

Headline	Children feel for Mother Earth		
MediaTitle	Malay Mail		
Date	10 May 2016	Color	Full Color
Section	Life	Circulation	100,000
Page No	33	Readership	300,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	550 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 6,284
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 18,853



Children feel for Mother Earth

THE Rotary Club of Puchong Centennial and OCBC Bank Berhad Ampang branch recently brought 90 underprivileged children to the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) in Kepong to appreciate Mother Earth.

Residents of Sunbeams Home, House of Joy and Shalome Home had their fair share of adventure and excitement, but it was the opportunity to appreciate the flora and fauna that made their day.

After an engaging educational tour through the forest, participants were divided by age groups for a nature walk cum treasure hunt and FRIM's own version of The Amazing Race, each of which served to reinforce the role of Mother Earth in their daily lives.

"I had to crawl through the mud to complete the obstacle course. But I learned a lot about the environment,

teamwork and perseverance as some of us had to redo a task if we failed to comply with the rules," said Wei Wei Leong from House of Joy.

Over 50 OCBC Bank staff members were on hand to assist and interact with the children. Branch senior manager Alicia Kua said the bank strives to be more involved in the localities in which it operates and to become intrinsically involved and engaged in the community.

"Our efforts revolve around children and education, so this initiative was part of our ongoing programme to help the community," she said.

"We are pleased to collaborate with Rotary Club to bring the children out for a day of fun in the forest. We are happy they are now equipped with a greater appreciation of flora and fauna and cultivating better teamwork and

a positive attitude toward challenges."

According to Alan Chan of Rotary Club Puchong Centennial, the event was made possible through partnership forged with OCBC Bank.

"We thank OCBC Bank for their generous sponsorship and, more importantly, for turning up in such large numbers to ensure the success of the event," he said.

A child from Sunbeams Home, who aspires to be a zoologist, summed it up best when he said the day was too good to be true and that he would relish another dose of a full day with nature.

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Children search for pebbles in the mini pond during **The Amazing Race' challenge at FRIM.**