



Shahril launches the World Forestry Day by planting a Gaharu tree together with the other invited guests.

UMS celebrates World Forestry Day

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KOTA KINABALU: The active involvement of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) in the World Forestry Day celebration will instill the importance of preserving existing forests among the university community.

UMS vice chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah said the efforts undertaken by the School of International Tropical Forestry (SITF) could cultivate a sense of care towards our forests.

He said SITF was also involved in various activities such as tree planting, as well as inviting primary school students to UMS to introduce them to environmental practices and forest care.

"At the same time, UMS suggests each of our university members to plant a tree every year and another tree on their birthdays. If we can do this, we will realize our eco campus slogan in the next few years," Harun said in his speech at the World Forestry Day celebration in UMS here yesterday.

Harun was represented by deputy vice chancellor of research and innovation Professor Dr Shahril Yusof, who delivered the

former's speech.

Harun said a tree could absorb around a ton of carbon dioxide during its lifetime.

"Imagine with 300 trees planted. They could balance out the pollution made by an individual in his or her lifetime," he said.

Meanwhile, 170 participants from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), corporate bodies and SMK Badin Tuaran participated in a forest run.

The activities held in conjunction with the Forestry Day, such as colouring contest, also attracted participation from several primary schools in Kota Kinabalu, namely, SK Tebobon, Menggatal, SK Kopingan, SK Melawa and SK Poring-Poring.

During the launching ceremony of the celebration, Shahril also witnessed the signing of Letters of Intent (LoI) between SITF, Tropical Rainforest Conservation & Research Centre Bhd, G & G Management Consultant Sdn Bhd and Sabahpuri Nursery SBH.

Also present were SITF dean, Dr Normah Awang Besar @ Raffie and organizing chairman Dr Berhaman Ahmad.