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# Malaysian scientist lauded as a forestry pioneer

**MELBOURNE:** Malaysian scientist Tan Sri Salleh Mohd Nor has been singled out by University of Adelaide's alumni magazine Lumen as having probably done more than any other graduate in the past 50 years in saving the world's forests.

The achievements of Salleh (pic), who obtained a Bachelor of Science (Forestry) in 1964 from the university under the Colombo Plan, were highlighted in an article to mark the 2011 International Year of Forests.

The magazine noted that since the late 1960s, he had campaigned tirelessly for the conservation of Malaysia's forests, including overseeing the first national forest inventory, being appointed Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) director-general, creating a number of national parks and helping to develop a national policy on land use and forest preservation.

It pointed out that during a career spanning four decades, Salleh had developed FRIM into the top tropical forest research organisation in



the world, winning several awards, and was the first International Union of Forestry Research Organisations president appointed from outside the United States and Europe.

"It's important that we conserve our natural heritage and one of the most effective ways we can do this is to ban the production of all forms of greenhouse gases and plastic," he was quoted as saying.

"We must phase out the logging of our natural forests because these have greater value as water catchment areas and for conserving our biodiversity.

"As for our long-term timber needs, trees can be grown in plantations and research has shown that rubber wood and oil palm trunks are good timber substitutes as well as being fast-growing tree species," said Salleh, who used to be Malaysian Nature Society president.

Salleh now heads Malaysia's only approved private contract research company, TropBio Research Sdn Bhd. — Bernama