

EVENT PROPOSAL
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES 2026

Theme	: Strengthening Indigenous Rights, Cultural Heritage, Environmental Stewardship, and the Sovereignty of the Dayak Peoples of Borneo for Future Generations
Sub-theme	: Dayak United: Advancing Indigenous Rights, Cultural Heritage, Sustainable Development, and Cross-Border Cooperation in Borneo.
Organized by	: Borneo Dayak Forum (BDF) and Partners
Venue	: KDCA Hall, Penampang, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia
Date	: 21-23 August 2026

1. Executive Summary

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2026 is proposed as an international gathering of the Dayak Peoples of Borneo and partner institutions from Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, and the wider global Indigenous community.

Organized by the Borneo Dayak Forum (BDF) and partners, this event aims to strengthen solidarity among Indigenous Peoples of Borneo, promote the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), preserve Dayak cultural heritage, and formulate strategic recommendations for the protection of Indigenous rights, ancestral territories, traditional knowledge, and sustainable development.

The event will bring together traditional leaders, Indigenous organizations, civil society organizations, academics, youth representatives, women leaders, cultural practitioners, government representatives, and international partners. It is expected to produce the **Kota Kinabalu Declaration 2026**, policy recommendations, and a strengthened cooperation network among Indigenous Peoples of Borneo.

2. Legal Basis and Normative Framework

This event is organized in reference to the following international principles, legal instruments, and institutional frameworks:

1. The Charter of the United Nations, 1945.
2. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
3. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
4. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

5. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007.
6. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030.
7. The UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2003.
8. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
9. The principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent.
10. The Constitution and Bylaws of the Borneo Dayak Forum.

3. Background

Every year, the international community commemorates the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples as a recognition of the invaluable contributions of Indigenous Peoples to human civilization, cultural diversity, environmental sustainability, peace, and social justice.

The Dayak Peoples of Borneo constitute one of the largest Indigenous communities in Southeast Asia. Across Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei Darussalam, Dayak communities possess rich cultural traditions, languages, customary laws, traditional knowledge systems, spiritual values, and sustainable natural resource management practices that have been preserved and transmitted across generations.

For centuries, the Dayak Peoples have maintained deep historical, spiritual, social, cultural, and economic relationships with their ancestral lands, forests, rivers, and territories. These relationships are not merely material, but also form the foundation of Dayak identity, governance, spirituality, livelihood, and collective survival.

However, Indigenous Peoples continue to face major challenges in the modern era. These include environmental degradation, natural resource exploitation, loss of Indigenous languages, weakening of cultural identity, insufficient recognition of customary institutions, limited political participation, and inadequate protection of ancestral lands and territories.

The adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007 affirmed that Indigenous Peoples possess collective and individual rights that must be respected, protected, and fulfilled by States and all relevant stakeholders.

UNDRIP recognizes the rights of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination, cultural identity, traditional institutions, ancestral lands, territories, natural resources, participation in decision-making, and Free, Prior and Informed Consent regarding policies, programs, and projects affecting their communities.

In this context, the Dayak Peoples of Borneo share a common responsibility to preserve their ancestral heritage, strengthen cross-border solidarity, advance Indigenous rights, and ensure that development throughout Borneo remains equitable, inclusive, culturally respectful, and environmentally sustainable.

Therefore, the Borneo Dayak Forum proposes the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2026 as a strategic platform to unite Dayak communities across Borneo, strengthen regional cooperation, promote Indigenous rights, preserve cultural heritage, and formulate a shared agenda for future generations.

4. Vision

To establish the Dayak Peoples of Borneo as a dignified, sovereign, culturally vibrant, and globally recognized Indigenous community contributing to sustainable development, peace, justice, and human progress.

5. Mission

1. To strengthen solidarity among Dayak communities across national borders.
2. To promote the implementation of UNDRIP principles throughout Borneo.
3. To preserve and promote Dayak languages, cultures, customary laws, and traditional knowledge.
4. To support the protection of Indigenous lands, territories, forests, and natural resources.
5. To encourage youth participation in Indigenous leadership and governance.
6. To promote the role of Indigenous women in cultural preservation, leadership, and community development.
7. To expand cooperation among Indigenous Peoples, governments, academic institutions, civil society organizations, and international partners.
8. To contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

6. Objectives

The objectives of this event are:

1. To commemorate the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2026.
2. To strengthen unity and solidarity among the Dayak Peoples of Borneo.
3. To examine the implementation of UNDRIP in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei Darussalam.
4. To promote the recognition and protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights.

