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Putrajaya in good trim with FRIM

TREES FOR TWO: Putrajaya Corporation and Forest Research Institute of Malaysia work hand-in-glove in pilot project to improve the city landscape

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Putrajaya Corporation (PPJ) and Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) have entered a smart partnership to keep the administrative capital's landscape and greenery shipshape.

The five-year pilot project includes the establishment of an online inventory and management system (SIPP) to keep track of and tend to the trees, which number an estimated 650,000, here. The ultimate aim is to improve the land-scape of Putrajaya.

Work on SIPP, which began last year, is expected to be completed early next year.

PPJ president Tan Sri Samsuddin Osman said trees were natural carbon sinks that absorbed carbon dioxide and other pollutants, and also lowered surface and air temperatures.

"I hope the partnership will produce various methods to maintain the trees so that they would always be healthy.

"We want Putrajaya to be a green city," he said, before signing the PPJ-FRIM MoU with FRIM director-general Prof Datuk Dr Abdul Latif Mohmod on Friday.

Under the project, PPJ and FRIM will conduct courses, seminars and conferences on landscaping, urban forests and related topics.

Samsuddin hoped the corporation would be able to learn from FRIM's success story — from mine and secondary forest into important research centre and popular recreational and tourist spot.

Prof Latif said FRIM would consider collaborating with other local councils on similar programmes if the pilot project yielded positive results in the next two years.

"Hopefully, Putrajaya will become an elite green city with little pollution," he said.

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Tan Sri Samsuddin Osman (second from left) and Prof Datuk Dr Abdul Latif Mohmod (centre) sign on the dotted line to make the **smart partnership official**. Bernama pic