

**Landmark partnership:** Sarudu (right) presenting a memento to Uggah during the seminar on furniture development in Kuching yesterday, as Nancy and Abdul Latif look on.

## State's first furniture test laboratory in Kota Samarahan soon

SARAWAK will soon have its first furniture test laboratory in Samarahan that will pave the way for the development of a "Furniture Centre of Excellence"

Centre of Excellence".

The centre will serve as a reference to many parties, particularly the industry players, researchers and students in the state in line with efforts to produce furniture products of international standards.

This development is the result of a Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) inked between Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas).

The MoU was signed by FRIM director-general Datuk Dr Abdul Latif Mohmod, STIDC general manager Datuk Sarudu Hoklai and Unimas deputy vice-chancellor Professor Dr Peter Songan here yesterday.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Douglas Uggah Embas witnessed the signing ceremony.

Also present was FRIM Board chairman and Batang Sadong MP Nancy Shukri.

The MoU would also see collaboration in the areas of furniture design and development, training and technical services.

The furniture test laboratory is expected to be located at STIDC's Furniture Industry Complex in Kota Samarahan, nearly 40km from here.