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SUBANG Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) president Datuk Adnan Md Ikshan believes there is a lot of potential for the Smart Partnership Programme between the council and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), which would benefit both parties.

"There are plenty of programmes that can and will be carried out. We also welcome ideas and proposals that are feasible for the council to implement," he said.

"We have already identified the issues for the programme, such as better waste management and tree maintenance, and reducing the pest population."

Adnan was speaking at a Memorandum of

Smart partnership

MPSJ and UPM sign MoU to focus on nine key areas

Understanding (MoU) signing with UPM, who was represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Tai Shzee Yew.

The MoU signifies a commitment by MPSJ and UPM to form a strategic alliance and focus on nine key areas: community service, environment, engineering, green city, information sourcing, safe city, human capital develop-

ment, urban services and environmental beautification.

Its scope covers activities related to research, education, consultancy and services, including programmes on urban poverty and entrepreneurship, sustainable urbanisation, road safety, green building, dengue control, environmental development, contractor data sharing information, development planning and industrial training.

Adnan said among the programmes that would be implemented soon are those on bio-energy development, development planning for recreation parks at former mining pools, tree assessments and World Forestry Day celebration.

On Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve, which has been gazetted as an education and research

forest, UPM Forestry Faculty dean Associate Prof Dr Awang Noor Abd Ghani said access was still by request only due to its forest reserve status.

"A research lab is expected to be completely constructed by the end of this month. There will also be lodging, camping and forestry activity facilities," he said.

"In addition, we are drawing up forest management plans with the Forestry Department and proposals for research plots."

The forest, under the jurisdiction of the Selangor Forestry Department, is on an 80-year lease since 1996 to UPM.

Dr Awang Noor estimated that the conservation value of the forest was worth RM2.3bil, which did not include its aesthetic and intangible values.



Strategic alliance: Adnan (seated, left) and Prof Dr Tai (seated, right) signing the MoU to formalise the Smart Partnership Programme between the MPSJ and UPM. Looking on are MPSJ deputy president Abdullah Marjunid (standing, left) and Prof Dr Awang Noor.



Insider knowledge:

Dr Awang Noor (left) listening to Kampung Rasau Ulu tok batin Erak Sarik's explanation on plants and their medical properties at the Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve.