



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS 2026: “FORESTS & ECONOMIES”

OUR EXPERIENCE AS BOOTH MANNING OFFICER

BY: ADCIHELLYINE JAMBRE

International Day of Forests 2026 is celebrated to raise public awareness about the importance of forests, as well as their protection and conservation for environmental well-being and stability. This year, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has chosen “Forests and Economies” as the official theme. The theme highlights the important role forests play in supporting local economies. Beyond generating income and economic opportunities, forests also support farming communities, improve agricultural productivity, and help protect healthy and sustainable water catchment areas.



ADCIHELLYINE J.

“This was my first time serving as a Booth Manning Officer (BMO) for the International Day of Forest event. Luckily, I had prior experience from the Borneo Green Heart Exhibition, so I already understood how to manage an exhibition. Most visitors were locals from Sook

and showed great interest in our insect collection. The elderly especially shared their experiences, including how the insects sound and the time they usually hear them. One interesting story was that, in the past, they even made earrings from the insects due to their hard wing cases, loud wing sounds, and attractive dark green colour. Unfortunately, I forgot the name of the insect.”

Core Purpose

Bringing back the natural forest and managing it sustainably.

Sustainability of the natural forests depend on availability of alternate supply from forest plantation timber.

Availability of supply from forest plantation timber depends on the development of forest plantation timber.

Core Values

Do the right thing, even though no one is watching.

Love and respect for self, fellow man and nature.

Recognise and promote teamwork, and never let your team members down.

Continuous improvement of self and Sapulut through training and learning and practice "I see, I think and I do".

Discipline - discipline of self, disciplined thoughts and disciplined action.

Do ordinary things extraordinarily well.

Know the rules, and know how to break them properly.

Ideas are easy. Execution is everything. It takes a team to win.

JESSICA S.



“This was my first time joining the International Day of Forests, and I really enjoyed every moment of it. I'm thankful to the company for giving us the chance to be part of such an exciting event. It was a great experience where we got to learn so many new things about forests and the environment. We also had the opportunity to meet different participants from outside Sabah and exchange ideas with them. Talking to the visitors was one of the best parts because we not only shared what we know but also learned from their experiences and perspectives. Overall, it was a fun and meaningful experience

that gave us new knowledge, memorable moments, and a greater appreciation for the importance of protecting our forests. I would definitely love to join similar events again in the future. One thing I noticed was that the main attraction at our booth seemed to be the insect and tree seed specimen displays. For future events, I think it would be even more engaging if we could include some fun and interactive knowledge-based games or quizzes for visitors. This would help attract more people to our booth while making the learning experience more enjoyable and memorable for visitors of all ages. Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who helped us throughout the preparation and during the event. Your hard work, support and teamwork made everything run smoothly. I truly appreciate all the effort that went into making this a memorable experience for all of us. Onsoi!!”

RIEKO B.



“I am sincerely grateful to Sapulut company for giving me the opportunity to participate in and contribute to the success of the recent International Day of Forest program, which was held in Sook Town, Keningau, Sabah, Malaysia. Throughout this program, I gained many valuable experiences.

Among them were:

1. Interacting and engaging with visitors, most of whom were from the Sook district.
2. Getting to know other exhibition booth members who participated in the program.
3. Sharing ideas and information with other exhibition booths.

At the same time, I also had the chance to meet relatives and school friends whom I had not seen for many years. During the exhibition, I was one of the members representing the company in the program. I realized that there is still much for me to improve in terms of knowledge in certain areas, especially as a representative carrying the company's identity in the eyes of the public.

Thank you. Kotoluadan, onsoi.”

Borneo Forestry Cooperative (BFC) Trip: Mekong Timber Plantation (MTP), Laos.

By: Teddy S., Stephen D. & Anastasha J.

A delegation from Sapulut Forest Development Sdn. Bhd. (Sapulut), comprising Teddy Sius, Anastasha Junigo and Stephen David, participated in the BFC Study Trip to MTP, Laos, from 29 March to 2 April 2026.

The study trip provided participants with valuable first-hand exposure to the management and development of industrial timber plantations, as well as the operational strategies implemented by MTP. It also served as a valuable platform for knowledge sharing, professional networking, and the exchange of best practices among forestry professionals.

Teddy's Reflection

Reflecting on the visit, the most important lesson from MTP was not solely about Eucalyptus plantations, cloning techniques or advanced machinery but the importance of having a clear long-term vision and consistently working towards it over many years.

