



## Community

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Friday, 3 June 2016

# Cleaning up Kinta River

BY P. SUBAHSINI



Students from 13 other schools joined the group from SMK Raja Perempuan in the event to help clean up the riverbanks along the Kinta River. — Photos: SAIFUL BAHRI/The Star



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INSPIRED by the Star Media Group's "Do Good" initiative, SMK Raja Perempuan organised a cleanup event along the banks of the Kinta River.

"We initiated the event as part of the school's Go Green campaign that will be held yearly for the students in our school.

"So, this year we planned to do the river cleaning programme collaboratively together with other schools," said SMK Raja

Perempuan teacher and organiser of the event N. Sushil Kaur.

About 100 students from 13 different schools gathered near the river to clear away rubbish from drains near the river and along the riverbanks last Thursday.

The students also threw mud balls into the river to enhance the quality of the river.

The mud balls thrown in the river will reduce ammonia levels, hamper algae growth and improve the ecosystem in the river.





Besides cleaning up rubbish, the students also planted wetland plants along the river.

Apart from that, the students also planted wetland plants along the river, and heard a brief talk about sewage treatment by Indah Water Konsortium (IWK) in the sewage treatment plant near the river.

“Rivers get polluted because of people who just recklessly throw rubbish without realising and I think people should stop that,” said SMK Raja Perempuan student Ashley Foo.

“From this event I learned the importance of the river to us and by cleaning the river, not only will we benefit but also the living things in the river,” she said.

Another student Nor Amierah Mohd Rafiq, 19 from SMK Raja Perempuan said that the cleanup helped her learn more about the environmental problems in the country.

“The exposure has given me awareness to appreciate the environment,” she said.

Sheshalani Balasingam, 18 said that she now realises the importance of looking after the environment, especially keeping rivers clean.

“I hope that more of this kind of efforts will be held throughout our country so that the rivers in our country will be clean,” she said.



The students being briefed on how water hyacinth plants were used to treat water at the treatment pond.

Besides, participating in the programme the students also had to do a video presentations on the activities they were involved in.

"The video is to be shown to the students who did not participate so that they are also environmentally aware," said SMK Raja Perempuan teacher Yip Pei Yian.

SMK Raja Perempuan collaborated with the Perak Drainage and Irrigation Department, Global Environment Centre non-governmental organisation, Indah Water and Ipoh City Council to organise the event.