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Seminar on Agarwood as a business product

by FARAH ADILLA

A NATIONAL seminar on Agarwood *Aquilaria (Malaccensis)* is being held to discuss the sweet-smelling wood including how to make a business of its curative and medicinal properties.

The Agarwood 2012 National Seminar and Exhibition aims to focus on how *Aquilaria* (or gaharu in Malay) can be commercialised through quality grading, according to seminar chairman Prof Dr Hamami Sahri.

He said the seminar is a good platform for those involved in the industry because it will discuss the latest information on cultivation methods and resin production.

Besides that, he said the seminar will also educate the participants on the methods of grading of agarwood, oil processing, and marketing practices, and promotion of agarwood products in Malaysia.

"This seminar is a continuation of the Agarwood 2010 National Seminar and Exhibition. The topics to be highlighted this year could help participants in sustaining the



Pic by Mohd Amin Noharul

(From left) UPM deputy vice chancellor (Industry and community networks) Prof Dr Ing Ir Renuganth Varatharajoo, Technology Park Malaysia chief Fadzhairi Abd Zahar, Landscape Malaysia chairman Tun Jeanne Abdullah, Dr Mohd Hamami and Biobenua Technology chairman Abdul Razak Ali at the opening of the Agarwood 2012 National Seminar and exhibition at Technology Park Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur yesterday

commercialisation agarwood industry in Malaysia," he said in a speech at the opening ceremony in Kuala Lumpur, yesterday.

Dr Hamami said 24 speakers will present papers related to sustainable commercialisation of the Malaysian

Agarwood industry. "They are individuals who have expertise in the industry, made up of academics, representatives from government departments, leaders of the organisations, agarwood plantation operators, professionals from in-

dustry and agarwood products consumers.

"We hope the participants of the seminar will benefit from these presentations," he said.

This seminar is jointly organised by the Faculty of Forestry, University Putra Malaysia (UPM), Malaysia and

Technology Parks AAFT Premier Sdn Bhd.

The seminar has also received cooperation from Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia, Malaysian Timber Industry Board, Forest Research Institute Malaysia, and Universiti Teknologi Mara.