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# REDEEMS as bamboo R&D centre in S'wak

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**BAU:** The Association of Research and Development Movement of Sungai Sarawak (REDEEMS) Bau will be developed as the first Research and Development centre in the State to formulate strategies for the development of the bamboo industry in the State.

Assistant Minister in the Chief Minister's Department (Entrepreneur Development) Mohd Naroden Majais said that with the R&D, REDEEMS Bau would also be the main bamboo planting area in the State.

He said the (bamboo) industry had great growth potential for it was highly demanded by the furniture sector, and bamboo-based handicraft producers.

"Bamboo was at one time looked down as 'kayu miskin' (poor man's wood), but now, it is highly regarded due to its unique feature and multi-purpose usage," Naroden said at the close of a basic handicraft course at REDEEMS centre here yesterday.

Also present were Assistant Minister of Environment Datuk Peter Nansian, and Temenggong Datuk Stephen

Jussem.

About 50 participants from the Singai area took part in the four-day course, organised by Unit Pembangunan Usahawan Bumiputera, Ministry of Tourism and Heritage, Skills Development Centre Sarawak, and Sarakraf Sdn Bhd.

Naroden, who is also Assistant Minister of Planning and Resource Management, was confident that Sarawak would be capable of becoming the biggest producer and exporter of bamboo products in the near future.

He said the State was rich in bamboo resources, very

much like China, which was the leading producer and exporter of bamboo-based products.

Nansian, who is the President of REDEEMS Bau, meanwhile said that Sarawak Bamboo Development Unit had been formed to specially develop the bamboo industry in Sarawak.

Sarawak Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Authority (SALCRA), he added, would lead the unit, together with Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), State Forest Dept, UNIMAS, UPM, and other related agencies.



**NARODEN** (4th left) presents a certificate to one of the participants. Looking from right are Jussem (right) and Nansian (2nd right).