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More green projects for FRIM

BOTANY: City Hall will spend RM1.1 million over three years on FRIM to carry out herbarium work

FAIRUZ MOHD SHAHAR

CITY Hall recently inked a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) to implement green projects under the park management scope.

Mayor Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib said the agreement focuses on developing the organisational structure for Perdana Botanical Garden which consists of appointing contract staff with a botanical background to carry out herbarium and conservation management works.

“Through this agreement, we will appoint our contract staff comprising three research officers and two research assistants.

“They will be trained by FRIM to do the herbarium works which includes collecting samples, performing herbarium curation and preparing the herbarium database.

“They will be trained for three years before they are absorbed as permanent staff in City Hall.

“We will also upgrade the Public Memorial Library old building at Jalan Cenderasari into a herbarium.

“The development work is expected to start at the end of this year,” he said after the MoA-signing ceremony at City Hall headquarters, here.

The MoA, he said, also covers biodiversity research that includes tree species inventory, botanical and ecological surveys and herbarium specimen preparation for Perdana Botanical Garden’s plant collection.

“Based on this research, we will publish a book cataloguing all the plants in Perdana Botanical Garden.

“We hope this book will be used for research and education,” he

added.

The re-forestation of Taman Rimba Bukit Kerinchi, he said, was another effort by City Hall to conserve the environment and ensure the well-being of city folk. Phesal said to realise the programme, the council had formed a team to work with FRIM to study the soil structure and hydrology in the area.

City Hall is also teaming up with FRIM to upgrade the 39.34ha flood mitigation pond in Kampung Bohol and turn it into a recreational park.

City Hall will be spending RM1.1 million on FRIM over three years.

Also present were FRIM director-general Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod and City Hall deputy director-general (project implementation and maintenance) Datuk Najib Mohd.



Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib (left) with Datuk Dr Abdul Latif Mahmod after the signing ceremony. Pic by Azmaidi Abidin