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Ministry studying remuneration for FRIM researchers

KUALA LUMPUR: The Natural Resources and Environment Ministry is looking into ways of providing remuneration to researchers at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM).

Its minister, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said this would enable the researchers to continue their work and develop innovative products.

Currently, he said, FRIM had more than 200 scientists and researchers in various fields, with each individual required to commercialise their findings.

“As such, each researcher must be given some remuneration and royalty, not just the government and FRIM,” he said at the Dewan Rakyat here yesterday.

Wan Junaidi was replying to a supplementary question from Tan Seng Giaw (DAP-Kepong)

during the Ministers’ Question Time.

He said FRIM Inc, which was formed in August last year had begun business transactions in early December and to date, had forged business collaborations worth more than RM800,000 with about 10 companies.

“Rubber research is an example of the outcome of FRIM’s research which has successfully developed rubber as a major source of raw material for the furniture industry, with sales in 2014 amounting to RM6.4 billion,” he noted.

Meanwhile, replying to a supplementary question from Datuk Dr Noraini Ahmad (BN-Parit Sulong), Wan Junaidi said 13 Memoranda of Understanding worth RM500,000 were signed between FRIM and 13 companies. - Bernama