

18/10/2001

All states now conform to world forestry standards

ALL 14 states in Malaysia have now fully conformed to the forestry certifications set by the Government to ensure a sustainable forestry management and development.

Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said the last three states - Pahang, Selangor and Terengganu - have been evaluated by an independent assessor and have now complied fully with the national guidelines.

"It is with great pleasure that I announce that all 14 states in Malaysia have adopted and complied with the certifications," Dr Lim said at the centennial celebration of the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur last night.

The ceremony was officiated by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, on behalf of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The forestry certification initiative is one of the steps taken by the Government to ensure that forestry management in the country is in line with international management standards.

The implementation of Malaysia's sustainable Forest Management Criteria and Indicator, an effort that began in 1994, is in line with the requirements of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (Itto).

Dr Lim said since its establishment in 1901, the Forestry Department has transformed itself into a dynamic regulator and manager of Malaysia's forests. "This effort is deemed necessary to ensure Malaysia's timber is sourced from sustainable and well-managed forests."

Malaysia is now among the six timber exporting countries which conform to the objectives of Itto 2000, requiring member countries to establish a permanent forest management system that is fully integrated, organised and scientific in practice.

Of the 29 countries which regularly produce and export tropical timber, the other five that have conformed to Itto 2000 are Cameroon, Ghana, Guyana, Indonesia and Myanmar.

Dr Lim also said all forestry personnel must make good any shortcomings in the country's forest management system in order that the objectives of the process can be fully achieved.

To achieve the objectives, close cooperation must exist not only between the federal and state governments but also between the public and private sectors and individuals.

(END)