



Dr Hamami (third left), Janshah (second right) and Kamarudin (fourth left) at the World Forestry Day celebration at UMS yesterday.

UMS students encouraged to plant tree upon entering university

BP 29.3.2017 4

By Jenne Lajjun

KOTA KINABALU: All students at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Science and Natural Resources Faculty (FSSA) are encouraged to plant a tree the moment they enter the university.

Wood Anatomy and Quality lecturer at the FSSA, Professor Dr Mohd Hamami Sahri, said tree planting activities involving the new students were carried out annually.

"Last year, they planted the Gaharu tree and this year, the Sungai," he said on the type of trees planted by the students.

Dr Hamami added that he was supportive of efforts to get all students to plant at least one tree prior to graduating from the university.

"The students will be responsible for planting and caring for the tree," he said at the World Forestry Day celebration held at the faculty yesterday.

He proposed for this activity to be included in the university co-curriculum activities as it supported the eco-campus programme.

The professor also said that the university still has vast areas of land that were not planted with trees.

"Having a lot of trees is good

for the environment and its impact is good," he stressed.

Dr Hamami also said that all the trees species planted were tropical trees.

Meanwhile, FSSA Technology and Wood Industry programme chief Janshah Mokhar said that they have been carrying out the tree planting programme since 2000.

Trees planted included those that were protected in Borneo, such as the bellian tree, which is a unique and the tallest tree in Borneo.

"We also focus on fast growing trees such as acacia and sungkai," he said.

He stressed on the importance of preserving the species as they are valuable commodities not just for now but also for the future generation.

In addition, trees also function as filters to reduce pollution, such as the haze, he said.

"We need the support from all parties," he said.

UMS deputy vice chancellor Professor Dr D. Kamarudin D. Mudin said that UMS had more than 900 acres of land which could be used in the programme.

He added that it would be a challenge for the students to find ways to ensure the trees they planted grow well.