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Tajuk : Unimas Embarks On Zoology Programme For Schools.

## Unimas embarks on Zoology programme for schools

**KOTA SAMARAHAN:** Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) Department of Zoology, Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, has launched its 'Kembara Zoologi' programme at SK Meranek here last Wednesday.

The press release issued yesterday highlighted that this half-day programme was designed to reach out to local communities within Sarawak through knowledge transfer and sharing.

Unimas is targeting schools around Samarahan before spreading out to the whole of Sarawak.

The initiative was in line with the call by Ministry of Education to involve industries and agencies. This long-term programme themed 'Natural Resources and Environment' is intended for primary and secondary school students as well as parents and teachers.



LEARNING ABOUT SCIENCE: School kids take a closer look at wildlife specimen.

In addition, this project was aimed at raising awareness about the diversity of local flora and fauna and other science-related

concerns, such as 3R (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle) concept and knowledge on sustainable use of natural resources.

Department of Zoology head Dr Mohd Azlan Jayasilan said "sometimes we don't know what we have until we have lost it."

"Therefore, the younger generation needs to be aware of the importance of conservation of biodiversity. We are smack right in the middle of a biodiversity hotspot and in order to appreciate this richness, we will need to understand and embrace the concept of sustainability."

'Kembara Zoologi' programme at SK Meranek involved a total of 110 students representing Primary 3, 4, and 6 as well as some 20 teachers and supported by 32 staff and post-graduate students from the Department of Zoology.

This programme was also attended by three staff from state Education Department.

Activities in this programme included a slide presentation on 'Natural Resources and Biodiversity', 'Ask Professor' and wildlife specimen exhibition.