**Bigfoot Sighted in Johor?**

December 23, 2005 -- Johor, Baharu, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: (Bernama) -- Does Bigfoot exist in the jungles of Johor?

Well, Vincent Chow believes so. Chow is adviser to the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) Johor.

He claims that he is certain Bigfoot exists in Johor, saying that many people had seen the creature.

"Bigfoot exists. We have received reports from many people who said they had seen the creature in the forests of Tanjung Piai, Mersing, Kahang, the Endau Rompin National Park and Kota Tinggi," he said.

"They (the sightings) are not a new phenomenon. In fact, I regard this as a unique feature of the Johor's treasures and we must take steps to safeguard it," he told Bernama.

Chow said the latest sighting occurred last month in Kampung Mawai, Kota Tinggi, when three workers building a fish pond in the village claimed to have seen a Bigfoot family of two adults and a child.

The workers returned to the area and saw several footprints, some large and others small, including one 45cm long, he said.

"The footprints were proof of what the workers said they saw -- a family of Bigfoot. Their claim is credible," Chow said.

He estimated that the creatures were between eight and 10 feet high, judging from the height of the branch of a tree that had been broken at the place. The creatures were believed to have brown-coloured fur, judging from some fur recovered there, and which had the smell of a human armpit.

Chow said that according to the sightings at Endau Rompin, the creatures were not only tall but large too.

Those who claimed to have seen the creatures said the Bigfoot family was walking near the Kincin River, probably in search of fish.

Chow said that even the Orang Asli in Johor claimed to have seen the large creatures whom they called "Hantu Jarang Gigi".

An Orang Asli from the Jakun tribe, Awang Jaafar, 48, from Kampung Puyut, Kahang, said his brother-in-law had seen the creatures, who were about 10 feet tall, while driving along a logging track at the Lenggor National Park last month.

An Orang Asli girl, Empan a/p Melai, five, who was lost for six days in the Lenggor National Park while searching for rattan with her family early this month, said she had seen a large "King Kong" with huge arms and covered with black fur.
She ran away from the creature, said her brother Awin a/l Sentok who narrated the story.

Chow said MNS Johor was prepared to carry out a scientific study of the creatures, and urged other interested parties to do the same.

*This photo is an exaggeration in sand-drawing by the Orang Asli girl, there were actually five toes seen in real tracks, they are rounded, not pointed. This was the best the young girl could draw for ChannelNewsAsia.com. ...And it seems the term 'bigfoot' has spread to another country where the indigenous people used to refer to this creature as 'the kapre,' pronounced 'cup-pray.' ...Short