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LOCAL News

Animal Planet celebrities to join ISB conference



Dr Alison Cronin with her late husband, Jim



Monty Halls, host of Animal Planet's 'Great Ocean Adventures'

Two renowned Animal Planet presenters Monty Halls and Dr Alison Cronin are set to attend International School Brunei's upcoming Borneo Global Issues Conference VI (ISB BGIC), a United Nations-style conference, managed by secondary school students at International Convention Centre, Berakas, on March 1-3, an ISB press release said.

The four-day conference will see the celebrity guests address delegates and invited guests, including officials from the Ministry of Education, school principals and student observers, during the opening ceremony on March 1.

Monty Halls, who hosts Animal Planet's "Great Ocean Adventures", is one of United Kingdom's leading explorers. During his expeditions, he led a multi-national team of adventurers and scientists on an expedition to Southeast India to discover the ruins of a lost civilisation beneath the sea. The discovery established Halls as one of the new stars of British exploration.

Dr Alison Cronin, meanwhile, hosts Animal Planet's "Monkey Business", which documents rescue missions and undercover investigations to halt illegal smuggling of apes.

She is also the director of UK-based Monkey World Centre, founded by her late husband, Jim Cronin.

The centre is a sanctuary that orients rescued monkeys from countries, such as Spain, Greece, France, England, Austria, the Netherlands, Israel, Cyprus, Dubai and Taiwan, and allow them to live in as natural a habitat as possible.

In the previous event, special guest speakers included 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Professor Wangari Maathai and environmentalist Professor David Bellamy. It also raised awareness of the Heart of Borneo initiative, in support of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, which led to launch ISB's Million Trees Project.

