

## **MEMORANDUM TO JAPANESE TREE-PLANTING DELEGATION**

14<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Dear Sir,

14<sup>th</sup> April 2007 is April FOOL. We the local indigenous communities are very concern with your activity in planting trees that encroaches into our territorial Native Customary Rights land. We are saying that your activity is in violation of our rights and our freedom of livelihood.

Our grandfathers during the Japanese occupation into Sarawak had gazette the Apeng Forest Reserve solely for their descendants that is 'us' and also for our next generations. We say that indigenous peoples had already practicing good forest management since time immemorial and are the best conservators of own forests.

Your activity tofay dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 2007 by starting to encroach and plant trees at our ancertral land is a very unfortunate, sad and unforgettable day for us.

Please be sensitivbe to our pledges and not to conspire with the authority(s).

- We are the land owners, get our permission to plant trees / Consult us;
- Land Rights Now. No need for tree planting;
- Plant trees in Japan, respect indigenous land rights in Sarawak;
- We loose our lands, you plant trees. Where is Justice?
- Tree-planting ease your hearts but hurt ours;
- Your journey pollutes the environment;
- Trees are not equal to forest
- Don't consume timber in Japan, plant trees in Sarawak;
- Japan don't grab our land;

**Bidayuh Communities of Mentu Tapu, Paon Gahat and Tong Nibong, Serian, Sarawak,  
Malaysia**