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Plan to turn forest into Unesco site

KUALA LUMPUR: The government plans to turn the forest at the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) as a heritage site of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) by the year 2017.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Datuk Seri G.Palanivel said the FRIM forest should be maintained and conserved as a major tourism area in the country as it was the largest and oldest man-made forest in the world.

"The forest covering about 150 hectares of land is the biggest and oldest man-made forest in the world and thus, the government's objective is to turn the area into a UNESCO heritage site in the year 2017.

"Each year, 600,000 people visit the area," he told reporters at a media conference after attending a Corporate Visit at FRIM Wednesday.

Earlier, Palanivel performed the opening ceremony for the Bamboo and Rattan Gallery by planting bamboo trees around the gallery. - Bernama