

MPI signs two MoUs in Beijing

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Premier of People's Republic of China (PRC), Li Keqiang, witnessed the signing of two memorandums of understanding (MoU) at the Great Hall of People in Beijing, China in conjunction with the official visit of the Prime Minister from Aug 17-21.

The MoU on collaborative research and development on the use of palm-based biofuel was signed by Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) director-general, Datuk Dr Ahmad Kushairi Din and Tsinghua University vice president, Prof Yang Bin.

The MoU, among others, includes technical research on the suitability and effect of palm biodiesel on vehicles, industry and environment.

The Ministry of Primary Industries in a statement today said, the palm-based biofuel offers huge potential as a source of renewable energy, which is environmentally-friendly and sustainable. This augurs well with China's Green Energy Policy, which targets the use of 15 per cent non-fossil fuel by 2020.

The PRC, under its Medium and Long-Term Renewable Energy Development Plan released in August 2007, aims to achieve a production target of two million tonnes of biofuel by 2020. The MoU is expected to further strengthen trade and enhance research collaboration in the area of palm-based biofuel.

Meanwhile, the MoU on rubber research was signed by Malaysian Rubber Board (MRB) director-general, Dr Zairossani Mohd Nor, with a representative from Hainan State Farms Bureau, a state farm bureau under Hainan Provincial Government and Hainan State Farms

Investment Holdings Group Co., Ltd.

The MoU will explore possible research cooperation, including rubberised bitumen road technology, automation of rubber tapping and speciality rubber, while promoting knowledge-sharing and research collaboration between researchers.

MRB has pioneered research on the rubberised bitumen road technology, namely the cuplump modified bitumen (CMB) for road pavements, replacing the use of the more expensive petrochemical polymers.

The use of rubber in bituminised roads improves road performance as reflected by greater durability, longer service life and significant reduction in cost of maintenance.

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