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# FRIM DG recognised for outstanding distribution

THE Rotary Research Foundation of the Rotary Club of Kuala Lumpur DiRaja has chosen the director-general (DG) of Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod, as one of its Rotary Research Gold Medal Award recipients in recognition of his outstanding research and development contributions in the area of "Forestry Science".

Abd Latif received the award at the Rotary Charity Foundation Research Awards Presentation from the Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, who is the Royal Patron of the Rotary Club of Kuala Lumpur DiRaja, at Hotel Istana.

The foundation honours people who have made excellent contribution in research and development carried out in any discipline of Arts, Culture, Science, Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture, Technology and Social Science.

Founded in 1982, the foundation was set up to promote and recognise worthwhile research efforts carried out in the country in the past 15 years.

Born in 1960, Abd Latif began his career as a research officer in FRIM on March 28, 1985 and he rose to the position of the deputy DG (Operations) in 2005 before taking over the helm as the DG in April, 2008.

His foresight and dedication throughout his 26-year service at FRIM has contributed significantly to the achievements in research, development and commercialisation for the forestry sector.

Amongst his notable achievements were 50 inventions produced on the processing of rattan, bamboo and palms; 59 related industrial training and technical courses for 1,500 entrepreneurs; and 47 small and medium scale rattan/bamboo mills established.

His research findings have been published in about 300 different publications in various journals, conference proceedings, handbooks, guidelines and manuals.

Abd Latif has also received numerous pres-

tigious international and national awards, including the "National Young Scientist Award 1993", "IUFRO's Scientific Achievement Award 1995"; the "National Inventor Award" in 1997 and the "Outstanding Young Malaysian Award 1999". He was also the first forestry scientist in Asia and Malaysia to receive the Eisenhower Fellowship Award 1999 and was conferred the "Best Manager of The Year 2011" by the Awarding Committee of Europe Business Assembly for Applied Research and Scientific Achievements.

Abd Latif is one of the 11 awardees at the presentation ceremony and the only one to receive the award in the field of "Forestry Science" for 2012.

Other recipients included Prof. Emeritus Datuk Dr CP Ramachandran, Datuk Khoo Kah Lin, Prof. Datuk Ir Dr Chuah Hean Teik, Prof Dr Fun Hoong Kun, Prof Abdul Latif Ahmad, Prof Dr Ng Soon, Prof Ir Dr Mohd Sapuan Salit, Dr C. Devendra and Dr Tee E Siong.



**Proud moment:** The Sultan of Selangor presenting the Gold Medal Award to Abd Latif (right), while Rotary Research Awards committee chairman Datuk Dr J.S. Sambhi and Rotary Club of KL DiRaja president Andy Khoo look on.