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Regional conference opens in Malaysia to tackle forest management

A regional conference sponsored by The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) on sustainable forest management in East and Southeast Asia opened here Monday.

A total of 65 participants from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia are attending the two-day meeting, themed "Forest Protection and Management Through Local Action".

In his opening speech, UNDP resident representative for Malaysia, Dr Richard Leete, lauded efforts to accomplish the objectives set out under the Small Grants Program to Promote Tropical Forests (SGP-PTF) after 4 years of implementation in Malaysia.

He said that this was consistent with the national vision of sustainable human development and sustainable forest management.

"The SGP-PTF national steering committee has created a program that reflects the commitment to sustainable forest management while recognizing the role of the indigenous people," Leete said.

Implemented by UNDP and funded by the European Commission, SGP- PTF is aimed at improving the target community's socio-economic conditions while actively working towards sustainable development, thus enabling nations to benefit from community-based management of forest resources.

Source: Xinhua

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