

READ ME : SARAWAK
JUNE 17 2010
To: David Lancashire

David - Not sure what you would want - but If I was arguing for a conference location with all its amenities of a global standard but one which also challenges participants to reflect on design and it's practice in a place -

where the magnificent fragility of the environment and human culture are a back drop
where nature is an overt and ever present phenomena in the city (3- 4 metres of rain 22 >32 C pa
- rainforest + mould)
where multi-culturism has been an ongoing successful experiment for centuries
(3-4 languages in common use and English a required language)
where traditional rainforest born crafts are fast approaching a possibly terminal intersection
with technology and modernity
where a local vernacular graphic design and language evolves spontaneously and vigorously
alongside/despite global marketing strategies
where superb indigenous architecture is lost in time and the forest
where the clouds are an engrossing narrative
where eating is a pleasure to be enjoyed in public .
where orangutang are considered citizen
where tattoos are indigenous
where the people are so nice
where Islam is the 'state' religion but evangelical christianity roams free and beer is generally ok.

Sarawak is a good place.

Kuching is also strikingly beautiful - to this traveller - small - an invention of necessity
not empire - 600,00 people - everything within walking or affordable taxi ride distance
- including the beach - the mountains.

After 10 weeks in Sarawak I know it is a place to hold onto - An island that time didn't forget
but to a large extent allowed it to remain a pretty manageable micro version of the world - where all the human experiments
- successful and unsuccessful from neolithic onward have happened and at many levels are continuing
to happen parallel with the unselfconscious uptake not invasion of modernity.

Some random urls below including sape.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Msd_Dn3-ar0&feature=related

Don't forget
anthonyfward.wordpress.com for pics

best regards
AFW

<http://www.2malaysia.com/sarawak/places.htm>.

<http://www.scv.com.my/>

<http://www.edricong.com/aboutus.html>

<http://www.museum.sarawak.gov.my/textilefile/mid.htm>

http://www.textiletravels.com/malay/international_ikat_forum.htm

http://www.rainforestmusic-borneo.com/web/en/about_rwmf.htm