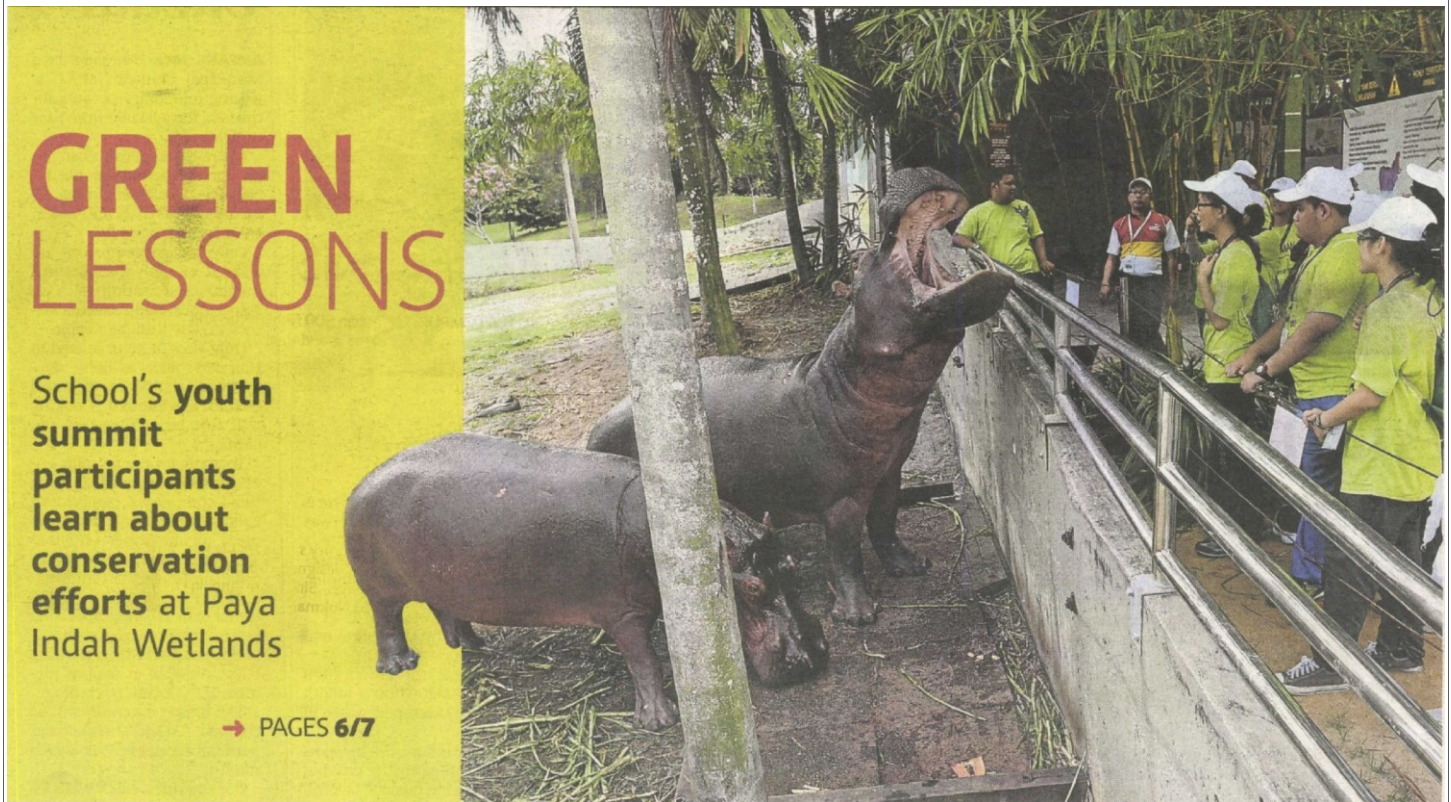


Headline	Youths plant trees to boost biodiversity		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	10 Apr 2013	Color	Full Color
Section	Supplement	Circulation	136,530
Page No	S1,6,7	Readership	330,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	2021 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 65,682
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 197,046



Youths plant trees to boost biodiversity

GREEN ACTIVITY: Students from several schools go on an outing to plant trees in Paya Indah Wetlands as part of a leadership programme

SERI NOR NADIAH KORIS

PARTICIPANTS of Sri Aman Environmental Youth Leadership (SAEYL) Summit gathered recently for a trip to Paya Indah Wetlands (PIW) here to plant trees.

