

Headline	Call for conservation of existing urban spaces		
MediaTitle	Daily Express (KK)		
Date	25 Jun 2014	Color	Black/white
Section	Nation	Circulation	30,557
Page No	11	Readership	97,836
Language	English	ArticleSize	145 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 299
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 897



Call for conservation of existing urban spaces

GEORGE TOWN: Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (Frim) calls for conservation and sustainable management of all existing urban green space in Malaysia in the vision to become a beautiful garden nation by the year 2020.

Its Forestry and Environment division director, Dr Ismail Harun, said various measures need to be taken to enhance the existing urban green space for the protection and well being of the environment, as well as the population.

He said urban green space was useful for reducing noise and air pollution, and providing benefits for wildlife, as well as for the population, in terms of sociological, physiological and spiritual needs.

"The issue of urban green space is very important to be addressed as the process

of urbanisation is going on rapidly in Malaysia, as it is elsewhere," he said in his welcoming speech at the Malaysia Urban Green Space and International Federation of Parks and Recreation Administration (Ifpra) Conference here Tuesday.

He said Malaysia should protect and conserve all the existing urban green spaces and manage it well in a sustainable manner.

"Whenever possible, we should enhance or add more urban green space to our cities as a well-managed park and green space will also serve as attractions to foreign tourists," he said.

He said Frim also offered various technical and consultancy services in relation to tree and urban green space

management, which were in constant demand by local governments.

He added that Frim also had experts in providing services in the development of recreation, nature appreciation and environment education programmes for parks and urban green spaces.

The conference is held for the first time in Malaysia with the aim at discussing challenges and sharing best practices and methods to balance a healthy development for human needs and conservations of natural resources in the urban areas.

Over 100 participants, including from Switzerland, South Africa, United Kingdom, Japan, New Zealand, Australia and Denmark are participating in the three-day conference. - Bernama