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Free admission for senior citizens to Kepong Botanic Gardens

KUALA LUMPUR: All Malaysian citizens aged 60 and above will be exempted from the entrance fee to the Kepong Botanic Gardens starting March 21.

According to a statement issued by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), the exemption was announced by its Director-General Dr Ismail Parlan at the launch of a talk series on wetlands at the FRIM research gallery yesterday.

Ismail also announced that the entrance fee will be waived for all visitors on selected forestry and environmental-related days such as the International Day of Forests on March 21, International Day for Biological Diversity on May 20 and World Environment Day on June 5.

The research institute said the talk, which was held in conjunction with World Wetlands Day celebrated annually on Feb 2, was attended by 30 participants aged between eight and 69.

The talk titled "No Wetlands, No Seafood?" aimed to highlight the importance of wetland conservation.

FRIM mangrove forest expert Tariq Mubarak Husin, who participated in the discussion, said there is an urgent need for wetland conservation.

He said the wetlands need to be preserved as the ecosystem helps with food security, coastal protection, erosion control, flood regulation, carbon storage, the people's livelihoods and ecotourism.

This is the first session in a series of talks by FRIM researchers this year.

The subsequent talks will be held in conjunction with the International Day of Forests in March, Earth Day in April, International Day for Biological Diversity in May and World Firefly Day in July.

- Bernama