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UTP and Frim sign memo on sustainable forest management

SERI ISKANDAR; Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) to cooperate in the fields of forestry, forest products and environmental research and development.

The MoU is to collaborate in promoting sustainable forest management and optimal use of forest resources through the application of knowledge and technology generated through scientific research and development activities.

UTP was represented by its Vice-Chancellor Datuk Dr Abdul Rahim Hashim at the signing while FRIM by its Director-General Datuk Dr Abdul Latif Mohmod.

Dr Abdul Rahim said the significant alliance with FRIM will augur well towards the holistic development of both parties and further help UTP to remain relevant to the industry and nation.

"As the university continues its journey towards excellence, giving back to the community remains as an important agen-

da...to give back by collaborating with FRIM on the preservation of our forests is a privilege as it ties with our aims to nurture creativity and innovativeness, and expand the frontiers of technology and education for the betterment of society," he said in his speech at the signing ceremony here.

He said through the exchange of information and technology transfer from both UTP and FRIM, the purpose of conservation and education in the fields of forestry, forest products, and environmental research

and development will be greatly be augmented.

Dr Abdul Rahim said within the 404-hectare campus area, there exists four endangered tree species namely *Vatica Flavida* (Resak Padi), *Shorea Hemsleyana* (Cengal Pasir Daun Besar), *Shorea Macrantha* (Kepong Hantu) and *Aquilaria Malaccensis* (Karas) that have been touted as national heritage, and FRIM will come once a month to check on, then do conservation on them. - Bernama



UTP Vice Chancellor Datuk Ir Abdul Rahim Hashim (second, left), exchanging the document between FRIM Director General Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod (second, right) at the signing ceremony. Also present UTP Chief Financial Officer Hasbullah Ihsan (left) and Senior Research Officer, Forest Biodiversity Division FRIM, Dr Lillian Chua (right).