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Green effort by companies

Project sees 25 cengal trees planted at Bukit Hari

OVER 20 organising committee members of the 25th World Gas Conference (WGC2012), International Gas Union (IGU) and Malaysian Gas Association (MGA) recently planted 25 *cengal* trees at Bukit Hari, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) as part of the "Let's Meet and Green" Project.

WGC2012 is working with the Malaysia Convention and Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB) and FRIM, as part of its corporate social responsibility programme.

The project is aimed at supporting MyCEB's efforts in recognising the government's vision to offset 40% of carbon emissions by 2020.

Throughout WGC2012, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur from June 4 to 8, some 5,000 industry delegates, trade visitors and exhibitors will be given the opportunity to contribute a minimum of US\$10 (RM30) towards the programme.

Participating in the tree-planting were IGU president Datuk Dr Abdul Rahim Hashim, WGC2012

CEO Zahariah Abdul Rahman and various department heads.

Also present were MyCEB senior manager of corporate affairs and communications Nuwal Fadhilah Ku Azmi and FRIM corporate management unit head Norhayati Nordin.

The exercise was held in conjunction with the World Forestry Day celebration.

"The 'Let's Meet and Green' project ties in with the overall WGC2012 theme, 'Gas: Sustaining future global growth.'"

"Sustainability is critical in all aspects of the energy and natural gas industries. WGC2012 will explore the possibility of integrating renewable gas into natural gas, new technologies and innovation that will enable the consumption of less primary energy, and gas as fuel for natural gas vehicles," said Abdul Rahim.

"Last year, we planted over 2,400 trees with contributions of over RM150,000 from various corporations," said Norhayati.

According to FRIM forest plantation programme head Dr Ahmad Zuhaidi Yahya, *cengal* (*Balanocarpus hemii*) is the most durable timber species in the

Malaysian tropical forests, with logs of sizes 40cm in diameter and above.

With the current rate of continuous logging, the native species, including *cengal* would become extinct unless rehabilitation works were undertaken.

"We hope that by planting the species, it will help maintain the population, *ex situ* (off site) conservation and prevent the extinction of the species. On the durability and value of its timber, various products can be manufactured including high quality furniture, cabinet and flooring," Dr Ahmad Zuhaidi said.

FRIM has been involved in the planting of *cengal* since the early 1930s, but due to its slow growth, the stands have reached the medium-sized timber trees ranging from 30 to 50cm diameter at breast height.

The species were formerly planted under nurse trees. However, with the recent advances in planting stock production, selected seedlings are being planted in areas with large gaps.

The growth of the species is currently being monitored in various parts of Bukit Hari in FRIM.

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After a hard day of work: Rahim (centre) with WGC2012 staff and MGA employees at the tree-planting ceremony.