5. To develop strategies for preserving Dayak cultural heritage, languages, and traditional knowledge.
6. To strengthen the role of Indigenous youth and women in leadership and sustainable development.
7. To formulate policy recommendations for governments, international institutions, and relevant stakeholders.
8. To establish and strengthen networks among Indigenous communities throughout Borneo.

7. Expected Outcomes

The event is expected to produce the following outcomes:

1. Adoption of the **Kota Kinabalu Declaration 2026**.
2. Development of policy recommendations for the Indigenous Peoples of Borneo.
3. Establishment of the Borneo Indigenous Cooperation Network.
4. Establishment of the BDF Indigenous Youth Network.
5. Strengthening of the BDF Women Council network.
6. Publication of international seminar proceedings.
7. Submission of the Kota Kinabalu Declaration to the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei Darussalam.
8. Submission of the declaration and recommendations to relevant United Nations bodies and international mechanisms concerning Indigenous Peoples.

8. Participants

The event will involve participants from:

1. Dayak communities from Kalimantan, Indonesia.
2. Indigenous communities from Sarawak, Malaysia.
3. Indigenous communities from Sabah, Malaysia.
4. Representatives from Brunei Darussalam.
5. Dayak and Indigenous civil society organizations.
6. Indigenous traditional leaders and community elders.
7. Academics, researchers, and university representatives.
8. Youth and women representatives.
9. Cultural practitioners and artists.
10. Government representatives and policymakers.
11. International Indigenous Peoples' organizations.
12. NGOs, CSOs, and development partners concerned with Indigenous Peoples' rights.

9. Date and Venue

The event will be held as follows :

- Date : 21 – 23 August 2026
- Venue : KDCA Hall, Penampang, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia Timur
- Organizer : Borneo Dayak Forum (BDF) and Partners

10. Proposed Programme

Friday, 21 August 2026		
Time	Programme	Person in Charge
08:00-15:00	Ariival of International Delegations	Local Committee
15:00-19:00	Check in hotel & rest	Hotel
19:00-22:00	Welcome dinner	Local Committee
Saturday, 22 August 2026		
Time	Programme	Person in Charge
08:00-08:30	Participant Registration	Local Committee
08:30-08:45	Traditional Prayer / Bobosian Invocation	Local Committee
08:45-09:00	National and Official Songs	Local Committee
09:00-09:15	Welcoming Dance	Local Committee
09:15-09:30	Report from the Organizing Committee	OC
09:30-10:00	Opening Remarks	President of MADN
10:00-10:30	Opening Remark & Official Opening Ceremony	President of BDF
10:30-11:00	Coffee break, Networking & Seminar Preparation	Committee
11:00-11:30	Session I <i>Indigenous Peoples' Rights in International Perspective: UNDRIP and SDGs</i>	Speaker & Moderator from Kalimantan
11:30-12:00	Session II <i>Roadmap to Monetize Dayak Cultural Assets Globally</i>	Speaker & Moderator from Sarawak
12:00-13:00	Lunch break	Local Committee
13:00-13:30	Dayak Fashion Show Performance	Delegation from Sintang
13:30-14:00	Session III <i>Presentation from Sabah</i>	Speaker & Moderator form Sabah
14:00-14:30	Session IV <i>Credit Union as a Pathway to Indigenous Economic Sovereignty</i>	Speaker & Moderator form Sekadau Regency
14:30-15:00	Session V <i>Dayak Sovereignty in Borneo</i>	Speaker & Narasumber form Ketapang Regency
15:00-16:00	Discussion and Question-and-Answer Session	Committee

16:00-16:30	Closing Session: Reading and Signing of the Kota Kinabalu Declaration 2026, Submission of Recommendations, Closing Remarks, Prayer, and Group Photo	Committee
16:30-18:00	Break	Committee/Hotel
18:00-19:00	Dinner	Local Committee
19:00-21:30	Women Council Talk Show /IICA Pageant/Cultural Night Hosts : <i>Datuk Joanna Datuk Kitingan(Sabah),</i> Guests : <i>Herpina Susana(Vice of Bupati Sanggau Regency), Pancani Gandrung (Women Activist-Palngkaraya, Atiek Judir (Dayak Women Politician), Yunike Wati(Lecturer & Damang Batu Foundation), DR.Hendrika (Ministry of Youth & Tourism Sintang Regency)</i>	BDF Womnen Council (Host)
21:30-onward	Resting	Participants & Hotel
Sunday, 23 August 2026		
Time	Programme	Person in Charge
08:00-21:00	Cultural and Heritage Visit: Kota Kinabalu – Keningau(Batu Sumpah) – Tambunan – Kota Kinabalu	Local Committee
Monday, 24 August 2026		
00:00-00:00	Departure of Delegation / Returns to Home Countries	Participants/NGO

