

Headline	Lesson in green awareness		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	11 Nov 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	Metro	Circulation	175,986
Page No	11	Readership	527,958
Language	English	ArticleSize	539 cm ²
Journalist	KALAIVANI MURUGASAN	AdValue	RM 27,230
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 81,690



By KALAIVANI MURUGASAN
metro@thestar.com.my

FOREST Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) hosted an environmental awareness programme for students titled "Understanding Dipterocarp Species: The Icon of Our Lowland Forest" last week at the Perah camping site in FRIM, Kepong.

The programme supported by the Selangor government was launched by state environment, green technology, science technology and innovation and consumer affairs committee chairman Hee Loy Sian.

Also present at the event were FRIM director-general Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod, Gombak district education officer Sajoli Masdor, FRIM Forestry and Environment director Dr Ismail Parlan and FRIM Ecotourism and Urban Forestry programme head Dr Noor Azlin Yahya.

The event was one of FRIM's environmental education programmes, held for the fourth time. The first programme was held in 2016.

"This theme was adopted as we felt it was necessary to raise public awareness about the types of trees that dominate the lowland forests in our country and South-East Asia, so the term 'dipterocarp forest' exists.

"This programme targets secondary school students because as early as Form 1, students are introduced to forest-related topics in Geography.

"We hope that by implementing this programme in a natural environment, students can identify in detail the characteristics of tropical rainforest," said Abd Latif.

Of the 68 participants who took part in the previous three programmes, on average, only 8% of respondents have heard of the term dipterocarp (a tall forest tree from which are obtained resins

Lesson in green awareness

Students from four schools learn about trees in natural setting

“ We hope that by implementing this programme in a natural environment, students can identify in detail the characteristics of tropical rainforest.

Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod

and timber for the export trade, occurring mainly in South-East Asia).

"Through a study conducted before and after the programme, it was found that the increase in knowledge among participants was between 30% and 41%.

"This activity is particularly suitable here as FRIM forests are home to a wide variety of forest trees, including the trees of the Dipterocarpacea family," he added.

"We hope this interactive activity will provide insight into the future of the forest's features and role as well as contribute to the conservation of dipterocarp forests to ensure the sustainability of our nation's forests."

Hee said this year the Selangor government, through the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) sector and Selangor state consumer affairs committee, approved 64 environmental programmes or



Ismail (seated, left), Abd Latif (third from left), Hee (centre, in coat), Sajoli (third from right) and Dr Noor Azlin (second from right) together with the participants of the 'Understanding Dipterocarp Species: The Icon of Our Lowland Forest' programme at the Perah camping site in FRIM, Kepong. — NORAFIFI EHSAN/The Star

projects for 27 agencies in the state.

"FRIM was granted approval and funding for three environmental awareness programmes, namely "The Nightlife at FRIM", "The Understanding Dipterocarp Species: The Icon of Our Lowland Forest" and "Nature Camp Forest Treasures", to be held on Nov 26 and 27.

"Such an environmental education programme, known as one of

the branches of Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA), plays a role in creating cooperation and change in society.

"Through this programme, the message of conservation can serve as a foundation for students' awareness.

"They will be able to share their knowledge and experience with friends and family, and all of them will play a part in supporting conservation of the forest.

"People can demonstrate their support by recycling and participating in awareness and conservation programmes such as tree-planting," he added.

A total of 32 Form Three students from SMK Kepong, SMK Taman Ehsan, SMK Bukit Gading and SMK Seri Kundang took part in the programme.

The event included talks, "role play" and discussion sessions conducted by FRIM researchers.