

Headline	Seminar promoting alternative materials for timber industry soon		
MediaTitle	Borneo Post (Kuching)		
Date	14 Nov 2012	Color	Black/white
Section	Home	Circulation	88,150
Page No	11	Readership	166,173
Language	English	ArticleSize	256 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,474
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 4,422



Seminar promoting alternative materials for timber industry soon

KUCHING: Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) will jointly organise a seminar that promotes alternative materials for the timber industry.

The seminar, titled "Seminar Kayu Getah, Acacia, Palma & Spesies Perintis Sarawak 2012" (GAPPS 2012), will be held on Nov 19 and 20 at Pullman Hotel here.

According to FRIM Forest Products division director, Dr Rahim Sudin, the seminar will look at alternatives to supplement the current requirements in the timber industry.

"Our forests are fast depleting, therefore we need to find alternative materials to be used as raw materials in the production of wood-based products.

"There will be 18 working papers to be presented during

the two-day seminar; each will examine the use of alternatives to create value-added products.

The seminar is also an avenue to share experiences and exchange ideas," he told a press conference at Unimas yesterday.

GAPPS 2012 is expected to be officiated at by the Natural Resources and Environment Minister Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas and will be attended by over 100 people comprising representatives from forest-related agencies, experts, researchers, designers, furniture manufacturers and other wood-related industry players in the state.

The timber industry is an important source for national income over the past decades with exports amounting to some RM20 billion per year.

Various research and development initiatives by

local universities and research institutions have been successful in identifying wood-based products that can be produced from alternative resources, which could help reduce dependence on forests.

The seminar will present the research findings and results of commercialisation of rubber wood, acacia, palms and other pilot species as alternatives for the industry in the future.

All are welcomed to attend the seminar as it is free of charge.

For registration or further information, contact Siti Emiza at 082-473000.

Among those present at the press conference were STIDC deputy general manager Hashim Bojet, Unimas Institute of Design and Innovation director Dr Khairul Aidil Azlin Abd Rahman and Unimas Institute of Design and Innovation assistant registrar Norhamimah Buang.



UPCOMING SEMINAR: The organisers (from left) Hashim, Rahim, Khairul and Norhamimah announcing the seminar yesterday.