

Environmental Awareness Camp at UMS centre

TBP 19.06.2006 P. 9

KOTA KINABALU: The Environmental Action Committee Sabah together with Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Department of Environment and Environmental Protection jointly organized an Environmental Awareness Camp at the UMS Outdoor Development Centre (ODEC) here from June 8 to 9, in conjunction with the World Environment Day 2006 with the theme, "Desert and Desertification - Don't Desert Drylands!"

The Environmental Awareness Camp was attended by 45 SMK Majakir students from Papar. The objectives of the camp were to raise awareness on the importance of conservation of nature by direct interaction with nature; to train participants on practical ways of handling conversation on a daily basis as well as to provide opportunity for interaction among similar age group of students to encourage group thinking and managing of nature conservation.

Activities during the camp included raising current issues that consisted of composting and open burning and nature appreciation activities like bird watching programme and environmental games. The students also learnt how to make compost as an alternative to their wet waste.

Mr Low Siew Wah representing EAC Resource Recovery Project Committee, gave an environmental talk on alternative to open burning by controlling acacia trees from invading an area. He then showed an effective



LEARNING VIA EXPERIMENT

... The participants engrossed in an experiment.

TESTING ...

Students conducting an experiment after their talk on 'Desertification'.

way to kill acacia tree by double debark at the base of the tree. The students divided into five groups did the practice followed by planting of 10 fruit trees.

The World Environment Day, commemorated each year on June 5, is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. The theme selected for 2006 is Deserts and Desertification and the slogan

is Don't Desert Drylands! The slogan emphasizes the importance of protecting drylands, which cover more than 40 percent of the planet's land area.

This ecosystem is home to one-third of the world's people who are more vulnerable members of society. The main international celebrations of the World Environment Day 2006 will be held in Algeria.



GROUP PHOTO ...Students of SMK Papar pose for the camera.