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# Explore opportunities in horticulture: Uggah

Ting Tieng Hee

**KUCHING:** Malaysia's horticulture industry has the potential to create more business opportunities because it is a new industry, said Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Douglas Uggah Embas.

He said if the industry could be developed and commercialised on a large scale it could have a positive effect even on rural economy in terms of employment.

However, he said, for this to happen, there was a need to consistently organise training programmes aimed at creating entrepreneurs in the industry, especially among the people living in rural areas.

"I am very confident that through such training programmes, the participants will be able to improve their creativity and innovativeness to keep up with current developments," Uggah said at the opening of the Entrepreneur Training and Guidance Programme course at a hotel here yesterday.

His text of speech was read by Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) deputy director Datuk Dr Abdul Rashid Malik.

The two-day course, organised by the Rural and Regional Development Ministry (KKLW) in collaboration with FRIM, was attended by about 50



**ENTREPRENEUR TRAINING:** (from right) FRIM Human Resource Management Division director Wan Rahmah Wan Abdul Roaf presents a souvenir to Rashid as KKLW Rural Economy Division secretary Kamaruzzaman Umar looks on.

I am very confident that through such training programmes, the participants will be able to improve their creativity and innovativeness to keep up with current developments.

Datuk Douglas Uggah Embas, Natural Resources and Environment Minister

participants.

Horticulture was one of the trainings offered at the course; the others are landscaping and maintenance of trees, commercial nursery, herbal technology and development of herbal products technology.

Uggah said training programmes for entrepreneurs should not only serve as platform for

them to make profits but also to ensure that the environment was well preserved.

"We must not only care for our own needs but also fulfill our social responsibility towards religion, race, country and the environment," he said.

He also noted that several agenda in human capital development had been achieved since FRIM was

tasked to conduct training courses in horticulture in 2006.

On the nursery industry, Uggah said it had grown at a very fast pace since the 1970s in line with the national greening campaign.

"In 2005, Malaysia was recognised as a 'garden nation' and this has served as a catalyst to the industry to be strengthened and given special attention," he said.

He said in view of the erratic changes in climate and weather, efforts in developing the horticulture and landscaping industries were being seen as positive steps towards greening the urban and residential areas.