

Headline **Family affair for some at green day outing**  
 Date **08. Jun 2009** Language **ENGLISH**  
 Media Title **The Star** Page No **2**  
 Section **Metro** Article Size **366** cm2  
 Circulation **293375** Frequency **Daily**  
 Readership **1026812** Color **Full Color**  
 AdValue **13700.21**



## Family affair for some at green day outing

IT WAS certainly a green affair at the FRIM yesterday with people from all background turning up to join in the host of vibrant activities lined up for The Star's Green Day Celebration 2009.

A group of students who called themselves the Malaysian Youth Climate Justice Network showed up to warn of the consequences of global warming in an unconventional manner — they showed up with torn clothes and set up a climate refugee camp where they begged for help with placards while handing out pamphlets on how rising sea levels were affecting livelihoods.

"We do not want to end up as real climate refugees and we need to push for a proper climate policy," 23-year-old Khairun Nisa Mohd Zabidi from UiTM said.

It was also a family day out for some, with parents and even grandparents taking the opportunity to drive home the environmental message to the younger generation.

Chin Kee Ling, 67, and his 66-year-old wife Tan Siew Keng were among this group as they showed up with grandson Chin Ka Ming, 7, and his parents Chin Fook Onn and Beh Chooi Fong.

"This is the second time we have taken part and we appreciate efforts like this which send out an important message. The younger generations should also be exposed to nature more often as it is unhealthy for them to spend all their time in the concrete jungle," Siew Keng said.

According to her, the family had begun to sort out its trash about a decade ago. She added that if everyone could do something small for nature, the end result would be immeasurable.



**All in the family:** (from left) Fook Onn, Kee Leng, Beh and Tan look on as Ka Ming gets some help gearing up for the canopy walk.

Retired banker Puteh Aminah, 56, who was at the event with her three daughters, also said recycling had been an integral part of her children's upbringing.

For others, it was a chance to be closer to nature like businessman Chan Pak Keong, 40, whose family were among the early birds to sign up for a guided canopy walk.

With him were his wife Yong See Fong, 41, and children Amanda, 10, Belinda, nine, and Christopher, six.

Amanda said she looked forward to trying out the tree-climbing activity as it would be her first time climbing a tree, while Chan said the family was planning to check out the nature trail walk as well.

Kavita Kaur and her friend Tom

to separate our garbage. We have several bins for organic items like food and garden waste, as well as recyclables like paper, glass, plastic and batteries," he added.

Both Kavita and Ter Horst agreed that more could have been done to create inform visitors about the canopy walk and publicise the celebration.

"The organisers should let visitors walk for free for special occasions like today.

"Alternatively, they could sell the tickets near the start of the walk or put up large notices to inform people about it," he said.

Over at the car boot sale, Nokia-Siemens vice-president Akash Das and his wife Julie Farnac were checking out the merchandise with their children Salome, eight, Milan, four, and their friend Ashika Dey, eight.

They were quite disappointed that they could not join the nature trail as people came as early as 7.30am to register for the first-come-first-served sessions.

Some students also took home some good ideas from the celebration.

A group of 10 Tunku Abdul Rahman College students had taken public transport all the way to FRIM to take part in the event and pick up some tips for a similar project they would be organising in August.

"It is an annual project and we have been highlighting this theme for the past three years," said Koh Jin Ern, 19, adding that the event at FRIM had enlightened them to approach the topic through different perspectives.

Her friend Nicole Tian, 21, added that it was sad that many people were still ignorant about the seriousness of global warming.

Ter Horst decided to drop by the event after her father, Narain Singh, read about it in the newspaper.

"We wanted to try the canopy walk, and we really enjoyed it. The weather was a bit hazy, but we could still enjoy a panoramic view of the forest and the city," the 28-year-old veterinarian said.

Ter Horst, a 26-year-old student from Holland who happened to be travelling in the region, also enjoyed the walk.

On his green practices, Ter Horst said instead of driving, he tries to cycle to his destinations.

"Besides cycling, I also take public transport, whether at home or in KL. It's not always easy, though," he said.

"Back home, it's compulsory for us