

In Conjunction With The MOU Signing Between MTIB And Tesco

Isnin, 21 Januari 2013 15:23



- ENGLISH VERSION ONLY -

BY YB TAN SRI BERNARD GILUK DOMPOK
MINISTER OF PLANTATION INDUSTRIES AND COMMODITIES

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MOU SIGNING
BETWEEN MTIB AND TESCO

AT TESCO HEADQUARTERS KEPONG
13 JANUARY 2012

Saudara/saudari pengacara majlis

Yang Berusaha Dr. Jalaluddin Harun
Ketua Pengarah
Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia (MTIB)

Mr. Simon Featherstone
Excellency the British High Commissioner to Malaysia

Mr. Sunghwan Do
The Chief Executive Officer
TESCO Store (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd.

Y. Bhg. Dato'-Dato', Tuan-tuan dan puan-puan yang dihormati sekalian.

Selamat Pagi, Salam Sejahtera dan Salam 1Malaysia.

Terlebih dahulu, saya ingin mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih kepada Jawatankuasa Penganjur kerana sudi menjemput saya untuk merasmikan upacara Majlis Menandatangani Perjanjian Persefahaman (Memorandum of Understanding – MoU) di antara TESCO Store (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd dan Lembaga Perindustrian Kayu Malaysia (Malaysian Timber Industry Board- MTIB) sempena Program Penghijauan Bumi pada pagi ini. Saya berasa amat gembira kerana dapat bersama-sama dengan semua pihak terlibat yang hadir untuk melaksanakan satu aktiviti yang penuh bermakna pada pagi ini.

2. Saya difahamkan bahawa Greener Earth Programme ini bertujuan untuk memberi membangkitkan kesedaran di kalangan rakyat Malaysia serta pihak industri betapa pentingnya peranan pokok hijau dalam kehidupan kita.

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. First and foremost, I would like to thank the organisers for inviting me to officiate the MoU signing ceremony between MTIB and TESCO under the Greener Earth Programme. I am delighted to join this auspicious event today as I always regard tree planting as a gift to our precious planet. I understand that this is a special programme by Tesco as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative in collaboration with MTIB. I have been informed that on 17 December 2011, this programme was started with successful planting of 1,050 Karas trees in Taman Wawasan Putrajaya. I would like to congratulate TESCO as the main organiser, together with MTIB in undertaking this noble initiative to enrich the green cover of the country.

4. In 2010, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) initiated a campaign to plant 26 million trees by the year 2014. To date, there are already 13 million trees planted throughout the country. Several government agencies, as well as the private sector have participated in this initiative as part of their CSR activities. All these measures ultimately contributed to maintain at least half of the country under forest cover. This effort is reflective of the current concern on global warming and the role of forests, as carbon sinks and converting carbon emissions to precious oxygen. I believe that Greener Earth Programme will involve active participation from the public, especially among the young participants. This will promote better awareness that environmental conservation is the collective responsibility of every member of the society.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. I understand that Greener Earth Programme is a three year programme with a target to plant 500,000 trees. I am glad to note that the significance of the Karas species selected for this entire programme is due to its environmental and economic benefits. Besides greening the earth, the economic return of this species is high, as it is commercially use in manufacturing perfume, medicine, aromatherapy incense and decorative items .

6. Currently, the Government through Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities is actively encouraging the establishment of Karas plantation for the production of gaharu, which is a new growth sector that has potential for favorable economic returns. The Malaysia's gaharu products exports for the year 2005 until 2009 recorded a total of 1.04 million kg of wood chips and 1,081 liters of gaharu oil valued of RM363 million. The demand for these products is increasing, especially from the Middle Eastern countries. It is estimated that the world demand for gaharu products in producing cosmetics and medicinal products is 4.5 million kg valued at RM18.4 billion per year. Thus, Karas is a promising venture with lucrative income.

Ladies and gentlemen,

7. I am sure that tree planting programme will not remain as a single event. We have to encourage every citizen, especially the young generation to view the planting of trees as their moral responsibility to promote healthier environment for living. Restoring our Earth with trees will help to sequester carbon and create greener sceneries for our future generation.

8. Lastly, once again I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizing committee for giving me this honour to officiate and witness the signing of MoU between TESCO and MTIB under the Greener Earth Programme. With that note, it is my pleasure to launch the MoU signing for the Greener Earth Programme between TESCO and MTIB.

Thank you.

Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities