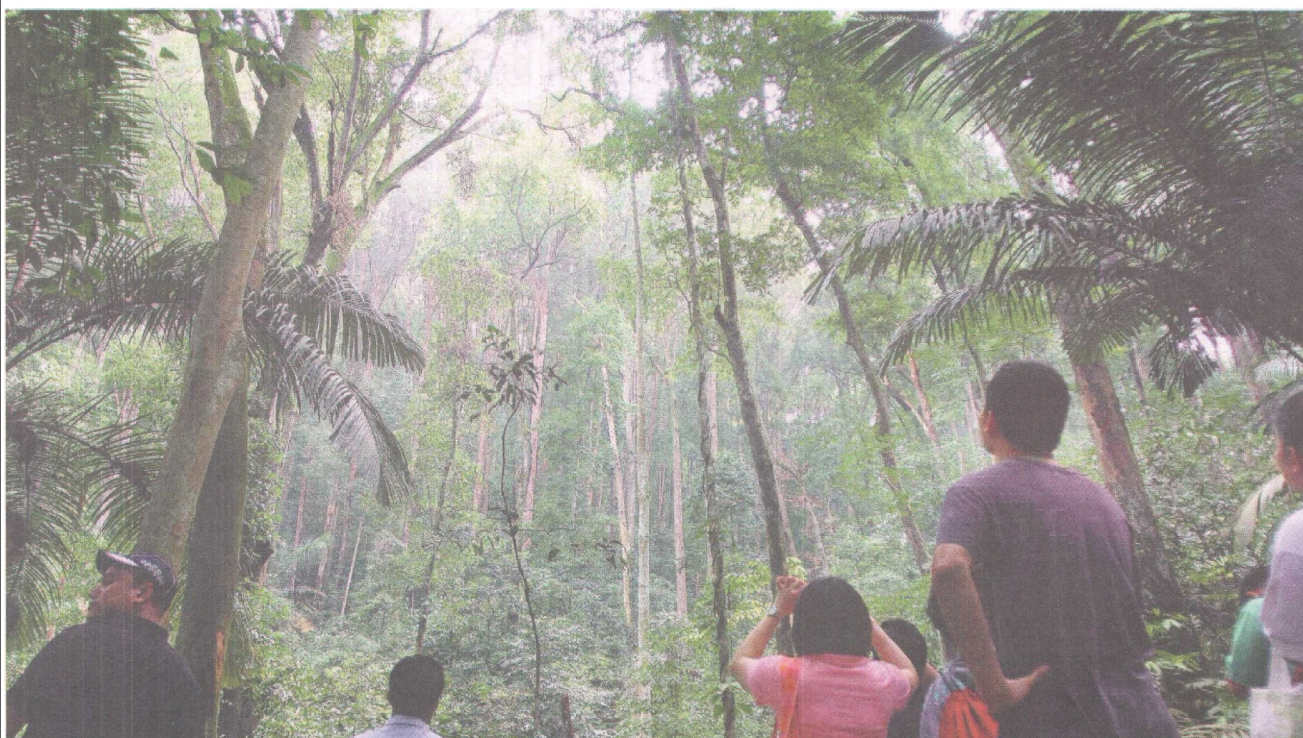


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## Green outlook

People taking pictures of the forest canopy along the Keruing Trail at FRIM's World Environment Day celebrations recently. - By FAIHAN GHANI / The Star >2

# Celebrating nature

Hundreds enjoy  
eco walk and  
car boot sales  
at FRIM

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Photos by **FAIHAN GHANI**

**H**UNDREDS of visitors took part in the Forest Research Institute Malaysia's (FRIM) celebrations in conjunction with World Environment Day 2011 recently.

The event, themed "Forests: At Your Service", was held at FRIM Kepong, Kuala Lumpur.

The aim of the event was to promote a sense of responsibility among the public to play a more active role in the conservation of the forest and environment.

FRIM director-general Datuk Dr Abdul Latif Mohmod urged the public and corporate bodies to support forest conservation efforts in the country.

"The aim of the celebration is to



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strengthen public awareness on the importance of forests, not only to the economy and environment but also to the collective wellbeing of the people. We would like to take this opportunity to remind people of the various ecological, economic and socio-cultural services provided by forests.

"This includes regulating water, preventing floods, maintaining soil quality through provision of organic materials, reducing erosion and protecting soil from direct impact of rainfall, modulating climate and being home to rich biodiversity, among others.

"FRIM opens its doors to the public to enjoy its forest environment, providing nature education facilities

and activities and it also welcomes collaborators with corporate bodies in various programmes including tree planting, recycling and environment education," he said.

During the event, Latif also launched a collaborative programme between FRIM and HSBC in which HSBC staff will participate in field

research activities related to forest and climate change which are being carried out at the FRIM Pasoh Research Station in Negri Sembilan.

"The Pasoh Forest Reserve under the care of this station is the most extensively studied lowland tropical forest in South-East Asia. The first research was initiated in 1964.

"Since then, FRIM actively pro-

motes research, capacity building and awareness activities related to the field of ecology, including biodiversity conservation and climate change by providing necessary facilities and technical assistance.

"Under the FRIM-HSBC programme, the bank's staff will be educated on the role of the forest in mitigating climate change so that they may do their bit for the community," he said.

"We hope the collaboration will give recognition to the local forest research efforts, support environmental awareness in the corporate sector and together fulfil social responsibilities," he added.

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**Observing keenly:** Participants of the guided nature walk looking at fishes at the lake in FRIM.



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**In focus:** A participant during the Era Art Club colouring contest.

## Activities for all

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Latif said this after flagging off participants of the Eco Fun Walk during the FRIM World Environment Day celebrations.

Besides the Eco Fun Walk, there were many other activities organised for children, youth and parents to have fun together. There was a nature walk in the forest in FRIM with guidance from FRIM nature guides.

There was also a car boot sale and recycling counter where visitors could buy items or send their newspapers, bottles, aluminium cans for recycling.

For the kids, there was an Erra Art Club colouring contest for children aged between five and 12 as well as a storytelling session at the Perah Camp in FRIM Kepong.

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**Looking for bargains:** The car boot sale was a hit among visitors.