



**Sahabat Alam Malaysia**  
**Friends of the Earth Malaysia**  
For Environmental Justice

1, Jalan Joki, 11400 Penang, Malaysia  
Tel No: +604 827 6930  
Fax No: +604 827 6932  
Email: foemalaysia@gmail.com  
<https://www.foe-malaysia.org>

Media Statement

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**SAM's recommendations following the Regent of Pahang's order in relation to the environmental issues in Tasik Chini, Pahang**

Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) welcomes the order from the Regent of Pahang, Tengku Mahkota Tengku Hassan Ibrahim Alam Shah Ibni Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah to stop all mining activities in the Tasik Chini area and restore the former mine area and to replant with suitable forest trees.

SAM also welcomes the Regent's order that the existing Chini Forest Reserve (HS Chini) of 4,600 hectares be expanded to about 6,000-7,000 hectares to protect the flora and fauna.

This proposal needs to be implemented as soon as possible to protect the entire ecosystem of this area as well as safeguard the interests of the Orang Asli community in the Tasik Chini area and its surroundings as they depend on the forest resources here.

To ensure that HS Chini and the area extended as a Permanent Reserved Forest (HSK) are not exploited and is fully protected, SAM recommends that the entire forest reserve be gazetted and classified as a Protection Forest under Section 10 (1) (b - l) (whichever is appropriate), National Forestry Act 1984 (Act 313).

SAM hopes that with the order by the Regent and the subsequent actions of the Pahang State Government, the declaration of Lake Chini as a Biosphere Reserve Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will be maintained.

**Meenakshi Raman**  
**Presiden**  
**Sahabat Alam Malaysia**