

UPM conducts study on saltwater croc's semen

JOHOR BARU: Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) is the first university in the country to conduct a study on the semen of *buaya tembaga* (saltwater crocodile).

Head of research Prof Dr Abd Wahid Haron said the outcome of the study could help develop reproductive technology such as artificial insemination to save the female from the aggressive male.

He said the study was first conducted in April last year, involving four male saltwater crocodiles at the Sarang Buaya Crocodile Sanctuary in Pasir Gudang.

"The semen obtained from male crocodiles is preserved for a long period for artificial insemination," he told reporters here yesterday.

Earlier, he attended a function to mark the study and signing of an agreement between Pasir Gudang Municipal Council (MPPG) and UPM's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr Wahid said they only needed RM2,000 for the study in addition to getting help from the sanctuary, MPPG and Johor Wildlife Department.

"We are proud of the study as it can help MPPG boost the eco-tourism sector, pharmaceutical and research-based education. Not many NGOs and government agencies are keen to conduct a study on crocodiles due to their violent nature," he said. — Bernama