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Tropi named Malaysia's sole partner in global peatland research project — Sagah

THE Sarawak Tropical Peat Research Institute (Tropi) has been appointed as Malaysia's sole partner for the 'Nitrous Oxide Budgets in Peatlands: From Processes to Global Comprehension' project this year, said Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn.

The Education, Innovation and Talent Development Minister said as part of this collaboration, a Miro Multi-compound Gas Analyser System was deployed at a field site in February to continuously monitor greenhouse gas (GHG) fluxes—specifically nitrous oxide, carbon dioxide, and methane.

"To address data transmission challenges from the remote location, the Miro system has been integrated with Starlink satellite internet, enabling real-time, digitised data transfer to Tropi's central repository.

"This setup allows Tropi researchers to continuously access, monitor, and analyse GHG flux data, significantly enhancing the efficiency and responsiveness of their monitoring efforts," he said during his ministerial winding-up speech yesterday.

Sagah said Tropi continues to make substantial contributions to global scientific discourse on peatland conservation and sustainable development in 2025.

The institution represented Sarawak at major international platforms, including the International Soil Science Conference 2025, the European Geosciences Union General Assembly, the International Peatland Society Annual Convention 2025, and the 12th Intecol Wetlands Conference.

He also highlighted the Sarawak Biodiversity Centre's (SBC) efforts to commercialise biodiversity-based products through a structured and scientific approach.

"This approach involves a progression of registering end products that have traditional claims, to scientifically validated modern health claims and subsequently as pharmaceutical applications," he said.

He added that as a start, SBC is targeting four monographs of local species.

Monographs, he said, are detailed scientific documents that describe the species characteristics, their traditional uses, preparation methods, phytochemical information, pharmacological as well as safety and toxicity of the species.

"These are important references for registering a product."

Sagah said SBC aims to register these species as natural products with traditional claims with the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency by November this year.

"If successfully commercialised, these will result in benefit sharing with the communities," he said.