

Rabies in Borneo 2025

Rabies-Free Borneo: Uniting People, Animals and Communities

30th September – 1st October 2025 | Borneo Convention Centre Kuching

Building on past successes, the Rabies in Borneo (RIB) 2025 conference will be the premier platform for advancing community rabies prevention and control across the region. This pivotal event in Kuching will unite global and local experts – including researchers, practitioners, policymakers, WHO, government, NGOs and community leaders – for a dynamic exchange of cutting-edge knowledge and best practices. With the strong support of the Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak, RIB 2025 aims to foster knowledge sharing, inspire innovative solutions, and cultivate sociocultural practical strategies, serving as a crucial step towards achieving the Sarawak government's ambitious goal of a Rabies-Free Sarawak by 2030 and a healthier, safer future for all of Borneo and the region.

RIB 2025 will focus on key themes that are essential to achieving sustainable rabies elimination. These include:

- **One Health Approaches to Sustainable, Cross-border Rabies Elimination**
- **Rabies Education, Awareness, and Capacity Building in Schools and Communities**
- **Surveillance of Bite-related Incidents and Strategies for Effective Resourcing**
- **Wildlife, Ecology, and Rabies Transmission Dynamics**
- **Epidemiology and Risk Assessment of Rabies in the Region**
- **Diagnostics, Surveillance Systems, and Laboratory Network Strengthening**

By integrating these core areas, the conference will provide a multidisciplinary platform for participants to engage in meaningful dialogue, forge partnerships, and translate knowledge into impactful action. RIB 2025 is more than a conference—it is a collective movement toward eliminating rabies and ensuring a safer future for communities across Borneo and beyond.

Target Audience	: 400 pax
Conference Elements	: Keynote Address, Plenaries, Forums,
Social Events	: Gala Dinner, Networking Tea Break, Conference Lunch

Programme is subject to change

Day 1 | 30th September 2025, Tuesday

Time	Programme
07:00 – 09:00	Registration & Morning Breakfast
09:10 – 09:15	Energiser
09:15 – 09:20	CONFERENCE WELCOME BY CONFERENCE CONVENOR Mona Abdul Manap <i>Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Place Borneo Sdn. Bhd.</i>
09:20 – 09:40 (20m)	PLENARY 1 Towards a Rabies-Free ASEAN: Operationalising the Zero by 30 Global Strategy Dr Gyanendra Gongal (Nepal) <i>Senior Public Health Officer, World Health Organisation Regional Officer for South-East Asia, New Delhi</i>
Launching Ceremony of RIB Conference by Premier of Sarawak	
10:00	ARRIVAL OF GUEST OF HONOUR The Honourable Datuk Amar Prof Dr Sim Kui Hian <i>Deputy Premier and Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government Sarawak (MPHLG)</i>
10:10 (10m)	SPECIAL ADDRESS YBhg. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah <i>Chairman, UCSI Healthcare Group</i>
10:20 (15m)	SPEECH BY The Honourable Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi Utom <i>Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development Sarawak (M-FICORD)</i>
10:35 – 11:10	KEYNOTE ADDRESS Rabies-Free Borneo: Uniting People, Animals and Communities The Honourable Datuk Amar Prof Dr Sim Kui Hian <i>Deputy Premier and Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government Sarawak (MPHLG) representing</i>

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Day 1 | 30th September 2025, Tuesday

Time	Programme
	The Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg <i>Premier of Sarawak</i>
11:10 – 12:00	Official Launch of Rabies in Borneo 2025 (RIB 2025)
	MoU Exchange Ceremony
	Announcement of Rabies in Asia (RIA) 2026
	Memento Presentation
12:00 – 13:20	Conference Lunch
	Press Conference
	Exhibition Walkabout
12:30 – 13:30	VIP Lunch
13:20 – 13:30	Energiser
13:30 – 13:50 (20m)	PLENARY 2 Understanding Rabies Transmission: One Health Practices Drh Wendi Prameswari (Indonesia) <i>Senior Programme Officer of One Health & Welfare, Yayasan Inisiasi Alam Rehabilitasi Indonesia (YIARI)</i>
13:50 – 14:30 (40m)	KEYNOTE 1 Public Health Crisis Management YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah (Malaysia) <i>Chairman, UCSI Healthcare Group</i>

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Day 1 | 30th September 2025, Tuesday

