

# UMS launches first Forestry Living Lab

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) launched the first Forestry Living Lab in Sapulut recently.

It is located at the Jawala Plantation Sdn Bhd and was launched by UMS vice chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Hj Mansor.

The laboratory will enable UMS researchers to contribute various new findings that are relevant to the company's effort, said Kasim.

"Forestry students can also conduct their practical training at the laboratory," he said.

"On behalf of UMS, I express my appreciation and gratitude to Jawala Plantation Industries Sdn Bhd for their willingness to accept the proposal to realise the first UMS Forestry Living Lab," he said at the launching ceremony.

Also present were Jawala Inc chief executive officer Rahman Khan; UMS deputy vice chancellor (student affairs and alumni), Professor Madya Dr Raman Noordin; and the dean of the tropical forestry faculty, Professor Madya Dr Normah Awang Besar Raffle.

According to Kasim, the Living Lab has an important role in

providing added value to UMS graduates in the future.

He said that students will experience the fatigue of climbing slopes, assess the refreshing aroma of forest greenery, and hold insects that live with the trees and various green flora in the forest.

"By doing that, they will know their tasks and responsibility in a career in the forestry sector.

"Most importantly they will know the meaning of their task and responsibility to look after the forest that should be looked after well for the benefit of the future generation," he said.

Kasim said that in return, the company will prepare facilities for researchers that are involved and also to students who would be doing field work.

In addition, the company will also provide industrial training to the students, he said.

"This will further mature the knowledge that they learn in lecture rooms or laboratories within the campus," he said.

In the meantime, Rahman welcomed UMS' efforts to develop their farm as the first Forestry Living Laboratory.

"This is a strategic collaboration to ensure that the forest treasures owned by the Sabah region's government can be better managed.

"The company is actively ensuring that industrial tree plantations can redouble their efforts so that over the next eight to 10 years, more trees can be planted and thus benefit Sabah's economy. Through this Forestry Living Lab, it will be able to produce improvements in terms of nursery management, good seed production, controlling the threat of diseases to the process of tree growth and more," he said.

Jawala Plantation Industries is entrusted by the Sabah government to manage the replanting of Laran, Albizia and several other species of wood trees on 11,084 hectares of land at the Sapulut forest reserve area.

UMS and the Singapore Stock Exchange listed company signed a memorandum of understanding on 20 January 2022 to create a sustainable collaboration geared towards researches and a place for students to carry out their practical, especially in the forestry department of FPT UMS.