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# It pays to be waste-wise

## Students learn the need to keep the environment clean

By **JASTIN AHMAD TARMIZI**  
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**I**N CONJUNCTION with Malaysian Environmental Week, the Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL), Department of Environment and Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) organised an Environmental Auditing Programme by schoolchildren at the FRIM-MNS-Shell Nature Education Centre in the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM).

About 50 students, aged 15 and 16, were divided into five groups and participated in the camp which lasted for three days and two nights.

The students audited the waste they collected and interviewed the people who worked to keep the city clean in areas including Pasar Air Panas Setapak, Solaris Mont Kiara, Taman Tasik Titiwangsa, Pusat Bandar Damansara and Taman Metroprima Kepong.

Other activities held for the students were environmental games such as creating arts and crafts from waste, stream sampling as well as Night Walk and sense game where the students were taken for a walk in

the forest at night to look at trees and nocturnal animals.

On the final day, students presented their findings in the form of charts, pictures and general observations which they had gathered from the activities.

DBKL deputy director of services Datuk Mohd Ali Noordin said the event was aimed at promoting awareness and knowledge on being waste-wise among schoolchildren.

"Environmental preservation is not the responsibility of only one party.

"Everyone should give the same commitment whether government agencies, industries or businesses, NGOs or the public," he said.

"Without this kind of commitment it is hard to succeed," he added.

MNS president associate professor Dr Maketab Mohamed said it was good for the students to learn and be exposed to environmental preservation.

"The future of our natural heritage is in the hands of the young and we must give them the foundation and exposure to take the leadership in the near future," he added.

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**Nature campers:** Mohd Ali (centre, wearing tie), Dr Maketab (third from right) and DBKL health department environmental control officer Abdul Rahman Ahmad (second from right) with some of the students who took part in the programme.