

Staedtler ensures steady supply of Jelutong timber

By FAUZIL GHAZALI

STAEDTLER Malaysia Bhd has started to venture into forest plantations to ensure it will continue to have a steady supply of Jelutong timber to produce its pencils.

It has begun planting the Jelutong species on 20 hectares in Kemasul, Pahang.

The venture, started in 2001, is supported by the Pahang Forestry Department and the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia.

Staedtler managing director Manfred K. Lewandrowski said the company expects to see some 250 Jelutong trees with a straight height of 15 metres from the plot in 20 years.

"We have invested some RM500,000 in the venture to seek the best plantation management practices for the species," he told participants of the Malaysian Timber Industry Board's timber trade familiarisation programme on a visit of the company's factory in Pahang.

Following the success of the first venture into forest plantations, the Pahang State Government has earmarked another 2,000ha for the company to plant more Jelutong and other species.

Lewandrowski said the company has been given a 60-year concession, adding that the land was awarded to Staedtler last year.