



AKHBAR	:	THE STAR
TARIKH	:	1/6/2017
JABATAN	:	UMUM
KLASIFIKASI	:	MAKLUMAN



Fifty UniKL Mestech staff members and students worked with the Kuala Selangor Nature Park to conserve the mangrove forest.

## Doing their bit for Mother Nature

A GROUP of 50 UniKL Institute of Medical Science Technology (UniKL Mestech) staff members and students worked hand in hand with the Kuala Selangor Nature Park in an effort to conserve and at the same time, educate students on the importance of preserving the mangrove forest.

The Nature Discovery Programme 2017 was organised to rehabilitate the park's mangrove forest as it has known to become a sanctuary for various species of flora and fauna.

A series of activities were conducted during this programme in realising the effort to ensure the prolonged existence of mangrove forest. The highlights include mangrove saplings planting and mangrove clean-up, followed by team building activities conducted by the students.

The main objective of this programme was to inculcate students' appreciation towards nature. It was intended to instil greater awareness towards the mangrove rehabilitation in Selangor's eroded coastline.

The Nature Discovery Programme 2017 was officiated by UniKL Mestech dean Dr Reezal Ishak, who emphasised the importance of preserving and conserving the mangrove forest in maintaining the environmental stability in his speech.

Dr Reezal also mentioned that more similar programmes should be organised to provide opportunities for students to take responsibility for their own learning, thus improving the quality of their educational experiences.

"This can be achieved through experiential learning, which was the underlying objective of this programme," he said.

Serving as a platform to educate and reinforce the mangrove conservation effort, approximately 80 mangrove saplings were planted during this programme.

Bakau Kurap, also known as the rhizophora mucronata species, was planted for its fast-growing nature and ability to flower within its first year of planting.

The Kuala Selangor Nature Park's mangrove forest embodies part of a complex coastal wetland system, which provides an important intermediate stage between the land and aquatic environment.

It provides protective breeding ground for various marine invertebrates such as crabs and prawns, which in turn support the variety of birds and mammals.

The students gained knowledgeable and memorable experience in this programme as they took on an active role in the stewardship of the environment.

This is aligned with the UniKL Care mission under the University Social Responsibility (USR) initiative in fostering the culture of volunteerism among UniKL community and to give back to the society.

UniKL Mestech, located in Kajang, Selangor is offering diploma and bachelor programmes in Medical Science Technology.

In fulfilling the demands of both government and the private sector for biomedical technologist, UniKL Mestech aspires to become the premier institution in providing knowledge and skills in biomedical laboratory science and environmental health science.

■ For details on UniKL Mestech, log on to [www.unikl.edu.my](http://www.unikl.edu.my) or call 03-8739 5894.



UniKL Mestech dean Dr Reezal Ishak officiated the Nature Discovery Programme 2017 by planting the first mangrove sapling.