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**28 Feb 2011**  
**New Sarawak Tribune**  
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**1,273**  
**3,819**



# **FRIM assists local herbal, traditional medicine industries**

HARUN JAU

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**KUCHING:** The Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) is committed to help Sarawak to further develop and expand its local herbal and traditional medicine industries.

Head of FRIM's Resource Biology Programme Mohd Shahidan Mohamad Arshad said FRIM would try to do this by collaborating closely with the Sarawak Federation of Women's Institutes (SFWI).

Mohd Shahidan disclosed this when interviewed during the visit by the wife of the Head of State, Toh Puan Datuk Patinggi Hajah Norkiah, to SFWI Seminar Exhibition Gallery 2011 at the Yayasan Sarawak's Education Development Centre at Jalan Sultan Tengah here yesterday.

According to Mohd Shahidan, for the past three years, FRIM has been coming to Sarawak to conduct courses, seminars and workshops for the locals.

He said the local herbal and traditional medicine industries in Sarawak were still not as developed as those in Peninsular Malaysia and still needed much assistance and guidance to catch up.

He added that FRIM would also try to assist in the areas of research and the development of modern techniques in the production of herbal products.

Mohd Shahidan said the herbal and traditional medicine industries, according to World Health Organisation (WHO), were valued at about RM200 billion while in Malaysia, it was valued at about RM10 billion, based on 2009 statistics.

During Hajah Norkiah's visit to the gallery yesterday, she was accompanied by Member of Parliament for Batang Sadong Hajah Nancy Shukri. She visited all the 25 booths which were mostly set up by the local herbal and traditional medicine manufacturers, herb planters and players in the spa industry.

The two-day exhibition, which ended yesterday, was held in

conjunction with SFWI Seminar 2011 and participated by local companies including three from Peninsular Malaysia, two of which were Nasuha Enterprises and Sharifah Trading.

Also involved in the exhibition were Kuching North City Commission (DBKU), Sarawak Biodiversity Centre (SBC) and Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC).



**HERBAL** plants on display at the FRIM's booth. PHOTOS: RAMIDI SUBARI



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**TOH** Puan Datuk Patinggi Hajah Norkiah (third right) demonstrating how to make vegetable salads as Hajah Nancy Shukri (right), Dato Ursula Goh (second right) and others watch.



**OPERATIONS** Officer of Borneo BioGahru, Jude Jalil (right), briefs Hajah Norkiah (second right), Hajah Nancy Shukri and others on the Kayu Gaharu products displayed.