

## Chapter

# 2

## General Information

### 2.1 General

This Chapter introduces the proposed Project, the Project Proponent, the SEIA consultants and the public hearing processing under the SEIA guidelines in Sabah.

### 2.2 The Proposed Project

The proposed Project is titled "*The Proposed Oil Palm Plantation (OPP) and Industrial Tree Plantation (ITP) Development at Benta Wawasan I and Benta Wawasan IIC, Yayasan Sabah Forest Management Area, Kalabakan and Gunung Rara Forest Reserves, Tawau District, Sabah*". For brevity in this SEIA report, the proposed Project will be referred to as the "Proposed Plantation", the "Proposed Oil Palm and Tree Plantation" or simply, the "OPP and ITP development".

The proposed Oil Palm and Tree Plantation Project area is about 109,600 ha and is made up of the Benta Wawasan Licence Area<sup>2a</sup> I and IIC (see **Figure 2.2.1**). Out of this total area, approximately 80,000 ha are expected to be planted with oil palm. The rest will either be tree plantation or non-operable areas. For information, the ITP development has already been covered in an SEIA<sup>2b</sup> submitted and subsequently approved by the Environmental Protection Department Sabah in April 2003. Most of the team members selected to conduct the assessments for this SEIA are also those who have previously conducted extensive studies at the Project area.

Other environmental reports related to the proposed Project area include an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the timber harvesting operations in Benta Wawasan Licence Area (1998-1999) and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the timber harvesting operations in Benta Wawasan Licence Area (2000-2001). Both of these have been submitted to the Environment Protection Department (EPD), Sabah in February and June 2001, respectively for approval (see **Figure 2.2.2** for location of logging coupes). Compliance monitoring of the logging operation is being

<sup>2a</sup> Benta Wawasan Sdn Bhd, (BWSB), a wholly owned subsidiary of Innoprise Corporation Sdn Bhd. (ICSB) was incorporated in 1996. It has entered a "Tree Plantation and Forest Management Agreement" (TPFMA) with the Chief Minister of Sabah on 24 April 1996, and a Supplemental Agreement on February 15, 1999. The total area under the said licence agreement is about 306,310 ha.

<sup>2b</sup> Special Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) for the Proposed Sino-Malaysia JV Forest Plantation at Kalabakan and Gunung Rara Forest Reserves, Tawau District, June 2002. This SEIA is for Industrial Tree Plantation of *Acacia mangium* covering on area of 241,400 ha, of which the eastern portion covers the whole for this proposed Project.

carried out by the Rakyat Berjaya Sdn Bhd<sup>2c</sup> – a subsidiary of Innoprise Corporation Sdn Bhd<sup>2d</sup> (ICSB) in accordance with the conditions set forth by the Environment Protection Department (EPD), Sabah.

## 2.3 The Project Proponent

### 2.3.1 Address and Contact Person

The development of oil palm plantation will be carried out by three (3) major parties, i.e. 1) Yayasan-Melaka JV, 2) Ratus Awansari Sdn Bhd JV and 3) the Yayasan Sabah Group (YSG) with Sabah Softwoods Bhd as main advisor. The development of tree plantation, on the other hand, will be carried out mainly by Innoprise Corporation Sdn Bhd at a much later stage. The main initiator of this SEIA, however, is **Benta Wawasan Sdn Bhd**, with the address and as the management consultant contact person as follows:

**Benta Wawasan Sdn Bhd**

Level 12, Wisma Innoprise, Teluk Likas,

P. O. Box 11623

88817 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

Tel: + 60 (088) 326 507/8

Fax: + 60 (088) 233 672/ 326 510

Contact Person: **Mr. Cyril Pinso**

Designation: Group Manager, Agro-Plantation Division, YSG cum Director, Benta Wawasan Sdn Bhd

## 2.4 The SEIA Consultants

Chemsain Konsultant Sdn Bhd (with EPD's registration number: **F001**) has been appointed as the principal consultant for this SEIA. The address and contact person for Chemsain Konsultant Sdn Bhd is as follows:

**Chemsain Konsultant Sdn Bhd**

Lot 5, B1-1 and B1-2, 1st & 2nd Floor

Block B, Iramanis Centre, Jalan Lintas

88450 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

Tel:+ 60 (088) 381277 Fax: +60 (088) 381280

Contact Person: **Dr. John Chan**

Designation: Director

The list of team members involved in the preparation of the SEIA report, together with their fields of expertise and registration details are shown in **Table 2.4.1**.

<sup>2c</sup> Rakyat Berjaya Sdn Bhd (RBJ), a wholly owned subsidiary of ICSB is established to manage the forest concession of YS under the Sustainable Forest Management Licence Agreement (SFMLA) and the TPFMA of BWSB.

<sup>2d</sup> Innoprise Corporation Sdn Bhd (ICSB) was incorporated in 1998 as the investment vehicle of Yayasan Sabah (YS) (or Sabah Foundation) as well as the management and holding company of the YS's group of companies. The company undertakes a range of forest management activities including logging, transport, timber processing, forest products marketing and reforestation and other businesses sector such as transportation, real estate, hospitality and eco-tourism (Source: Innoprise Corporation Sdn Bhd, 2001).

