

# MOSTI study on diversity

THE Institute of Tropical Forestry and Forest Products (INTROP) of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) has joined hands with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation Malaysia (MOSTI) in a programme called Brain Gain Malaysia, with a project called Control of Diversity and the Carbon Balance of Tropical Forest.

INTROP director Assoc Prof Dr Jalaluddin Harun said the RM477,000 project aimed to assess future carbon storage in Malaysian forests.

The project will be under the supervision of INTROP's Laboratory

of Sustainable Bioresource Management, led by Prof Dr Aini Ab Shukor.

"The collaborative effort will strengthen the mutual alliance of research in agriculture biotechnology between UPM and the Rutgers University, USA, the Forest Department of West Malaysia and the Forest Research Institute. Malaysia

"The research is expected to produce at least five high impact journal publications with technical reports," Prof Jalaluddin said.

The R&D alliance has placed

INTROP as an institute of reference in sustainable forest management, especially in the exploration of carbon and the dynamic of tropical forest biodiversity, as well as the global climate change, he added.

A memorandum of agreement was signed by deputy vice-chancellor (Research and Innovation) Prof Dr Abu Bakar Salleh, representing UPM, and deputy secretary-general (Policy) Datin Madinah Mohamad, from MOSTI.

Also present were Prof Jalaluddin and Hathija Bebe Abdul Majid, section head (Strategic Planning), MOSTI.