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KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) to increase cooperation in local timber research and development (R&D) and commercialisation programmes.

The board said the agree-

ment between the two agencies would strengthen R&D programmes in the commercialisation of the research results in line with Thrust 3: Innovation and Technology, of the National Timber Industry Policy.

"Apart from this, the pact will also reduce duplication of research on the development of the timber industry.

"Cooperation in these (R&D) programmes will benefit both parties, strengthen the timber industry's structure and increase its global competitiveness," the MTIB said in a statement on Friday.

The MoU was signed by FRIM director-general Datuk Abd Latif Mohmod and MTIB deputy director-general Nor-

chahaya Hashim.

The areas of cooperation covered by the memorandum includes strengthening the practice of developing the timber industry in a sustainable manner, support the development of optimal timber resource usage technology, and assist enforcement via forestry and timber products forensics. —Bernama