

Sarawak Biodiversity Council to commercialise its products

KUCHING: The Sarawak Biodiversity Council (SBC) has set its sights on commercialising products developed from its research and collaborations over the last two decades.

In a press statement issued yesterday in conjunction with its recent 49th council meeting, SBC explained this new focus on the commercialisation of its research findings would mean charting a new direction that will involve greater participation from the private sector.

This new direction would also involve specific development projects, such as a proposed Integrated Bio-Industrial Park for investors to establish their operations.

To date, SBC has received firm investment interest from Australia, Japan and China, among others.

In the long run, a Bio-Process Commercial Centre would also be considered, to enable SBC to commercialise market-ready products.

Currently, SBC is reviewing its list of selected collaborative partners as one of its first steps in its push forward towards greater commercialisation.

This new direction for SBC coincided with new leadership in the council, with Tan Sri Datuk Amar Wilson Baya Dandot appointed as its new chairman with effect from March 1 this



Wilson (left) with members of SDC and representatives.

year.

Wilson was appointed as a member of the council during the establishment of SBC in 1998.

This would be his second term as SBC chairman, as he previously served in the same capacity almost a decade ago in 2007 to 2009, during his tenure as state secretary.

Other new additions to the council this year include its deputy chairman Datu Sudarsono Osman, who is the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Research permanent secretary.

The list of new council members also include Deputy State Secretary Datu Mohamad

Abu Bakar Marzuki, acting director of agriculture Dr Alvin Chai, and acting director of forests/controller of wildlife Hamden Mohammad.

During the meeting, the council members were briefed by SBC secretary Dr Yeo Tiong Chia, who is Sarawak Biodiversity Centre chief executive officer.