



Over 500 join FRIM's International Day of Forests 2013

MORE than 500 people joined the Forest Research Institute Malaysia's (FRIM) celebration of the International Day of Forests (IDF) 2013, planting trees and participating in the various activities at the Kepong Botanical Garden (KBG) in Taman Ehsan, Kepong, on Saturday, 23 March 2013.

Of this, some 350 took part in planting 500 saplings of heavy hardwood species, namely belian (*Eusideroxylon zwageri*), balau pasir (*Shorea materialis*) and chengal (*Neobalanocarpus heimii*), with guidance from FRIM researchers, foresters and forest rangers.

FRIM Director General (DG) Dato' Dr Abd Latif Mohmod, who officiated the launching ceremony, thanked and congratulated all participants for their

willingness to take part in this meaningful celebration. "The experience of planting trees in FRIM is unlike any other. Here, we choose the right species for the site, we plant and on top of that, we will continue to care for the trees because we place as much importance on planting as caring for these trees and the environment to ensure they grow well," he said.

He explained about the importance of enrichment planting, introducing valuable species to degraded forest areas, and the planting methods. Abd Latif expressed hope that the IDF2013 programme would help to create a sense of belonging and togetherness amongst FRIM staff and the participants in caring for trees and in efforts to ensure the conservation of its forests.

He said the contribution of the

participants was important to FRIM which has been declared a natural heritage site in 2009 and a national heritage in 2012, adding that the institute is also working towards attaining the UNESCO World Heritage Status by 2017.

All the participants were also given a briefing by FRIM Natural Forests and Environment Director Dr Ismail Harun on the planting site, the tree species selection and planting techniques before they were divided into groups and led up to Field 54 for tree planting.

The participants comprised members of the public, regular joggers, residents living nearby the Kepong Botanical Gardens, school children, college and university students and corporate citizens.

Several top FRIM management

officials including Deputy DG (Research) Dr Mohamed Nor Mohd Yusoff, Deputy DG (Operations) Dr Norini Haron, Forest Products Director Dr Rahim Sudin, Human Resource Director Imaludden Abdullah, Forest Biotechnology Director, Dr Norwati Muhammad, and Quality Management Head Salamah Selamat, also joined the activity.

Among others, there were also other concurrent activities such as Flora Colouring contest for primary school children, Botanical Hunt for students and young adults, and Guided Nature Walk. The event concluded around 12.30pm with the prize giving ceremony for winners of the Botanical Hunt and the colouring contest