

KTS Plantation, UMS kick-start research

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KOTA KINABALU: Three high impact research projects collaboration between Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and KTS Plantation Sdn Bhd (KTSP) has officially kicked off with the release of the first amount of RM15,464 out of eight quarters by KTSP for funding of the two-year research project in addition to a total of RM9,227 in kind.

The projects are in keeping with the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed on July 10, 2018 for the implementation of research project in Segaliud Lokan Forest Reserve (SLFR).

This contribution is also matched by a similar amount from UMS under the Matching

Grant Scheme.

The three projects with an estimated cost of RM211,095 are implemented based on the Research Matching Grant Scheme and one of the many initiatives carried out under the Tri-partite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Sabah Forestry Department, UMS and KTS Plantation Sdn Bhd signed in November 2016.

This was initiated by Datuk Henry Lau Lee Kong, the Managing Director of KTS Group of Companies through a Letter of Intent (LoI) in November 2015.

These research projects will be implemented over a period

of two years and focusing on three selected research projects that have been prioritized based on urgent industry needs, which cover the aspect of Wildlife Management, Forest Rehabilitation Practices and Nature Tourism Potential of the Segaliud Lokan Forest Reserve.

The principle researcher will be headed by Professor Dr Baba Musta of the Faculty of Science and Natural Resources, UMS while the local collaborator is headed by Collin Goh, Sabah Area Operations Manager (Forests) of KTSP, who presented the contribution to Dr Mohd Sani Bin Sarjadi, Deputy Dean of Faculty



Goh (green shirt) presenting a cheque for the research project to Dr Mohd Sani, witnessed by Frederick (middle).

of Science and Natural Resources, Universiti Malaysia Sabah in the presence of Frederick Kugan, Deputy Chief Conservator of Forest.

This is a demonstration of a smart partnership approach

adopted by the Learning and Research Institution (UMS) and the industry (KTS Plantation Sdn Bhd) for mutual benefits in line with the newly launched Sabah Forest Policy 2018 Thrust 3: Research, Development,

Commercialization and Innovation (RDC&I) in support of forest management, which was launched by the Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Hj. Mohd Shafiebin Hj. Apdal on December 3, 2018.