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FRIM signs MoU with Chinese forestry academy

KUALA LUMPUR: The Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Research Institute of Tropical Forestry (RITF) of the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF) to cooperate in tropical forestry and plantation research.

The MoU incorporates provisions for effective research, development and extension activities for tropical forestry and plantation establishment for selected valuable forest tree species — *Eurycoma longifolia* (*tongkat ali*), *Santalum album* (*cedana*) and *Eucalyptus* species (*kayu putih*), including hybrid varieties.

FRIM director-general Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod signed the MoU on behalf of the Malaysian Forestry Research and Development Board, while RITF-CAF was represented by its director, Dr Xu Daping.

The ceremony was held in Guangzhou, China, in conjunction with the Sixth Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) General Assembly and Dr Y.S. Rao Forestry Research Award 2012 presentation ceremony.

Latif said RITF-CAF was an institution with strong research capacity, and has undertaken national and international science and forestry studies, especially cross-regional projects, and these included the development of forest plantations.

Founded in 1962, RITF is one of the branch institutes of CAF focusing on tropical forest cultivation, protection, utilisation and sustainable management.

The institute has contributed enormously to the development of Valuable Tree Species plantations in China.

Latif expressed hope that the FRIM-RITF collaboration would help to accelerate the development of forest plantations, species selection, and plantation productivity in Malaysia.

Latif was re-elected to the chair of the APAFRI Executive Committee for another term from 2012 to 2015, at the Sixth APAFRI General Assembly.

He was elected the chairman at the Fifth APAFRI General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur on Oct 4, 2009.



Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod and Dr Xu Daping signing the MoU in Guangzhou, China.