Sabah to implement a forest restoration project in Deramakot Forest Reserve

Recognising the plight affecting one of the most endangered species in Borneo, the *orang utans*, the State Government through the Sabah Forestry Department, has embarked on a forest restoration project to prepare a “new home” for the *orang utans* at the southern part of Deramakot Forest Reserve (DFR), which covers about 500 ha of degraded areas.

As this is a costly undertaking, the State has been actively seeking additional and voluntary funding from various sources, local and abroad. HSBC, as one of the leading international financial institutions in Malaysia, has agreed to participate in this endeavour by providing a grant of RM 200,000 for the next two years. An MoU was signed between the State Government of Sabah, as represented by the Director of Sabah Forestry Department, Datuk Sam Mannan, and HSBC Malaysia Bank Berhad, as represented by Ms Irene M. Dorner, the Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of HSBC, on the 28th January 2008 in Kota Kinabalu.

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Director of Sabah Forestry Department Datuk Sam Mannan exchanging the MoU with HSBC Malaysia's Deputy Chairman and CEO Irene M. Dorner, witnessed by Sabah Forestry Department's Senior Assistant Director Frederick Kugan and Head, Group Communications (Malaysia) & Corporate Sustainability, Elizabeth Wee

The long-term development objective of this Grant is to ensure and to promote the conservation of wildlife, including the *orang utans*, through the development of a Model *orang utans* Conservation Area, with a view of gaining some worldwide recognition on *orang utans* conservation efforts, based on the requirements of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, and to ensure their habitats are sustainable for their continual survival and procreation; as well as to create opportunities for local communities to fully participate in the restoration and conservation of *orang utans* habitats in DFR.

Through such a realization, wildlife will be able to thrive and become an asset for ecotourism. Additionally, income from ecotourism will eventually become a sustainable source for the State and would improve the local villagers' understanding of the importance of protecting wildlife – the *orang utans* in particular.

“Corporate sustainability has long been a fundamental component in HSBC,” said Ms. Dorner. “We believe that our partnership will go a long way towards conserving *orang utans* and its surrounding habitats, as well as in empowering the local communities.”

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