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## FRIM offers to help restore idle land

**MARAN:** The Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) is willing to help restore and conserve land left idle in areas where mining and other commercial activities had been developed.

FRIM director-general Datuk Dr Abdul Latif Mohmod said such tracts of land could still be managed and used as forest resources.

He said the FRIM station in Kepong, near Kuala Lumpur, was formerly a mining site and a good example of what the institute can do.

Another example is the FRIM station in Bidor, Perak, and others in Kelantan and Johor, he said.

FRIM had also identified a few sites in Pahang that could be used to conduct various studies, he said.

"FRIM promotes sustainable forest manage-

ment and this can be achieved through research and development using the latest scientific equipment," Dr Abdul Latif told reporters after the signing of a memorandum of understanding involving FRIM, Universiti Malaysia Pahang and Malaysia Technology Park at the FRIM station in Kampung Ulu Luit, near here, yesterday.

State Information, Science, Technology and Innovation Committee chairman Datuk Mohd Sharkar Shamsudin, who witnessed the event, said the Pahang government did not mind working with FRIM to set up a database station or a bio-informatics centre on plants and herbs found in the state.

He added that such a station could be used as a reference centre for farmers and entrepreneurs.