



(Front row, from third left) UPM Forestry Faculty Assoc Prof Dr Kamziah Abdul Kudus, Zarina and Dr Azlizam Aziz with participants of the 'Caring Forest For Our Water Resources' programme at the Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve in Puchong.

## Varsity students step up for water conservation

THE National Water Service Commission (SPAN) joined forces with Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) to raise awareness of the importance of water conservation through a programme called "Caring Forest For Our Water Resources".

The one-day initiative was part of UPM's Forestry Camp, held annually for first-year undergraduates in the Bachelor of Science in Forestry Science, Bachelor of Science and Technology of Wood, and Bachelor of Park Science and Recreation courses.

This year, the two-week camp was held at the Sultan Idris Shah Forest Education

Centre at Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve in Puchong with the theme "Combating Climate Change through Young Foresters".

Speaking at the launch of the water conservation programme, UPM Forestry Faculty deputy dean (research and innovation) Dr Azlizam Aziz said Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve was the last remaining lowland forest in Selangor covering about 1,200 hectares.

"Theories on water conservation are not enough; they must be put into practice.

"The more support we get from the public, the more water we can conserve,"

he added.

A total of 154 students from UPM and several Indonesian universities participated in the programme.

SPAN corporate services senior director Zarina Sulieman said among the commission's efforts for water conservation was the installation of a flow-efficient standpipe at a mosque in Puchong that could save up to half of the supply used daily.

Also present at the programme was SPAN industry development division senior executive Nurul Ashikeen Kamaruzaman. — **By KANIMOLI MANIMARAN**