

Dept banks on UMS help on forestry devt

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By Larry Ralon

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah forestry officials are banking on the International Tropical Forestry School (SPTA) of **Universiti Malaysia Sabah**, which will be moving into its own new building a few months from now, to help boost regional forestry development.

Sabah Forestry Director Datuk Sam Mannan raised such hopes in his speech read by the department's public relations executive, Masniah Othman, at the launching of an exhibition held in conjunction with the World Forestry Day 2006 themed "Education For Sustainability" at the UMS library, here, Wednesday.

The eight-day university-level celebration was jointly organised by the school and the department.

Mannan welcomed any effort by the university to have more joint ventures or co-operation with the department on activities or programmes involving the State's forestry development.

Since the university started its attachment programme for students to undergo industrial training at the department, he said more than 50 UMS students have benefited from it.

Presently, there are about 10 UMS students from various programmes undergoing industrial training in various sections at the department's headquarters and forestry districts.

Mannan said it is the hope of the department that the exhibition would instil more awareness among young Malaysians on the importance of managing the forests effectively



A forestry officer (right) briefing UMS students about the Reduced Impact Logging carried out by the Forestry Department at Deramakot.

and in a sustainable manner, besides the various forestry services and technologies applied by the department.

The exhibition will also involve students from six secondary schools in and around the city, namely SM Agama, SM Likas, SM All Saints, SM Sanzac, SM Perempuan and SM Lok Yuk, who would be brought on study tours at the venue and SPTA.

Also present were Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation),

Professor Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon, who represented Vice Chancellor Prof. Datuk Dr Mohd Noh Dalimin, Dean of SPTA Dr Mahmud Haji Sudin and the organising committee director, Prof. Madya Dr Razak Wahab, among others.

Kamaruzaman, in announcing the construction of the new SPTA building which is expected to be completed in a few months from now, hoped it will boost the school's performance.