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FRIM marks 40 years of forestry research

KUALA LUMPUR: As the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) approaches its 40th anniversary this October, the institute remains committed to spearheading tropical forestry research and innovation grounded in natural resources.

Its director-general Datuk Dr Ismail Parlan said the anniversary is not only a celebration of FRIM achievements but also a symbol of its continued resolve to move forward with a global outlook and a focus on environmental sustainability.

"FRIM hopes to gain the support of all Malaysians in its bid for Unesco World Heritage Site status for the sake of future generations and the preservation of nature."

"This 40th anniversary reflects FRIM's illustrious legacy and its future direction as a credible, sustainable and internationally recognised institution," he told Bernama.

A series of activities will be held throughout the year from March to December, with the main celebration scheduled for Oct 4 at the FRIM premises on Jalan Jelutong in Kepong.

"This celebration aims to highlight FRIM's contributions to the nation and the environment, raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity conservation and strengthen FRIM's identity as a global research institution."

"The year-long programme includes biodiversity talks on wild orchids, the FRIM Merdeka Run in August and the 100-Year Heritage Site Celebration in December. On the main day, the public, students, researchers and NGOs will be invited to join pocket talks, trail tours and exhibitions," he said.

Ismail added that the institute, formerly known as the Forest Research Institute, was established in 1926 and renamed FRIM on Oct 1, 1985.

It has since earned various accolades in



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recognition of its contributions to research, development, commercialisation and innovation.

"Our most prestigious honour was the Mahathir Science Award in 2009, for our contributions to research and development in Malaysia's rubber industry. We also received the Unesco Sultan Qaboos Prize on Nov 17, 2021, during the 41st Unesco general conference in Paris. That award acknowledged FRIM's initiatives in monitoring and conserving threatened species vital to the country, publishing resources such as the 'Malaysia Red List: Plants of Peninsular Malaysia' and

documenting traditional knowledge from the Orang Asli and local communities," he said.

FRIM is also known for key research projects, including the Documentation Project on Traditional Knowledge of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Among the Orang Asli in Peninsular Malaysia.

"The project, which began under the Ninth Malaysia Plan in 2007, goes beyond documenting traditional plant uses. It includes bioprospecting activities to verify traditional applications and identify the therapeutic potential of selected plant species," he added.