

# UMS, company to promote tree planting in Sabah

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Jawala Plantation Industries Sdn Bhd (Jawala) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that seeks to promote the practice of tree planting in Sabah.

UMS Vice Chancellor, Prof Datuk Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin said tree planting is a vital part of Sabah's forestry sector.

"It is an open secret that most of our forests have been over-logged to generate socio-economic benefits in the early years.

"In many cases, our impatience in wanting to make money from our forest resource has resulted in excessive damage that can only be undone by replanting," he said during the signing ceremony here on Thursday.

In this regard, Taufiq believes that the MoU will benefit the forestry sector in Sabah.

"I do know that Jawala is a forestry company with a big heart. As far as I know, no forestry company in Sabah has planted laran in a big way like they have done.

"For record Jawala now has



Taufiq (left) and Rahman holding the documents after the signing ceremony.

about 1,700 hectares of laran plantation, and will further develop another 4,000 to 5,000 hectares in the coming years, leaving some 3,000 hectares as natural forest," he disclosed.

Apart from planting trees, Jawala is also well connected to Jaycorp Berhad which is based in Peninsular Malaysia dealing with wood manufacturing,

packaging, construction and wood trade with a group turnover of RM353 million in 2021.

It is understood that the MoU will focus on five areas, namely improvement of nursery techniques; improvement of the growth and yield of trees; management and monitoring of high conservation value

forest; student industrial placement and training; and any other areas of cooperation to be mutually agreed by the parties.

Among those present in the event were Jawala Incorporated chairman Datuk Jema Khan and Jawala Plantation Industries Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Rahman Khan.