The event's organiser, SMK (P) Sri Aman, invited students from six local

and two overseas schools for the outing.

The schools were SMK (P) Sri Aman, SMK Lembah Bidong of Terengganu, Malay College Kuala Kangsar (Perak), Sekolah Tun Fatimah (Johor Baru), SMK, Infant Jesus Convent (Johor Baru), St George's Girls School (Penang),

Al-Azhar 9 (Indonesia) and MGD Girls School (India).

Excited and enthusiastic, the 68 participants, who were clad with green T-shirt, a pair of track suit and sports shoes, were at the meeting point as early

Headline	Youths plant trees to boost biodiversity		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	10 Apr 2013	Color	Full Color
Section	Supplement	Circulation	136,530
Page No	S1,6,7	Readership	330,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	2021 cm²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 65,682
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 197,046

as 7.30am.

The journey to Paya Indah Wetlands took an hour by bus from Kuala Lumpur to Banting.

The site where the trees were planted is about 1.5km from the entrance of the PIW.

SAEYL programme coordinator Dr Teh Lah Hong said that this is the second year SMK (P) Sri Aman, together with PIW and Aeon Co (M) Sdn Bhd, are running the programme.

"Sri Aman school is a green school. Our aim is to spread environmental awareness to the participants of this summit," she said.

"The participants will plant 200 trees which have been sponsored by Peninsular Malaysia Forestry Department," she said.

She said six different types of trees would be planted, namely, *pentaspadon motleyi*, *hopea oderata*, *gircinia hambroniana*, *archidendron bubalinum*, *pometia pinnata*, and *melaleuca leuca-*

dendron," said Teh.

She said the students were taught the basics of planting trees.

Aeon brought in FRIM senior research consultant Dr Ang Lai Hoe to share his expertise with the participants.

Besides helping to prepare the soil for planting of trees, Aeon facilitators were on hand to guide the participants during the activity.

"I believe that it is better to have hands-on learning than just reading from books," said Teh.

Wildlife and National Parks Department superintendent Hasnan Yusof said the trees were selected to encourage biodiversity.

"These trees will be the main source of food for the animals such as birds and insects around this area," he said.

Participant from India, Juhi Katta, 16, said this was a new experience for her.

"I have enjoyed the activities and will share with my friends the knowledge I

have gained when I get back to my country," she said.

Muhamad Asyraf Mohd Hairin, 17, from SMK Lembah Bidong said that he enjoyed planting trees.

"This is new to me and I am doing my part in saving the environment," he said.

Participant from Al-Azhar 9, Naufal Fathur Rahman, said that the programme helped to boost his self confidence.

"I have been interacting and exchanging ideas with the other participants," he said.

Nurul Anis Najwa Zulkefli, 16, who is on the organising committee, said the participants enjoyed themselves.

"Apart from having fun, we have been getting lots of information that will be useful in our daily lives."

The participants toured the wetlands park to see the crocodile lake, hippopotamus sanctuary and fed the porcupines at the animal enclosures.



The students planted 200 saplings of six species.



The youths making their way to the planting site.

Headline	Youths plant trees to boost biodiversity		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	10 Apr 2013	Color	Full Color
Section	Supplement	Circulation	136,530
Page No	S1,6,7	Readership	330,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	2021 cm²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 65,682
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 197,046



Participants were invited from several local and overseas schools for the event. Pix by Sahani Ibrahim



Participants looking at the inhabitants of the crocodile lake.

Headline	Youths plant trees to boost biodiversity		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	10 Apr 2013	Color	Full Color
Section	Supplement	Circulation	136,530
Page No	S1,6,7	Readership	330,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	2021 cm²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 65,682
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 197,046



It was feeding time for the **porcupines** at the animal enclosures during the students' visit.