BY: ASDARINA YAHYA

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)’s land application submitted to the Pahang state government through the State Economic Planning Unit (EPU) in 2011 was approved and following that, a series of visits were planned and carried out by the Research and Innovation Department (JP&I) with the cooperation from the Property Development and Management Department and Vice Chancellor Office.

The main purpose was to explore and learn the modus operandi, management methods and ideas/concepts that could be carried out on the land acquired in Kampung Serengkam, Maran.

The first working visit was to Mardi in Kuala Linggi, Melaka on March 15, 2013 to study the model of contract farming concept and methods of extracting essential oils. Mardi also expressed their interest on UMP’s plan to develop the land in Maran.

The next day, the group went to Nasuha Herb Farm in Pagoh, Johor to find out how the farm became successful. Some of the ideas and concepts implemented by the farm’s management were interesting - there was a resort in the middle of the forest, the way the training was conducted and a variety of herbs grown by them.

At the Bogor Agricultural Institute (BAI) in Indonesia, the place was popular for its studies and findings on growing herbs which fascinated UMP. A working visit was scheduled on May 2-4, 2013 and the UMP delegation was shown, hands-on, the teaching and learning method concept on planting.

They were also brought to the herb research farm and given a tour of BAI campus.

Discussions were held between UMP and BAI in sharing the teaching and learning methods in research. BAI also agreed to assist UMP in realising the land development plan in Maran.