The experience reinforced Sapulut's confidence that it is on the right path. While there is much to learn from industry leaders, there is also equal value in building on Sapulut's own strengths, particularly in Laran plantation development. The journey ahead remains challenging, but every successful forest begins with planting the right tree today for the forest of tomorrow.



SD's Reflection

While MTP demonstrated strong capabilities in clonal development, plantation operations, and integration with downstream requirements, the key lesson is that success comes from the effective alignment of site selection, genetics, and operational discipline.

For Sapulut, the current direction in Laran plantation development remains aligned with its downstream needs. The focus should be on strengthening existing practices, continuing the clonal development programme, and adopting a practical, phased approach to improvement.

Overall, the visit reinforced the importance of continuous improvement, attention to detail, and strong ownership in achieving long-term sustainability and value creation. While progress may take time, consistent effort and sound decisions today will contribute to stronger plantation performance in the future.

Anastasha's Reflection

I was impressed by the significant progress MTP has made in its facilities, tree research, technologies, and business growth. The visit provided a valuable glimpse of what the future could look like for Sapulut and strengthened my motivation to work together with the team towards similar achievements.

One of my key takeaways was the importance of thorough planning and close collaboration between research and operations to ensure activities are implemented effectively from the outset. The knowledge-sharing sessions, particularly with MTP's R&D and Nursery Manager, have also proven valuable. Since the visit, encouraging progress has been observed in Sapulut's R&D nursery, especially in the cloning of Laran.



Figure 1 Picture with Mr.Kombai, the R&D and Nursery manager, next to the White Laran Mother Plants at the MTP nursery



Figure 2 White Laran Mother Plants in the Sapulut Nursery



Figure 3 Successfully rooted cuttings (clones) in the Sapulut Misting House



Figure 4 The boom sprayer at the MTP nursery

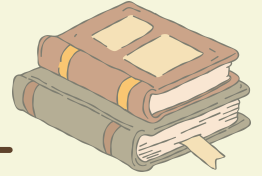
Seeing firsthand how uniform and productive clonal plantations can be has given me greater confidence and excitement about the future potential of Laran plantations. It reinforces the importance of continuing our research and development efforts to support the long-term growth and success of this species.



Figure 5 Eucalyptus hybrid clone plantation site



INTERVIEW SESSION WITH UMS STUDENTS ON FOREST AND WOOD PRODUCT CERTIFICATION



On 23 April 2026, a group of 11 students from the Faculty of Tropical Forestry, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), conducted an interview session with Sapulut representatives, Edward and Deckna, to gain a deeper understanding of forest and wood product certification.

The students demonstrated strong interest and curiosity throughout the session, raising thoughtful questions on certification requirements, responsible forest management, and compliance processes. They also explored the future of forest certification and emerging market trends, reflecting their awareness of the evolving sustainability landscape.

Edward, Sapulut's Internal Auditor, led the discussion and shared practical insights into certification audits, internal monitoring, and the role of certification in supporting sustainable forestry practices and meeting market expectations.

The session provided valuable industry exposure for the students and enhanced their understanding of how certification contributes to responsible forest management and market confidence in certified forest products.



SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION

By: Teddy Sius



Daily Express, 26 May 2026, Coverage of Mr Norman Wong receiving the World Green & Sustainability Leadership Lifetime Achievement Award.

WSGG Lifetime Award

Sapulut Forest Development Sdn. Bhd. (Sapulut) is proud to congratulate its Managing Director, Mr Norman Wong, on receiving the World Green & Sustainability Leadership Lifetime Achievement Award during the World Sustainable & Green Governance (WSGG) Summit on 25 May 2026.

The prestigious award was presented by the Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sabah (TYT), Tun Musa Aman, in recognition of Mr Wong's leadership and lifelong contributions to advancing sustainability and responsible forest management in Sabah. As President of the Timber Association of Sabah (TAS) and Managing Director of Sapulut, Mr Wong has played a pivotal role in elevating the Industrial Tree Plantation (ITP) sector in Sabah. His leadership has advanced the recognition of ITP as a strategic pillar of Sabah's forestry industry, demonstrating how well-managed plantation forestry can secure sustainable timber resources, reduce pressure on natural forests, drive economic development, and deliver long-term environmental and social benefits.

This distinguished recognition reflects Mr Wong's unwavering commitment to balancing economic growth with environmental responsibility, while reinforcing Sabah's position as a leader in sustainable forestry. It is also a proud milestone for Sapulut, whose sustainability journey continues to be guided by responsible leadership, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to creating lasting value for both people and the environment.

