

**SARAWAK CORRIDOR OF RENEWABLE ENERGY  
(SCORE) PROJECT IN SARAWAK AND ITS IMPACT  
TOWARDS THE PENAN COMMUNITY,  
UPPER BARAM, MIRI, SARAWAK**



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DECEMBER 2014**

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to examine and analyse the political, economic, social and cultural implications of the SCORE Project towards the Penan community, with particular focus on Upper Baram, Sarawak. This research work used the human security theory which is apart of the non-traditional security issues. The actors involve in this study are Sarawak government, non-state actors such as Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM), Bruno Manser Fonds, *Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia* (JOAS) and *Sahabat Alam Malaysia* (SAM) and the Penan community in Upper Baram, Sarawak. It is divided into four parts. The first part looked at the political implications of the SCORE Projects towards the Penan Community. These included: lack of participation decision-making process on the part of the Penan Community, marginalization and the changes align with the development process. The second part looked at the the economic effects of the said projects such as hunting, fisheries and agriculture. The third part looked at its social implications such as the facilities, ethnic identity and land ownership. The last part looked at the cultural implications of the SCORE Project like heritage, traditions and identity of the Penan people in Upper Baram, Sarawak. The data for this study were collected from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data includes the data from the government official website, speeches and report. Questionnaires were also distributed to extract much needed information. The secondary data includes the books, journals and newspapers. The study found out that there are several far-reaching implications of the SCORE Project towards the Penan community in Upper Baram, Sarawak. The SCORE Project brought changes that affected the traditional lifestyle of the Community through the introduction of modern lifestyle in the area. These contradictions led to a protracted conflict between the Penan Community and the developers of the SCORE Projects.

Keywords: *Penan community, human security, politics, economics, social and cultural*

## ABSTRAK

Tujuan kajian ini dijalankan adalah untuk mengkaji dan menganalisa impak Projek SCORE terhadap politik, ekonomi, sosial dan kebudayaan komuniti Penan di Ulu Baram, Sarawak. Kajian ini menggunakan teori keselamatan manusia yang merupakan sebahagian daripada isu keselamatan bukan tradisional. Entiti yang terlibat dalam kajian ini adalah kerajaan Sarawak dan bukan kerajaan seperti Suruhanjaya Hak Asasi Manusia (SUHAKAM), Bruno Manser Fonds, Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia (JOAS) dan Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) serta komuniti Penan di Ulu Baram, Sarawak. Kajian ini dibahagikan kepada empat bahagian. Bahagian pertama akan memfokuskan kepada impak terhadap politik yang merangkumi kekurangan penglibatan komuniti Penan dalam proses membuat keputusan, peminggiran dalam penglibatan politik dan perubahan yang disebabkan proses pembangunan. Bahagian kedua akan memfokuskan kepada kesan terhadap ekonomi seperti aktiviti pemburuan, perikanan dan pertanian. Bahagian ketiga akan memfokuskan kepada implikasi sosial seperti kemudahan sosial, identiti etnik dan pemilikan tanah. Bahagian terakhir melihat kepada implikasi ke atas kebudayaan seperti warisan, tradisi dan identiti orang Penan di Ulu Baram, Sarawak. Data kajian ini diperolehi daripada data primer dan data sekunder. Data primer termasuklah data daripada laman rasmi kerajaan, teks ucapan dan laporan. Soal selidik juga dijalankan bagi memperoleh maklumat tambahan. Data sekunder pula terdiri daripada buku, jurnal dan surat khabar. Dapatan kajian mendapati terdapat beberapa implikasi kesan daripada Projek SCORE terhadap komuniti Penan di Ulu Baram, Sarawak. Projek SCORE telah membawa perubahan ke atas gaya hidup tradisional komuniti Penan menerusi penerapan masuk gaya hidup moden di kawasan tersebut. Percanggahan gaya hidup ini turut membawa kepada konflik yang berlarutan di antara komuniti Penan dan pihak pemaju Projek SCORE.

*Kata kunci: komuniti Penan, keselamatan manusia, politik, ekonomi, sosial dan kebudayaan.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, Most Merciful. First, I would like to express my appreciation to Allah, the Most Merciful and the Most Compassionate who has granted me the ability and willing to start and complete this study to fulfill the requirement for a postgraduate degree Master of Science (Strategic Studies).

First and Foremost, I would like to thank my supervisor, **Dr. Shamsuddin L.Taya**, for his support and backed the project and play a large role in completing this thesis. Thank you so much for the guidance, encouragements, suggestions, comments, and assistances for the whole period of writing process for this thesis. Your kind advice encouraged me to do further research in future.

Not to forget, I am indebted to my family especially to my importance person in life, my parents **Aidi Bin Helmi** and **Fatimah Binti Ibrahim** for giving me chance, more support and more time to complete this final report. And I am deeply thankful to my siblings and friends who touched my heart and gave me strength to move forward to something better. Thank you for everything.



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## List of Abbreviations

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| ADB     | Asian Development Bank                             |
| BMF     | Bruno Manser Fund                                  |
| CHS     | Commission on Human Security                       |
| DBP     | <i>Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka</i>                    |
| EIA     | Environmental Impact Assessment                    |
| FDS     | Flying Doctor Service                              |
| GNP     | Gross National Product                             |
| IHAS    | Integrated Highland Agriculture Station            |
| JOAS    | <i>Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia</i>              |
| MACC    | Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission               |
| NCR     | Native Customary Rights                            |
| NRD     | National Registration Department                   |
| PVC     | Penan Volunteer Corps                              |
| PWPBS   | Sarawak Baram Penan Women Association              |
| REACH   | Rural Expeditions Aiding Community Health          |
| SAM     | <i>Sahabat Alam Malaysia</i>                       |
| SEB     | Sarawak Energy Berhad                              |
| SCORE   | Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy               |
| SESCO   | Sarawak Electricity Supply Corporation             |
| SIA     | Social Impact Assessment                           |
| SUHAKAM | Human Right Commission of Malaysia                 |
| ECOSOC  | Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Working Group |
| UN      | United Nations                                     |
| UNDRIP  | UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples |
| UNDP    | United Nation Development Program                  |
| SUARAM  | <i>Suara Rakyat Malaysia</i>                       |

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **ANALYZING THE IMPACT OF SCORE PROJECT**

#### **Introduction**

The purpose of this study is to examine and analyse the political, economic, social and cultural impacts of SCORE Project in Sarawak towards the Penan Community in Upper Baram, Miri. Basically, the starting of the Penan community participation in political phenomenon (blockades) was started from 1987 which they were fighting to stop the logging activities. Since then, they continuously conducted blockades to stop the SCORE Project because the projects destroyed the Penan's land. The destruction of jungle also destroyed the food chain and affecting the Penan security. They lose their worship places, graveyard, food and water supply, medicine resources and so on. When the contractors exploited the lands and flooded the dam with water, it destroyed the Penan's villages and the habitat of flora and fauna. The development had affected the Penan's politics, economic, social and cultural in that affected areas.

#### **Statement of the Problem**

The purpose of this study is to examine and analyse the political, economic, social and cultural impacts of SCORE Project in Sarawak towards the Penan Community in Upper Baram, Miri. Indeed, this protracted conflict has started since 1987 when the Penan Community attempted to stop the logging activities. Since then, they continuously conducted blockades to stop the SCORE Project because the projects

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