



Forest Research Centre Sepilok, Sandakan

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Sepilok, about 14 miles from Sandakan, is best known for its Orang-utan Rehabilitation Centre. In fact many overseas visitors fly into Sandakan just to go to Sepilok to see for themselves the orang-utans, the so-called men of the forest, which share most of our DNA. The human-like expressions on their faces never fail to evoke our love and compassion.

Of late the nearby Rainforest Discovery Centre (RDC) has received quite a bit of attention. With its tropical rainforest garden, the RDC gets quite a number of visitors including schoolchildren, as nature education is one of its core functions. Sandwiched in between the Orang-utan Rehabilitation Centre and RDC is the unobtrusive Forest Research Centre (FRC), known to those in

the forestry fraternity, as well as some off-the-beaten-track travellers.

The FRC in Sepilok was opened back in 1974, as home for the research facility of the Sabah Forestry Department based in Sandakan. It is best known for its herbarium, one of the most important depositories of plant specimens in the region. Its main collection is the family of dipterocarp trees, the

major commercial timber species of Sabah.

The other major attraction of FRC is its forest insect museum, which draws scientists as well as tourists from far and near. The museum has an exhibit which showcases the biodiversity of forest insects, from the longest insect to the smallest beetle, from the largest moth to the most beautiful butterfly. With

SEE PAGE VI