

Headline	Planting seeds of hope among the young		
MediaTitle	The Star (Metro North)		
Date	29 Sep 2017	Color	Full Color
Section	News	Circulation	250,667
Page No	15	Readership	752,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	511 cm ²
Journalist	STUART MICHAEL	AdValue	RM 12,805
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 38,415



SK Kepong pupils planting wild saplings which they collected from the forest in polybags.
— Photos: AZMAN GHANI/ The Star

Planting seeds of hope among the young

Pupils learn about importance of forests through FRIM's Go Green programme

SELANGOR

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FIFTY primary schoolchildren aged 11 and 12 from SK Kepong had fun potting plants at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) in Kepong.

The exercise, which is part of the 'Go Green FRIM' programme, is aimed at developing and strengthening green communities in support of FRIM's effort to achieve the Unesco World Heritage site status by 2020.

During the programme, the pupils prepared the soil, collected wild saplings from the forest and planted them in polybags before labelling and placing them in the nursery.

FRIM director-general Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod said the programme was part of the institute's ongoing outreach activities to engage the surrounding community and enhance their awareness as well as supporting the conservation of the forest and environment.

"We will engage leaders and members of nearby communities, joggers and

stakeholders in our activities, as many are unaware of the importance of the 554ha forest in FRIM.

"Our exercise today is to educate the younger generation on exploring the forest through environment-related activities while learning about the importance of plant species and developing a love for its rich biodiversity.

"FRIM has the experts and facilities to conduct activities on environment education," said Dr Abd Latif, who hoped that the Go Green FRIM programme would help address the declining interest in science subject among schoolchildren.

So far, FRIM has conducted 13 exercises involving 600 schoolchildren in FRIM and at schools.

FRIM corporate communication head Norhayati Nordin, who conducted the exercise with FRIM researchers Mohd Ramly Mohd Salleh and Sadali Sahat, said: "Children must be taught from an early age about the forest and its diversity as their minds are like a 'blank canvas', which can absorb information fast.

"It is important to nurture them at a young age and this is what we are trying to instil."

Sadali briefing the pupils during the outreach activity.

