

Headline	Sultan Nazrin takes part in tree planting effort		
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Sultan Nazrin takes part in tree-planting effort

BIDOR: Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah recently joined hundreds of nature lovers in a tree-planting activity at Forest Research Institute Malaysia's (FRIM) research station, here.

The special event was organised to commemorate AEON Co (M) Sdn Bhd's 30th anniversary and also to create the Malaysia-Japan Friendship Forest here.

AEON Environmental Foundation Japan founder and chairman Takuya Okada said AEON spearheaded the initiative to help FRIM in its effort to rehabilitate the former tin-mining area.

"Besides creating a greener planet for future generations, we feel that by conducting this simple act of planting trees together, we will be able to raise awareness that AEON is committed to our ongoing mission to assert the importance of environmental protection and conservation," he said.

Takuya said 8,000 saplings of 30 species of tree and shrubs were selected to maintain the area's ecosystem.

Schoolchildren of SMK Bidor, SMJK (C) Choong Hua and SMK Syekh Abdul Ghani, residents, volunteers from Japan, government officials, Universiti Malaya students, FRIM officers, AEON staff and business partners also took part in the tree-planting event.

AEON Malaysia chairman Datuk Abdullah Mohd Yusof said the initiative was in line with

AEON's basic principles of peace, people and community.

He said its corporate social responsibility projects had always been centred around two key areas — environment and community.

FRIM director-general Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod said the institute felt honoured to host the event.

He said it would contribute to the establishment of a lowland bio-diversity depository at the 121.4ha Bidor research station for nature-based recreational and educational activities.

He said the successful greening of FRIM's main campus in Kepong had resulted in the gazettement of the area as a Natural Heritage Site in 2009 and declaration as a National Heritage in 2012.

"We hope the work done in Bidor will result in the attainment of a similar recognition.

"The FRIM Bidor research station is the first tin-tailing area in the country to be systematically and successfully greened with rainforest species."

In a statement, AEON said it had planted around 500,000 trees in Malaysia and more than 10 million trees worldwide.

Its efforts include planting approximately 25,000 trees in the Paya Indah Wetlands and 1,000 trees in AEON's reforestation and rehabilitation of orang utan habitat in Sabah. **By**

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Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah watering a sapling.