

# Jungle lessons for youths

**BACK TO NATURE:** The Petaling Jaya City Council organises World Environment Day at Urban Park 2 in Damansara Damai for students

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**T**HE younger generation may be tech savvy but their understanding and appreciation of mother nature, however, leaves much to be desired.

To ensure that the future generation continues to understand the importance of our jungle, the Petaling Jaya City Council, together with Emkay Foundation and Pulau Banding Foundation, organised a number of activities for pupils, students and undergraduates at the Urban Park 2 in Damansara Damai recently here.

The activities were held in conjunction with the World Environment Day and as part of the council's sixth city anniversary celebrations. Participants came from Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), students

from SK Setapak Indah, SR Damansara Damai, SM Damansara Damai and the Orang Asli community from Desa Temuan.

Students were given a short tour of the Urban Park 2 jungle and introduced to the various plants and trees. They were also educated on the importance of jungle sustainability.

Students also participated in activities such as treasure hunt and made handicrafts using items found in the jungle.

They were also taught how to separate household waste.

Emkay Group chief executive officer Ahmad Khalif Mustapha Kamal said when the Damansara Damai area was developed by MK Holdings Bhd, 19 hectares of the jungle was retained.

The area comprises four parks known as Urban Park 1, Urban Park 2, Urban Park 3 and Urban Park 4.

The Urban Park 2 is the biggest

with an area of seven hectares.

"The development took place surrounding the jungle area. The 19 hectares were left for recreational purposes and to increase public awareness of the importance of our jungle," he said.

Petaling Jaya City Council deputy mayor Puasa Md Taib said there are plans to build a cycling path in one of the Urban Parks.

Form Five student Norshahrilla Azlin, 17, said despite living close to the Urban Park 2, she has never set her foot in the jungle.

"I live nearby but I have never visited the jungle. However I'm glad I participated in the World Environment Day celebration because I have a better understanding of the importance of jungle to mankind," said Norshahrilla.

Ismah Jacob, 29, who comes from the Desa Temuan Orang Asli community, said she learnt handicraft-making skills during

the programme.

The trees in the Urban Parks are a mix of local forest and exotic species based on a research by the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM).

A memorandum of understanding was also signed between Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Utara Malaysia and Pulau Banding Foundation to conduct studies at the Belum Temengor forest in Hulu Perak.

Areas of study will focus on the weather, flora and fauna at the forest.

Also present at the event were UUM vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Mohamed Mustafa Ishak, UPM deputy vice-chancellor Dr Tai Shzee Yew, Pulau Banding Foundation chief executive officer Dr Daniel Baskaran and Institute of Landscape Architect Malaysia president Fadrillah Mohd Taib.





*The Orang Asli community from Desa Temuan made handicrafts using items found in the Urban Park 2.*





Participants making **handicrafts**.



Children learning about **plant species**.





Watering the plant to inaugurate World Environment Day. Pix by Nurul Shafina Iamnon





Students building a frame.



A student adding the finishing touch to his picture frame



A pupil colouring a dried leaf.



Pupils creating handcraft from jungle material



World Environment Day was celebrated on a grand scale at **Urban Park 2** in Damansara Damai.