

# UMP APPOINTED BY **MARA** TO CONDUCT HALAL GELATINE PROJECT

By: Laili Zulkeple



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) was appointed by federal agency Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA) to carry out a halal gelatine production project worth RM20 million at ITECS, UMP Pekan.

It would also serve as a project where a business incubator could be established and entrepreneurs groomed.

The project would be developed on a four acre of land and would create job opportunities to graduates of the university, provide industrial training and tests for other products such as keratin.

The project was expected to complete in two years after a memorandum of understanding was signed on August 10, 2015.

# AN INTRODUCTORY SEMINAR ON KARAS AS THE RESOURCE TO PRODUCE **SANDALWOOD OIL**

BY: PUTRA MOHD DARUL RIDZUAN ROSLI

A seminar on karas was held at Auditorium Room, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Gambang campus on October 28, 2015. The seminar was held as karas was seen as a new economic potential in Malaysia.

The programme was organised by UMP's Centre of Excellence for Research in Bio-Aromatic. The topic attracted the attention of its participants comprising representatives from the industry, researchers as well as undergraduates studying about karas or also known as gaharu.

Gaharu is a natural product of the forest that has high commercial value. Following the pathogenisation process, karas will react to produce resin to create gaharu wood. The resin has aromatherapy and pharmaceutical values and is sold in wood form, essential oil and gaharu tea.

The seminar was a platform for gaharu enthusiast Prof Dr. Baharuddin Salleh, a former lecturer with Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). He shared his experience and knowledge about pokok karas, right from planting until the quality control stage as well as the product produced and its niche in global market.

Gaharu-related industries also put up displays about their products and the organiser hoped that the seminar had been a fruitful one, benefitting not only the industries but had also helped to expand networking and improve communication.