Time	Programme
14:30 – 14:50 (20m)	PLENARY 3 Public Health Approach Dr Ho Ai Chia (Malaysia) <i>Public Health Consultant Physician, Sarawak State Health Department</i>
14:50 – 15:10 (20m)	PLENARY 4 Empowering Communities: Education and Behavioural Change as Tools for Rabies Prevention Dr Harish Tiwari (India) <i>DBT-Wellcome India Alliance Intermediate Fellow; Founder & Director, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati; JH CreIndia Foundation</i>
15:10 – 15:30 (20m)	PLENARY 5 Cross-Border Collaboration for Rabies Control: Lesson from Regional Initiatives Dr Ahmad Mike Ariyanto (Indonesia) <i>Veterinary Officer, Plantation and Livestock Agency of West Kalimantan Province</i>
15:30 – 16:30 (1h)	FORUM 1 Sustainable One Health Actions for Rabies Prevention and Elimination This session will discuss innovative and sustainable strategies for rabies prevention and elimination, focusing on the One Health approach that integrates human, animal, and environmental health. Let's work together for a healthier world. Panellist Dr Gyanendra Gongal (Nepal) <i>Senior Public Health Officer, World Health Organisation Regional Officer for South-East Asia, New Delhi</i> Dr Karma Rinzin (Bhutan) <i>Regional Animal Health Coordinator, World Organisation for Animal Health, Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia</i> Dr Ahmad Mike Ariyanto (Indonesia) <i>Veterinary Officer, Plantation and Livestock Agency of West Kalimantan Province</i>

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Day 1 | 30th September 2025, Tuesday

Time	Programme
	4. Drh Wendi Prameswari (Indonesia) <i>Senior Programme Officer of One Health & Welfare, Yayasan Inisiasi Alam Rehabilitasi Indonesia (YIARI)</i> Moderator Dr Chuo Hock Tieng (Malaysia) <i>Assistant Director of Animal Health Division, Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak</i>
16:30 – 16:50 (20m)	PLENARY 6 Epidemiological Trends and Risk Assessment: Insights for Targeted Interventions Dr Melanie Pescadilla (Philippines) <i>City Veterinarian, Local Government Unit of Bais City</i>
16:50 – 18:30	Networking Cocktail Reception
18:30 – 22:00	Welcoming Gala Dinner <i>Theme: Cowboy Night</i>

Programme is subject to change

Day 2 | 1st October 2025, Wednesday

Time	Programme
07:30 – 08:50	Morning Breakfast
08:50 – 08:55	Energiser
08:55 – 09:00 (5m)	OPENING REMARKS BY SCIENTIFIC CHAIRPERSON Dr Andrea Leigh Britton <i>One Health Consultant & Director, Ultimate Efficacy Consulting, Public Health Association Australia, Adelaide University Australia</i> <i>RIB 2025 Scientific Chairperson</i>
09:00 – 09:40 (40m)	KEYNOTE 2 Post-Elimination Rabies Strategy Dr Karma Rinzin (Bhutan) <i>Regional Animal Health Coordinator, World Organisation for Animal Health, Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia</i>
09:40 – 10:00 (20m)	PLENARY 7 Milestone in Operationalising One Health in Rabies Management Prof Dr Rasitasam @ Razitasham binti Safii (Malaysia) <i>Public Health Medicine Specialist, Department of Community Health, Kulliyah of Medicine of International Islamic University Malaysia</i>
10:00 – 10:20 (20m)	PLENARY 8 Molecular Solutions to Rabies Diagnostic and Spillover Tracing Prof Dr David Perera (Malaysia) <i>Director, Institute of Health & Community Medicine, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak</i>

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Day 2 | 1st October 2025, Wednesday

Time	Programme
10:20 - 11:20 (1h)	FORUM 2 Rabies Education in Schools: What Works and What's Next? This forum will explore effective strategies and future directions for educating students about rabies prevention and control. Let's empower the next generation with the knowledge to prevent rabies. Panellists Dr Melanie Pescadilla (Philippines) <i>City Veterinarian, Local Government Unit of Bais City</i> Dr Harish Tiwari (India) <i>DBT-Wellcome India Alliance Intermediate Fellow; Founder & Director, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati; JH CreIndia Foundation</i> Mrs Denni Rajagukguk S.S, M.I.Kom (Indonesia) <i>Founder, Friends Against Rabies (SAR)</i> Moderator YBhg Datin Dona Drury Wee (Malaysia) <i>President, Sarawak Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA)</i>
11:20 - 11:40 (20m)	PLENARY 9 Investing in Rabies Elimination: Policy, Financing and Sustainable Programme YBhg Datu Dr Adrian Susin Ambud (Malaysia) <i>Director, Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak</i>

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Day 2 | 1st October 2025, Wednesday

