

Headline	Conference on forests and parks on Wednesday		
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Conference on forests and parks on Wednesday

KUCHING: Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Kuching North City Commission (DBKU) and Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) will hold a conference here this Wednesday.

The theme for the two-day Urban Forestry Conference 2012 is "Forests and Parks: Communicating Messages for Sustainability".

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Douglas Uggah Embas is expected to officiate at the conference, which is endorsed by the International Union of Forest Research Organisation (IUFRO), Federation of Parks and Recreation Administration (IFPRA) and the Sarawak Convention Bureau (SBC).

The conference aims to provide a platform for sharing the best ways to communicate messages about urban forests and parks, review the progress and status of urban forest and parks development, share the latest information, exchange ideas and learn more about sustainable management.

It also aims to establish network-

ing among participants for possible collaborations to promote sharing of responsibilities between the managers and users of urban forests and parks.

About 80 participants are expected from all over the country, among them urban forest and park managers, decision makers, urban planners, landscape architects, urban foresters, tree care contractors, academicians, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), stakeholders and individuals interested in urban forests and parks.

There will be 18 speakers, including six foreign experts, who will share their knowledge, experience and research findings on ecological functions and sustainable resource management of urban forests and parks, socio-economic aspects of urban forests and parks, planning, design and management for sustainable green space and urban forests and parks to support environmental education.

Kuching North City Commission

(DBKU) Mayor Datuk Abang Abdul Wahap Abang Julai will present his keynote address on "Community and Environment", highlighting the initiatives taken by the commission in working with the community. These initiatives had also led to DBKU receiving the

certificate of recognition for "Clean Air for Small Cities" under the "Asean Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) Award 2011".

Prof CP Loubser, a renowned environmental education (EE) expert from University of South Africa, will address "The Decade of Education for Sustainable Development: The Role of Urban Forests and Parks".

Loubser and another speaker from the same university, Prof Johan M. Dreyer, will conduct an outdoor workshop to promote the use of urban forests and parks for environmental education purposes on Oct 4 at the Samajaya Nature Reserve.

For details on the event, call Toh An Nee or Dr Noor Azlin Yahya of FRIM, at 019-387 5010.