

Borneo International Beads Conference (BIBCo) 2019

Director's Address

Welcome to the Borneo International Beads Conference. I'm happy to meet you all here, and it's great to know that beads can once again bring together a truly international crowd.

Beads are a big thing in Borneo – always have been – but how much interest is there in beads beyond the shores of our great island?

This is the **sixth** time we are holding BIBCO, so I can say that there *is* a lot of interest in beads! Here you see international bead scholars, collectors and 'fanciers', bead designers, bead workers and, increasingly, bead makers, all looking forward to three days of beads and beading!

One main objective of BIBCo is to bring our indigenous bead artists into the same space as artisans and designers from the wider world. Our foreign guests in turn will go home with some fresh ideas, derived from the great Borneo bead tradition.

BIBCo is also a tourism event, attracting visitors who would never have thought of coming to *Sa-ra-wak*. Now that you are here, do take this chance to look around.

On the academic level, we share and exchange knowledge about bead lore, bead trade, bead history and related sciences. It is now my pleasant duty to introduce our learned speakers to the audience they will face:

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- Dr. Marsha Bol
- Dr. Alok Kumar
- Ibu Siti Musrikah
- Mdm Ritu Sethi
- Mr. Christopher Lim Zamora
- Dr. Linda S.MacIntosh
- Mr. Torben Sode
- Mdm. Dora Jok
- Dr. Margaret Chan
- Mdm Niyati Kukadia

Thank you for travelling, far in some cases, to attend the Borneo International Bead Conference.

I thank our generous sponsors:

- the State Ministry of Arts, Tourism and Culture
- the State Ministry for Welfare, Community, Women, Family and Childhood Development
- Sarawak Energy Berhad
- our indigenous community associations
- Malaysian Pepper Marketing Board
- Sarawak Crafts Council
- (and) Kraftangan Malaysia

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I also thank our guest of honour for making time for us in his notoriously busy schedule. But above all, I thank my hard-working, long-suffering committee and our many helpers!

Special thanks to our speakers for getting their papers ready in time for printing in the Journal, and our editor and publication manager for pulling it all together into a handsome volume.

But enough from me. When the conference starts, and you'll see that our speakers know much more interesting stuff than I do.

Thank you and enjoy the conference.

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