Time	Programme
11:40 – 12:00 (20m)	PLENARY 10 The Roles of Local Authorities in Rabies Elimination Programme Mr Sumi Linggi (Malaysia) <i>Assistant of Environmental Health Officer, Padawan Municipal Council</i>
12:00 – 13:00 (1h)	FORUM 3 Updates on Rabies and its Elimination Strategy in Malaysia This forum will provide the latest updates on rabies in Malaysia and discuss strategies for its elimination. Our experts will share insights on current challenges, successful interventions, and future plans to achieve rabies-free status in Malaysia Panellist Dr Nicholas Jenek (Malaysia) <i>Deputy Director, Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak</i> Dr Khairina Akmar (Malaysia) <i>Head Assistant Director, Department of Veterinary Malaysia</i> Dr Connie Joyce Tann (Malaysia) <i>Deputy Director, Department of Veterinary Services Sabah</i> Moderator YBhg Datu Sirai Daha (Malaysia) <i>Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development Sarawak (M-FICORD)</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Conference Lunch
14:00 – 14:05	Energiser

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Day 2 | 1st October 2025, Wednesday

Time	Programme
14:05 – 14:25 (20m)	PLENARY 11 Collaboration Partnership Dr Nur Indah Ahmad (Malaysia) <i>Senior Lecturer (Veterinary Public Health) & Head of Department, Department of Veterinary Pathology and Microbiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universiti Putra Malaysia</i>
14:25 – 14:45 (20m)	PLENARY 12 Immune Belt Enforcement Team Presentation Tuan Kinsi Bilu (Malaysia) <i>Assistant Director, Sarawak Security and Enforcement Unit (UKPS)</i>
14:45 – 14:55 (10m)	PAPER PRESENTATION 1 Urban and Rural Methods for Dog Census Dr Karma Rinzin <i>Regional Animal Health Coordinator, World Organisation for Animal Health Bangkok, Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia</i>
14:55 – 15:05 (10m)	PAPER PRESENTATION 2 Gaps in Rabies Surveillance System in Nepal Dr Rakesh Chand <i>University of Cambridge, United Kingdom</i>
15:05 – 15:15 (10m)	PAPER PRESENTATION 3 Genomic Sequencing for Surveillance Dr Kenneft Wong <i>Sarawak Infectious Disease Centre</i>
15:15 – 15:25 (10m)	PAPER PRESENTATION 4 Oral Baiting and Culling Strategies for Dog-Mediated rabies Outbreaks: A Modelling Framework for Control Asst Prof Borame L Dickens <i>National University of Singapore</i>

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Day 2 | 1st October 2025, Wednesday

Time	Programme
15:25 – 15:35 (10m)	PAPER PRESENTATION 5 Factors Influencing Pet Owners' Decision to Vaccinate Their Pets Against Rabies in Sipitang, Sabah Ms Amira Daniela Mu'iz binti Jamain <i>University Malaysia Sabah, Malaysia</i>
15:35 – 15:55	Afternoon Tea Break
15:55 – 16:00	Energiser
16:00 – 17:00 (1h)	FORUM 4 RIB 2025 LESSONS & RECOMMENDATIONS This session covers our discussions over the two days and our actions moving forward. Let's not let our conversations stop at this conference but be the start of our collaborative efforts to achieve a rabies-free Borneo. Panellist Dr Ho Ai Chia (Malaysia) <i>Public Health Consultant Physician, Sarawak State Health Department</i> Dr Gyanendra Gongal (Nepal) <i>Senior Public Health Officer, World Health Organisation Regional Officer for South-East Asia, New Delhi</i> Ida Bagus Surya Prabhawa Manuaba, S.H., M.H., NL. P (Indonesia) <i>Darmasaba Village Leader, Darmasaba Village Government</i> Dr Karma Rinzin (Bhutan) <i>Regional Animal Health Coordinator, World Organisation of Animal Health Bangkok</i> YBhg Datin Dona Drury Wee (Malaysia) <i>President, Sarawak Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals</i>

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Day 2 | 1st October 2025, Wednesday

Time	Programme
	Moderator Dr Andrea Leigh Britton (Australia) <i>One Health Consultant & Director, Ultimate Efficacy Consulting, Public Health Association, Adelaide University Australia</i> <i>RIB 2025 Scientific Chairperson</i>
17:00 – 17:15	CLOSING REMARKS BY ORGANISING CHAIRPERSON YBhg Datu Dr Adrian Susin Ambud <i>Director, Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak</i> RIB 2025 LUCKY DRAW
17:30	End of RIB Conference 2025

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