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KIDS at the helm

■ By **SHARIFAH ARFAH**

MELINA Victor Jagadesan Joseph, 14, enjoys acting and photography. The student of SMK Convent Bukit Nanas in Kuala Lumpur, who comes from a family keen on such interests, found her niche at the KID Witness News (KWN) programme.

Held for the fifth consecutive time this year, KWN is a signature corporate social responsibility project by Panasonic Malaysia Sdn Bhd in collaboration with Education Ministry. KWN is a global video education programme for children aged 10 to 15 years old.

KWN held a five-day workshop to familiarise students with the aspects of making a video clip recently before proceeding with the practical session (of making their own clips) in groups.

The workshop prepares them for entries to the national-level KWN competition in August.

A total of 140 schoolchildren and 70 teachers from 70 schools attended the workshop. Facilitators included renowned film and drama director Othman Hafsham, arts and education activist Normah Nordin and personnel from television station TV3 and the National Arts, Culture and Heritage Academy.

All participating schools were provided with a unit of Panasonic HD broadcasting camera including accessories and editing software for video production each.

Mohamad Syafeeq Abdul Rahman, 14, of Malay College Kuala Kangsar, who has not had any prior exposure to making videos, took on the role of scriptwriter and actor.

"It all looked and sounded easy (to make a video clip), but it requires teamwork as we couldn't reach a consensus on certain things," says Mohamad Syafeeq.

Technical aspects of making a video clip kept Lo Chee Hang, 14, of SMK Labuan, occupied although he

is familiar with handling his father's digital handycam. "I enjoyed the practical session of making a video clip at the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia in Kepong the most."

Adding background music proved to be challenging but fun for Archanah Nair P. K. Ravindranathan, 13, of SMK Seremban Dua, who made lots of friends from other states.

All the participants were feted by Panasonic on the last day of the workshop. Some of the students' handiwork were shown, and from the contents generated, it is obvious that they have original ideas that translated well into video format.



Students and facilitators at the closing ceremony of the KWN workshop



Students practise making a video at the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia in Kepong



Participants took the opportunity to interview a couple who is visiting the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia