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# FRIM to conduct research on the parks and gardens

By **STEVEN DANIEL**

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KUALA Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) has signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Forest Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) for the latter to conduct research on parks and botanical gardens in the city.

Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib said the latest deal was a follow-up to the MoU signed between both parties on March 28 last year.

"Today's agreement will cover more comprehensive aspects of the MOU signed last year under the park management initiative.

"This includes the creation of an organisation structure for botanical gardens which comprises those with a background in botany to implement conservation efforts and herbarium management," he said at the signing ceremony in Menara DBKL recently.

FRIM director-general Datuk Dr Abdul Latif Mahmud represented FRIM at the event.

As part of the MOA, three research officers and two assistant researchers will be hired by DBKL on a contract basis and trained by FRIM for herbarium duties.

At the end of the contract period, the contract staff will be hired by DBKL.

Their duties consist of collecting and curating samples as well as

compiling all the information in a database. The researchers will be tasked with collecting plant samples from all botanical gardens, in the city.

Ahmad Phesal said a special pictorial book listing all the flora in the city's botanical gardens will be published and he hoped this would increase the value and appreciation of its parks and gardens.

"A book containing a complete list of all the plants and trees in our parks can increase the knowledge and pique the interest of visitors to the parks," he said.

Other aspects of the MOA also include researching the vegetation, soil and hydrology in the Bukit

Kerinci nature park as well as soil research at Taman Dusun Bandar and Taman Rekreasi Kolam Takungan Banjir Kampung Bohol.

"This deal will help DBKL improve its methods to develop and manage green lung areas in Kuala Lumpur and, subsequently,

will leave a lasting impact on the growth of the city's biodiversity and improve the quality of life of city folk," he said.

The MOA is valid for three years, with DBKL allocating RM1.1mil for all studies and research conducted by FRIM within the period.



**Signed and sealed:** Ahmad Phesal (left) and FRIM director-general Datuk Dr Abdul Latif Mahmud (right) holding the memorandum of agreement signed between both parties to conduct research and the preservation of the city's botanical gardens and parks.