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A jungle 'gotong-royong'

Volunteers hike through FRIM to help clean-up hiking trails and give huts a fresh coat of paint

THE staff of Berjaya Times Square Hotel, Kuala Lumpur spent a day at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Kepong to help clean up the place.

Equipped with sportswear and mosquito repellent, a team of 26 staff led by the Kitchen Department of Berjaya Times Square Hotel, Kuala Lumpur were divided into two groups to carry out the clean-up task.

The first team was in charge of making the jungle trails clean and safe for future hikes.

Led by the hotel's executive chef Tang Chee Keong, the team members went on the trail with small garbage bags tied to their belts and sweeping the fallen leaves and tree branches along the trails.

The second team was assigned to repaint the huts at the entrance and exit to the rainforest canopy walkway, which spans about 200m-long, to protect the vantage platforms which are served for the public to experience a panoramic view of the forest and Kuala Lumpur.

"It was indeed an exhausting journey to hike up and down but it was a worthwhile experience to see how one person's actions can affect the forest.

"Most importantly, the activity inspired our staff to take responsibility on taking care of nature and make a small contribution to FRIM," said Tang.

Before concluding the visit, FRIM Corporate Management Unit head Norhayati Nordin presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Berjaya Times Square Hotel general manager Mondy Mecja.

"Your commitment in preserving and sustaining the jungle trails and rainforest canopy walkway is reflected in our progress in sustainable forest management and at the same time, giving the next jungle trekkers a safe trekking environment.

"We are extremely grateful for your contribution today," said Norhayati.

"I would like to thank our staff for supporting the hotel's initiatives.

"The activity requires not only a volunteering heart and hand, but also stamina, thus it is definitely more challenging than the previous community activities carried out by them.

I am proud of their participation and I trust all of them have enjoyed the experience," said Mecja.

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1 Norhayati presenting the certificate of appreciation to Mecja.

2 Volunteers heading to the rainforest canopy walkway with cleaning and painting equipment.

3 The group taking a photo after the clean-up.