11. Proposed International and Local Committee

Advisory / Responsible Institution	:	BDF & Partners (MADN, DAD, SCRIPS, DNC, GOASS, SADIA, SDNU, SDGA, DBNA, MNC, BHF, Sabang Merah, Duta Muda Dayak, TBBR)
Steering Committee	:	Chairperson: Dr. Benedict Topin Vice Chairpersons: Agustinus Clarus, Richard Lias Members: Prof. Dr. Aswin Usop, Mike Joke, Dr. Hendrika, Susana Herpina, SE. S.Sos.,
Organizing Committee / Local Committee	:	Chairperson: Ambrose Atama Katama; Vice Chairperson: Jefray Jomion; Secretary : Beverly Koh; Vice Secretary: To be confirmed;

		Treasurer : Rizal Johari; Vice Treasurer: To be confirmed;
Working Divisions		
1. Secretariat Division	:	?
2. Local Transportation Division	:	Remy Kessy
3. Media and Publication Division	:	David Ebin
4. Accommodation and Consumption Division	:	?
5. Seminar and Documentation Division	:	?
6. Cultural Performance Division	:	?
7. Protocol and Guest Reception Division 8. Declaration and Recommendation Drafting Team	:	?

12. Strategic Importance of the Event

This event is strategically important for several reasons.

First, it provides a formal international platform for the Dayak Peoples of Borneo to consolidate their collective aspirations and strengthen cross-border cooperation.

Second, it contributes to the promotion and implementation of UNDRIP, particularly in relation to Indigenous rights, self-determination, cultural preservation, traditional territories, and Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

Third, it supports cultural diplomacy by introducing Dayak traditions, knowledge systems, arts, and values to regional and international audiences.

Fourth, it encourages Indigenous youth and women to participate actively in leadership, governance, cultural preservation, and sustainable development.

Fifth, it strengthens the role of Indigenous Peoples in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in the areas of environmental protection, poverty reduction, quality education, cultural preservation, gender equality, peace, justice, and inclusive institutions.

13. Partnership Opportunities

The Borneo Dayak Forum welcomes cooperation with governments, international organizations, universities, Indigenous Peoples' organizations, NGOs, CSOs, cultural institutions, private sector partners, and donor agencies.

Potential areas of partnership include:

1. Event sponsorship.
2. Seminar and conference support.
3. Cultural performance support.
4. Publication and documentation support.
5. Youth and women participation support.
6. Travel and accommodation support for delegates.
7. Media and communication support.
8. Policy research and academic collaboration.
9. Declaration and recommendation drafting support.
10. Long-term Indigenous cooperation network development.

14. Documentation and Publication

The event will be documented through written reports, photography, video recording, media releases, seminar papers, and official proceedings.

The main publications expected from the event include:

1. Official event report.
2. International seminar proceedings.
3. Kota Kinabalu Declaration 2026.
4. Policy recommendations for Indigenous Peoples of Borneo.
5. Media and public communication materials.
6. Digital documentation for institutional archives and international dissemination.

15. Conclusion

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2026 is not merely a ceremonial commemoration. It is a strategic platform for the Dayak Peoples of Borneo to reaffirm their identity, dignity, rights, sovereignty, and responsibility toward future generations.

Through this event, the Dayak Peoples of Borneo reaffirm their commitment to participate actively in the global Indigenous Peoples movement, promote human rights, protect ancestral lands and territories, preserve cultural heritage, strengthen Indigenous governance, and contribute to sustainable development.

The adoption of the Kota Kinabalu Declaration 2026 is expected to become a historic milestone reflecting the collective aspirations, commitments, and recommendations of the Dayak Peoples of Borneo for a just, inclusive, dignified, and sustainable future.

Borneo Dayak Forum and partners therefore invite all relevant stakeholders to support and participate in this important international event for the advancement of Indigenous Peoples' rights, cultural heritage, and sustainable futures throughout Borneo and beyond.

**Prepared by
Borneo Dayak Forum and Partners
Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia 2026**