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(From left): MAS general manager of corporate safety, security, health & environment Capt Ooi Teong Siew, Dr Lian, Jala and FRIM director-general Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod at the handing over of MAS VCOP fund. Photo by Mohd Izwan Mohd Nazam

## MAS prepared to embrace biofuel

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PETALING JAYA: Malaysian Airline System Bhd (MAS) is prepared to embrace biofuel if it is commercially available in the market, said the national carrier's managing director and chief executive officer Datuk Seri Idris Jala.

"Quite a lot of airlines are testing biofuel and Malaysia Airlines is prepared to do it too when these alternative fuels are commercially available.

"We are always looking for ways to reduce carbon emissions. When it becomes commercially available, we want to become the first company to embrace it," he said after handing over a cheque for RM80,000 to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment yesterday.

The contribution would be channelled to a trust fund at the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM). It was a result of MAS'

voluntary carbon offset scheme, which allows customers to contribute voluntarily to the fund.

The ministry's under-secretary of conservation and management division, Dr Lian Kok Fei, said it had a management committee that looked into the various applications by the state governments for projects that fulfilled the sustainability criteria.

He said projects such as reforestation, afforestation and small-scale solar projects would be qualified for disbursement of the fund.

"In this case, we have received application only from the Pahang government," he said.

Lian said the ministry was still in the midst of finalising a memorandum of understanding with the Pahang government on conservation work at the Southeast Pahang Peat Swamp Forest.

"We are also prepared to go into projects such as sustainable tourism," Lian said.