Bioversity International organised an Inception Workshop for its’ Timber Tracking Technology Project (Identification of Tree Species & Geographic Origin) in Kuala Lumpur on 24-25 April).

The project (2010-2014) will facilitate the practical application of innovative timber tracking tools based on DNA and stable isotope markers. It is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection.

I participated in this important workshop aiming at:
• informing key stakeholders about the project “identification of timber species and origins”
• providing an opportunity for information exchange about related projects and issues around the world,
• identifying experts and institutes working in the field and initiate discussions about building a network,
• initiating discussions on the future database and the standard setting approaches,
• establishing an initial set of priority species to include in the database,
• initiating discussions about the development of standards for timber species identification and origin (sampling design, sampling size, genotyping methods, stable isotopes techniques, data analysis) and the accreditation system for labs that want to work in this area.

After the workshop, on 26 April, I had an opportunity to visit, together with Prof. R. Finkeldy (University of Goettingen, Germany), the research group of Prof. W. Ratnam (Wicky) of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) incuding meeting with her postgrad students (@izs).