**Table 2. 4.1: SEIA Study Team**

No.	Personnel	Qualification	Area(s) of Input	Signature
1.	Ir. Brian S.H. Chong Reg. No: S 0002 Date of Expiry: 30.09.05	M. Sc. Env. Eng. B.Sc. Eng. (Civil)	Project Director & Waste Mgmt.	
2.	Rebecca T. F. Poong Reg. No.: S 0008 Date of Expiry: 30.09.05	B. Sc. (Env. Sc.)	Project Co-ordinator & Land Use	
3.	Dr. John S.T. Chan Reg. No.: S 0001 Date of Expiry: 30.09.05	Ph.D. Chemistry B.Sc. (Hons) Chemistry	Water Quality & Monitoring Plan	
4.	Dr. Edwin Jack Bosi Reg. No.: S 0096 Date of Expiry: 03.02.06	Masters of Philosophy Dr. of Vet. Med. Dip. Animal Health & Production	Fauna Ecology	
5.	Dr. Yap Son Kheong Reg. No.: S 0094 Date of Expiry: 03.02.06	Ph.D. Forest Biology B.Sc. Botany	Flora Ecology & Forest Resources	
6.	Lim Sze Fook Reg. No.: S 0005 Date of Expiry: 30.09.05	B.Sc. (Hons) Physics	Air Pollution and Green House Effects	
7.	Geh Poh Kong Reg. No.: S 0099 Date of Expiry: 07.02.06	B.Sc. (Hons) in Geology	Geology, Slope Stability & Erosion Risk	
8.	Hong Kee Ann Reg. No.: S 0097 Date of Expiry: 03.02.06	M. Eng. Water Sc. B. Sc. (Agricultural Engineering)	Hydrology	
9.	Soren Beck Reg. No.: S 0095 Date of Expiry: 03.02.06	M. Sc. Political Sc. & Econ.	Environmental Cost and Benefit Analysis	

No.	Personnel	Qualification	Area(s) of Input	Signature
10.	Peter Chang Reg. No.: S 0003 Date of Expiry: 30.09.05	B.Sc. (Hons) Marine Biology & Zoology	Aquatic ecology	
11.	Kueh Hong Siong Reg. No.: S 0098 Date of Expiry: 03.02.06	B. Sc. (Agriculture Sc.)	Agronomy & Plantation Dvpt.	
12.	Tan Shwu Mei Reg. No.: S 0009 Date of Expiry: 30.09.05	M. Env. Mgmt. B.A. (Hons) Anthro. & Socio.	Human Environment & Socio Economics	
13.	Anthony Rentap Enchana Reg. No.: S 0004 Date of Expiry: 30.09.05	M.Sc. EIA Adv. Dip. Applied Chemistry Dip. Sc	Environmental Management Plan	
14.	Shahrel B. Bohari Reg. No.: S 0052 Date of Expiry: 14.11.05	B. Sc. (Environment)	Fire Risk, Emergency Response Plan & Occupational Safety & Health	
15.	Fitzer Ford Anastasius Reg. No.: S 0086 Date of Expiry: 26.09.05	B. Eng. (Chem.)	Infrastructure & Utilities	
16.	Lawrence L. H. Ng Reg. No.: S 0059 Date of Expiry: 08.01.06	B. Sc. (Comp. Sc.)	Noise & GIS	

## 2.5 Public hearings

As this report is a Special-EIA, it needs to comply with the Environment Protection Department (EPD) Sabah's requirement for public hearing procedures is a two-stage opportunity to enable the public to provide inputs and comments for this SEIA.

- *Stage 1- TOR for Special EIA - Suggestions as to the issues the Special-EIA should consider, thus ensuring that the TOR for the Special-EIA address the main issues and concerns.*

The draft TOR for this SEIA was announced on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February 2005 in the Daily Express, Sabah, New Sabah Times and the EPD homepage (<http://www.sabah.gov.my/jpas>) providing an opportunity for the public to comment on the forthcoming SEIA. The public was given a period of 14 days (from 21<sup>st</sup> February to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2005) to give his/her written comments to the EPD either by mail or via the EPD homepage. The consultants are required to provide a written reply or response to those comments and details of the comments are attached in **Annex D** at the end of this report.

- *Stage 2 - Assessment of Special EIA reports. Comments on the validity and relevance of the assessments and proposed mitigation and monitoring measures.*

As for this Stage of the public hearing, a one-month period is given to the public for the assessment of the reports. The hearings will be announced in the local newspapers. The TOR and the Special-EIA reports will be made available from the Project Proponent, the EPD office and homepage of EPD (<http://www.sabah.gov.my/jpas>). Comments from the public shall be sent to EPD and the EIA consultant will provide a written reply to the comments. Replies will be made available at the EPD office and homepage. The EPD will take into consideration the comments and the replies and will include relevant public concerns in the TOR or in the Agreement of Environmental Conditions.

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