

Headline	FRIM to host talk on palm trees		
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# FRIM to host talk on palm trees

**HOT TOPIC:** Dr Saw Leng Guan to speak on the challenges of plant conservation and diversity of the palm family

**F**OREST Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) invites the public to a talk on *Malaysian Palms: Prince of the Plant Kingdom* by one of its leading scientists, Dr Saw Leng Guan, on Aug 18 at 10am at the FRIM auditorium in Kepong.

Saw, who is the FRIM Forest Biodiversity Division director and a fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM), will speak on the challenges of conserving endangered plant species and share his knowledge on the diversity of the palm family, which is considered "the prince of the plant kingdom".

Following the 90-minute talk,

Saw, who specialises in the study of palms and has conducted extensive research on native palms of Malaysia, will lead a special guided tour to Razak Walk at the Kepong Botanic Gardens to introduce the palm species planted there.

This is the first in a series of public lectures by FRIM scientists, aimed at enhancing public awareness of the importance of forest conservation

through sharing of scientific knowledge, experience and research findings.

Saw is a Taiping-born botanist with 32 years of experience in the taxonomy and ecology of plants (in particularly palms) and the conservation of Malaysian flora.

He has contributed significantly towards the documentation and conservation of plants of Malaysia.

He has been actively involved in three modern flora projects initiated in FRIM — Tree Flora of Malaya, Tree Flora of Sabah and Sarawak, and Flora of Peninsular Malaysia.

Saw has published a total of 130 papers in journals, articles and chapters in books and described 53 new plant species and four new varieties.

In honour of Saw, four species of plants had been named after him — *Begonia lengguanii*,

*Schizostachyum lengguanii*, *Thrixspermum lengguanianum* and

*Orchidantha lengguanii*.

He serves as a member of the national and international committees on the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Intergovernmental Science Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; and on the advisory panel for the Botanical Research and Herbarium Management System.

Among others, Saw is also a board member of the International Flora Malesiana Foundation;

and an editorial board member for *Kew Bulletin* (since January 2007); *Journal of Tropical Ecology* (since April 2007); *Pertanika Journal of Tropical Agriculture Science* (since February 2009); and *Blumea* (since June 2010).

For more information on the talk, call Nur Farhana at 03-6279 7674 or email to nurfarhana@frim.gov.my, or call Siti Baizurah at 03-6279 7219 or email sitibaizura@frim.gov.my.

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*Dr Saw Leng Guan will lead a guided tour to Razak Walk at the Kepong Botanic Gardens to introduce the palm species planted there. File pic*