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BONVO's Heart for the Heart of Borneo Project

Bonvo Travel is proud to bear the distinction of being the first private sector corporation outside of Brunei to participate in the Brunei: Heart of Borneo Project, a joint initiative by the Government of Brunei and WWF to plant trees to re-populate the vanishing rainforests of Borneo.

This project is part of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-led Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign, a world-wide tree planting initiative which seeks to offset the carbon footprint caused by human civilisation and its effects on the environment. The Heart of Borneo is one such project undertaken by the governments of Brunei, Kalimantan and Sabah to act on their commitment to create renewable and sustainable resources.

As a travel agency, BONVO Travel is dedicated to counteracting the effect of air travel on the balance of greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. BONVO Travel has thus pledged to plant 1 tree for every 5 air-tickets issued to reduce its carbon footprint, and has committed to this rate of contribution with the government of Brunei for the Heart of Borneo project. On 23 April 2010, the inaugural group of 125 saplings was planted in Panchong Primary, Tutong, at coordinates N 04 38' 28.8", E 114 40' 30.2".

"Singapore, where BONVO is based, is geographically not able to support this sort of effort to the scale which we want to pledge our commitment," said Joachim K. Steffen, Managing Director of

BONVO Travel. “We decided to participate in the Heart of Borneo project not just because of its proximity to us, but also because of the commitment shown by the Government of Brunei, which is inspiring. As a long-time advocate of green initiatives, BONVO would like to join hands with the Sultanate of Brunei to protect the environment by promoting sustainable management of natural resources, recycling and conservation of energy”.

Under the Heart of Borneo initiative, the Sultanate of Brunei had pledged to place 74% of the country’s area under conservation and sustainable use. Together with Kalimantan and Sabah’s commitment, the island of Borneo will contain some 222,000 square kilometres of conserved land, making it one of the largest nature reserves in the world. This could be the last chance for unique animals such as Borneo’s rhinos, sunbears, proboscis monkeys, pygmy elephants, clouded leopards, orangutans, hornbills and bantengs to survive, including countless new species of plants and animals yet undiscovered by humans.

For more information on the UNEP Plant for the Planet project, visit www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign.

For more information on the Heart of Borneo project, please visit

<http://www.forestry.gov.bn/heart.htm>.

For more information on the BONVO Travel commitment to the Heart of Borneo project, please contact Christine Moorthy at (65) 9011 3357 or email

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