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FRIM director-general honoured for his efforts

FOREST Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) director-general Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod has been presented with an award by the Malaysian Scientific Association (MSA) for his contributions to science, technology and innovation in Malaysia.

The MSA Science and Technology (S&T) Achievement Award was presented by the Deputy Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Fadillah Yusof during the MSA annual dinner on Nov 29 at the Royal Selangor Club, Kuala Lumpur.

The other recipients of this award were the MSA immediate past president Prof Datuk Dr Khairul Anuar Abdullah and Malaysia Palm Oil Board director-general Datuk Dr Choo Yuen Ming.

"To be recognised by MSA with this prestigious award is indeed an honour that I highly appreciate. I am pleased that the importance of forestry science and technology is gaining recognition," said Abd Latif.

The award also reflected Abd Latif's outstanding dedication to



Well done: Ramachandran (left) and Fadillah (centre) presenting the award certificate to Abd Latif.

FRIM.

Since his appointment as the FRIM director-general in May 2008, he has strengthened FRIM's position as a leading tropical forestry research institution through the attainment of various national and international awards including the Mahathir Science Award and Nikkei Asia Prize (2009);

APECP Excellent Child Contributor Award (2010); The Brand Laureate Best Brand Award for Environmental Conservation (2011 & 2012); and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Prize for Science and Technology (2012).

Also under his leadership, the FRIM main campus in Kepong was gazetted and declared a National

Heritage Site in May 2012.

Earlier this year, Abd Latif was presented by the Rotary Club Di Raja of Kuala Lumpur with the Rotary Research Gold Medal Award 2012 for his contribution in the field of forestry.

He has also received numerous 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 conferred the 'Best Manager of The Year 2011' by the Awarding Committee of Europe Business Assembly for Applied Research and Scientific Achievements, and "The Name of Science Award" by the Europe Club of Rectors in July 2012.

Also present at the annual dinner were MSA president Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr C.P. Ramachandran and the former FRIM director-general Tan Sri Dr Salleh Mohd Nor.