

Teachers play vital role in environmental education – Len

KUCHING: Teachers are the most effective tools in raising awareness among the younger generation, especially students, of environmental education.

Deputy Permanent Secretary with Ministry of Planning and Resource Management Datu Len Talif Salleh said teachers, especially those with good knowledge about environment, must encourage children to be active in nature activities like going to nature reserves, parks and gardens.

He believed young people will want to be close to nature and to appreciate the green environment they lived in today.

Len's text of speech was read out by Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) Head of Ecotourism and Urban Forestry Programme Dr Noor Azlin Yahya, who represented him to officiate the closing of Best of Both at Worlds Conference 2010 on Biodiversity Conservation at Sama Jaya Nature Reserve.

Present were main conference speakers Prof Dr Callie Loubser from University of South Africa and Prof Dr Peter Higgins from University of Edinburgh and Senior Manager of Biodiversity Conservation Sarawak Forest Corporation Oswald Braken Tisen.



THANK YOU: Noor Azlin (right) receives a gift of appreciation from Oswald at the closing of Best of Both Worlds Conference 2010 on Biodiversity Conservation held at Sama Jaya Nature Reserve.

Len urged everyone who is committed to biodiversity conservation to use their knowledge and experiences in improving methods to raise awareness on the environment.

He hoped that all knowledge gained and ideas generated over the conference will be a guide in practicing environmental education in either organisations or countries.

"This is to achieve everybody shared vision of further developing and strengthening environmental education for

the present and future generation," said Len who is the Managing Director and CEO of Sarawak Forest Corporation.

He urged participants and educators who attended the conference to continue their network on environmental education.

The conference with a theme "Effective Environmental Education for Biodiversity Conservation" organised from Nov 8 to 10 was attended by over 100 participants from Malaysia and various countries.