

Headline	RDID plays vital role in forest management activities`		
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'RDID plays vital role in forest management activities'

Philip Wong

SIBU: The Research, Development and Innovative Division (RDID) of the State Forest Department plays an important role in conducting research in protected areas and permanent forest reserve by collecting data on species of flora and fauna, ecology, ecosystems and forest environment.

The scientific information would then be used by stakeholders in planning and implementing forest management activities in the future, said deputy director of State Forest Department, Jack Liam.

"It is therefore the department's hope this research effort will be continued in a more integrated manner so as to further support forest management and conservation

of forest enforcement work," he added.

He was speaking at the State Forest Department's 4th Research Webinar held in Kuching yesterday.

Among those taking part in the webinar were RDID assistant director Mohizah Mohamad and head of the Biodiversity section Paulus Meleng, who is also deputy chairman of the seminar organising committee.

Jack said the results of study done by RDID were widely used in supporting sustainable forest management works, and the reference collection available at RDID was also a very valuable asset for the Sarawak state government.

"Sarawak has a rich and unique biodiversity. Most of the forest areas in Sarawak have high potential to be given attention because some of these areas have their own uniqueness and

are rich in the diversity of flora and fauna composition and can be used as a tourist centre and contribute towards the socio-economic improvement of the locals.

"We are proud to have a collection of references that have been of great help in forest management and conservation work."

As a result of this collection of references, Jack said they could identify if a species is rare, endangered or threatened.

He cited Sarawak Herbarium at the Sarawak Forest Department as an example, saying it had become the main reference centre for forest plants in Sarawak.

"Researchers from SFC, SBC, FRIM, students and lecturers of Unimas, UPM, UiTM, UKM, UMS, UM are the main users of Herbarium Sarawak."

He said Sarawak Herbarium

is also a reference centre for tropical rainforest plants for research institutions from abroad.

Earlier, touching on the webinar, he said it was the platform for the presenters and students to present their results obtained during the 2019 Kelingan expedition and other results obtained throughout 2019 to 2020.

"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the presenters for their noble efforts to share knowledge and findings from the research that has been done."

Apart from presenting research results, he said the other objective was to train and expose research staff to communicate through the presentation of research results. Based on previous seminars, RDID has proven that all research staff can provide effective presentations.



Jack (left) receives a souvenir from Mohizah.