

UMS Borneo Research Institute (BMRI) organises river awareness campaign

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah's (UMS) Borneo Marine Research Institute (BMRI) organised a river awareness campaign which was attended by 100 students from two primary schools yesterday.

The participating schools were Sekolah Kebangsaan Petagas and Sekolah Kebangsaan Contoh.

The campaign which was held at the university's library auditorium aimed to educate the youngsters about an on-going community project on Stock Enhancement of Giant Freshwater Prawn in Sungai Petagas.

"The recent increase in the capture of the giant freshwater prawns from the river by the local fishermen is evidence of the success of the project that was carried out about three years ago," said Professor Datin Seri Panglima Dr. Ann Anton.

Dr Ann who was also the project leader said the on-going assessments on river water quality, and the effectiveness of stock enhancement of the freshwater giant prawns which were actively conducted contributed to the success.

Meanwhile, present at the event yesterday was the director of BMRI, Associate Professor Dr Rossita Shapawi.

In delivering her opening speech, she commended on the project which has brought benefit to the



Dr Ann (front row, fourth right), Dr Rossita (front row, fifth right), Hassan (front row, sixth right) together with the students and teachers from the participating schools.

local community.

She said the role of university today is not only to provide education but also to continuously transfer knowledge to the community especially to the younger generation.

"I understood that about 23,000 seeds of giant freshwater prawns have been released to the river once

or twice in a year, and the local community is now enjoying the benefits from it," she said.

Putatan District Officer Awang Abdul Ghani Pg Yusoff, who was represented by Hassan Mahali in delivering his speech, said the objective of the programme was to share knowledge and provide awareness on the importance of

river conservation to the younger generation.

During the campaign, the students were given exposure about freshwater prawns and river pollution.

Activities such as interactive quiz games, scrapbooking, drawing, and colouring competitions were also held to entertain the students during the one-day event yesterday.