

UMS to collaborate with three firms in research and education

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with three private companies to forge collaboration in research and education.

The LOI was signed between UMS, Tropical Rainforest Conservation & Research Centre Bhd, G & G Management Consultant Sdn Bhd and Sabahpuri Nursery SBH.

Organizing chairman of UMS World Forestry Day celebration, Dr Berhaman Ahmad, said the School of International Tropical Forestry (SITF) had the expertise but it needed a suitable location for research.

“Through this collaboration, the parties involved will provide a suitable playground

for our students to carry out their industrial training and to research on plants.

“I believe this will benefit all those involved as we have the skills and expertise needed,” he said during the World Forestry Day celebration here yesterday.

Meanwhile, Tropical Rainforest Conservation & Research Centre Bhd's general manager, Othman Sulieman, said his company has 500 hectares of land to house a collection of plants, known as a 'living collection'.

He said focus is given to plant species that are going extinct or rare.

“Hence, we need UMS because they have the expertise to identify these plants.”

Othman said his company

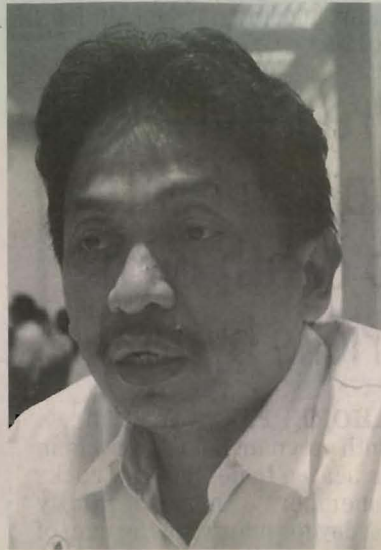
not only provided a platform for students outside campus to carry out awareness campaign and research, but also promoted the importance of forest.

He said Tropical Rainforest would also be a seed collection centre for the plants, and supplied seeds, samples and certain species needed by the Forestry Department.

Othman said the effort would help rescue plant species that were going extinct in cases of forest fires like what had happened in other countries.

“That's why we must have a contingency plan for years to come.”

On the other hand, G & G Management Consultant Sdn Bhd and Sabahpuri Nursery SBH



Berhaman

also offered platforms to UMS to carry out research on Gaharu and Sungkai trees.