



UMS and Japanese students pose for a photo.

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## UMS, Japanese undergraduates sow seeds of friendship

THE Kota Kinabalu friendship ties were forged between undergraduates of University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Japan's Kanagawa University at Yokohama.

A total of 93 students and officers as well as academicians from both universities jointly planted mangrove seedlings in the Sulaman Lake Forest Reserve near Tuaran recently.

This is an international student exchange programme organized in collaboration with the Sabah Wetlands Society (SWCS).

Parts of the Sulaman Lake Forest are a degraded mangrove and replanting has taken place since 2008 as part of the statewide programme to restore degraded mangroves.

More than 200 seedlings were planted in this programme covering the patch that is still empty of mangrove trees.

The SWCS plays a key role in getting the two groups of students. The society promotes the conservation of wetlands and enhances awareness and appreciation among the public.

All 49 UMS undergraduates were first,

second and third year students in the Conservation Biology Programme, which is managed by the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation.

Whilst forest restoration is a standard component in the lectures, experiencing practical forest restoration provides a whole lot of different meaning to understanding the concept of restoration.

Apart from developing friendship and partnership in their future undertakings, mangrove replanting leaves a long-term beneficial effect to the environment.



UMS and Japanese students group for a photo during the mangrove planting.