

S'wak govt to ensure forest resources sustainably managed

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KOTA SAMARAHAN: The Sarawak government is committed in ensuring forest resources are sustainably managed to meet the demands of the present and future generations, said Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan.

He said in ensuring the perpetuity of the forest resources for environmental protection, social economic of the community and the state, it was the state government's policy that forest management certification was required for long term forest concession.

“Forest management certification is an important tool to promote and communicate the state's commitment to sustainable forest management to the global, national and local community,” he said when officiating at the Takasago-Unimas Educational Forest – tree planting programme at Unimas West Campus here today.

Taskasago-Unimas Educational Forest is a joint project between Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas), Japan-Malaysia Association and Takasago Thermal Engineering Co. Ltd, an established engineering company in Japan to establish an educational forest where 25,000 trees will be planted on a 10-hectare land at Unimas campus here.

He said the state government had allocated 2.7 million hectares as Sarawak Heart of Borneo (HoB) area besides setting a target to establish one million hectares as Totally Protected Area (TPA) to protect and conserve the wild flora and fauna.

Up to today, he said an area of 800,000 hectares has been gazetted as TPA in the state.

“Under the Malaysian-Japanese Friendship Forest programme, a total of 433,000 trees has been planted, covering an area of 1,073.36 hectares in Kubah National Park, Sampadi Forest Reserve, Balai Ringin Protected Forest, Gunung Apeng Forest Reserve and Sabal Forest Reserve,” he added.