

Headline	A green investment thats worth it for UTP		
MediaTitle	New Sunday Times		
Date	17 Jul 2016	Color	Full Color
Section	Learning Curves	Circulation	74,711
Page No	12	Readership	240,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	346 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 11,881
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 35,643



A green investment that's worth it for UTP

UNIVERSITI Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP) is a well-designed campus and its academic complex has won prestigious architectural awards based on its concept of blending with nature.

This concept is always being modified and applied in the whole campus. Approximately, half of the campus in Seri Iskandar, Perak, is built on a former tin mine and, generally, the trees around the campus grounds will suffer from environmental stress.

Trees growing on mining soil show symptoms of water deficiency during dry periods and water-logged effects during the wet season.

As the environment is one of UTP's corporate social responsibility pillars, it is the responsibility of the university to rehabilitate its campus grounds and restore it to its natural condition.

UTP believes it is the first university in Malaysia, and maybe the world, to grow climax rainforest tree species directly on tin-tailing without changing its microclimate.

Normally, it will take about 15 years

to establish a man-made forest enriched with rainforest tree species via the nursing-tree concept, which is carried out by the Tin-Tailings Afforestation Centre (TTAC) of the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) in Bidor, Perak.

The TTAC land restoration approach involves site improvement of former mining soil before the planting of rainforest tree species.

UTP, in collaboration with FRIM, has implemented the project to establish a man-made forest comprising at least 150 plant species on a two-hectare plot of its campus land, with a planting density of 1500 stems per hectare. Currently, the project has completed its first phase.

The costly process of rehabilitating the land by covering it with top soil taken from a nearby housing scheme and mixed with high amounts of organic matter is justified when compared with the long waiting time of 15 years in following the original TTAC approach. The work is also about 50 times more costly.

The cost to grow the man-made forest, including rehabilitating the land, amounted to RM350,000 per hectare — basically the price of a double-storey link house in the area.

The forest has 21 species of dipterocarps, which form the main canopy.

Another 136 tree species have been planted according to their natural spatial distribution in a natural forest.

Besides endemic trees, the forest is also home to endangered species listed in the red list of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

It is an exciting endeavour to reverse the adverse environment of a former tin mine.

The trees are distributed in an optimal space to form a multilayer forest canopy when they mature in the next decade.

In future, taking a relaxing walk through the man-made rainforest and enjoying its nature trail will soon become a reality for UTP staff and students.

For more information on UTP and its programmes, visit <https://www.utp.edu.my>

Headline	A green investment thats worth it for UTP		
MediaTitle	New Sunday Times		
Date	17 Jul 2016	Color	Full Color
Section	Learning Curves	Circulation	74,711
Page No	12	Readership	240,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	346 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 11,881
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 35,643



A section of the man-made forest with **tropical rainforest species** planted on former tin mining soil at a two-hectare plot of campus land in **Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS**.