

UMS club does its part to protect endangered species

NST 22-03-2017 12

KOTA KINABALU: The Tourism University Malaysia Sabah (TRUMS) club ran an interactive talk at a high school to increase awareness on the plight of endangered species.

The event was held recently at SMK Tebobon in Tuaran near here where around 40 students participated.

During the session, which was part of their elective studies, the students learned fun facts about the endangered animals of Sabah through various group activities, slideshows and short film presentations.

They learned the importance of maintaining stable habitats for the animals, which are a vital element for a healthy tourism industry in Sabah.

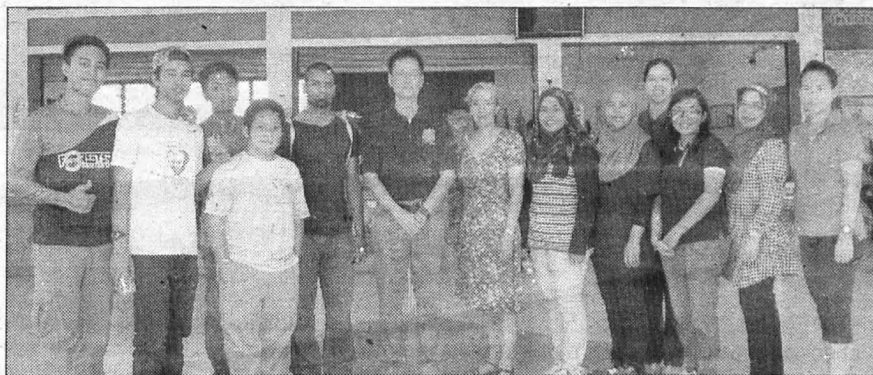
Also stressed was the necessity for these animals to remain in the forest, and that the keeping of them as pets is prohibited by law.

After quizzing the high school students on their understanding, the club members (UMS students) asked their younger counterparts to perform skits.

The SMK Tebobon students were asked to relate to scenarios in which endangered animals are mistreated and appropriate action should be taken.

The students came up with creative mini-dramas and demonstrated their acting skills along with their newfound knowledge.

SMK Tebobon teacher Lily Natasha Abdul said that the talk was both educational



SMK Tebobon principal Loh Kok Cheang (sixth left) with members of the TRUMS club

and entertaining.

"Sharing stories, feelings and experiences concerning endangered animals and using picture cards and videos gives an almost real live experience to the children... who we as educators should target because they will be the leaders of future the generation," she added.

Co-organiser for the event Brenda Wright, a UMS lecturer, echoed these thoughts saying, "This form of teaching is an effective and enjoyable way for students to learn in a context where both older and younger students are empowered by peer teaching."

"The theme of the talks, protecting en-

dangered animals, is one that is should be given more priority to create a better Sabah for future generations," she added.

Ms Chong, another teacher at the event, said that the TRUMS club created a friendly atmosphere that was conducive to learning where students were taught about Sabah's unique endangered animals.

And a TRUMS member Syahara Abdul Hussin pointed out that although the children had different ways of working and thinking, they came to realise how important endangered species are for the future.

The UMS group will extend their participatory talks to more schools in Sabah. — PR