

Judul	UK keen to tackle climate change with Malaysia, says envoy
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# UK keen to tackle climate change with Malaysia, says envoy

By Merlyn Noorahmad

**KOTA KINABALU:** The British Government is keen to work together with the Malaysian Government in tackling issues related to climate change and the environment that could potentially trigger friction between nations, said the British High Commissioner to Malaysia, Boyd McCleary.

He said the two countries had already conducted some programmes such as the Rainforest Research Programme that has been implemented for many years now in Danum Valley.

According to McCleary, the programmes conducted here will also provide some mechanism to prevent climate change and to conduct research to tackle the issue.

“We also encourage reforestation and want to prevent further deforestation, since deforestation is one of the major contributors to climate change,” he said, adding that deforestation could bring huge impacts to the world, and not only to Malaysia.

McCleary was speaking at a dialogue on environmental awareness at Universiti Malaysia Sabah here yesterday.

He also said that another programme already implemented is the Southeast Asia Rainforest Programme, but is still finding some private sponsors.

Asked on the oil problems facing the world, McCleary said that people should concentrate on the consequences of using biofuels from agricultural products.

“We should improve yields of oil from oil palm trees and we still need more research to conduct on the matter,” he pointed out.



Sanuddin (right) presenting a souvenir to McCleary after the dialogue.

In another development, McCleary said the British Government is still trying to get more Malaysian students to study in Britain and is providing some 20 scholarships.

“There are also 10 Malaysian universities that are involved in medical research collaboration between both countries, such as Universiti Malaya, Universiti Sains Malaysia, and Universiti Putra Malaysia,” said McCleary, adding that University of Newcastle would also set up a medical school in Johor.

Meanwhile, UMS Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon said that environmental awareness is a global challenge, pointing out that the industrial and agricultural development of the past several decades had contributed to the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouses gases on a scale that is changing the delicate balance of the environment.

“Today’s forum is tangible evidence of our determination and

commitment to discuss the problems of global environment and we have seen a number of innovative initiatives and approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions on a global scale, and we need to build upon this momentum in order to address both the causes and effects of global warming,” he said, in a speech delivered by Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Hj Sanuddin Hj Tahir.

According to Kamaruzaman, addressing the environmental challenge demands a long-term perspective on how our actions today will affect the lives of future generations.

“In Malaysia, we are also worried about the parallel pressures of rising oil and food prices and we are facing a dual threat in the world today, but I’m sure there are ways of dealing with this which we are slowly moving towards,” he said.

Also present at the dialogue were UMS Deputy Deans, lecturers and students.