

# Research council framework to be tabled

**KUCHING:** The legal framework for the state's first research council is ready and will be tabled during the state cabinet meeting next month.

Minister of Education, Science and Technology Research Dato Sri Michael Manyin Jawong said the next step would be to table the framework during the State Legislative Assembly (DUN) sitting in November.

"My ministry, together with SAG (State Attorney General) and several other agencies, have already come up with the legal framework for the council," he told a press conference after representing Chief Minister Datuk Amar Abang Johari Tun Openg at the opening of the International Conference on Development, Environment and Society (ICDES 2017) yesterday.

He added that the Sarawak Research Council is expected to start work on Jan 1.

Stressing the importance of the research council, he explained there were a number of agencies or organisations conducting research in Sarawak but in isolation or independently.

"They include Sarawak Tropical Peat Research Institute (Tropi), Sarawak Biodiversity Centre (SBC), Craun Research Sdn Bhd as well as forestry and others," he said.

"At the moment, there is no coordination or collaboration between these organisations. They are doing research 'in silos' so we do not know what they are doing or the results or how to commercialise the results."

Manyin pointed out the need to look into the results, impact and commercial value of research conducted outside universities.

He added all agencies would be invited to be members of the research council.

Chief Minister Datuk Amar Abang Johari Tun Openg announced last month that the state was in the process of setting up the research council to coordinate and support actions for all research and development.

Abang Johari said the proposed council would be given regulatory power in research.