

Brief Report on Community Service Project in Kabong, Saratok

We are very pleased to report that the trip to Kabong, Saratok from the 26-29th April 2012 has been successfully completed. 57 final year students from both International Studies and Politics and Government Programs joined forces to ensure the success of the project and all activities within. Though we encountered some hiccups in the planning of this project, overall, we have achieved all the seven objectives of the project.

The program encompassed community work activities related to the environment, education and health - some very common issues face by developing countries. Activities conducted were in the form of knowledge sharing sessions to create awareness among the locals on the importance of taking care of the environment, on access to education and living a healthy lifestyle. Details of some of the activities include:

- 1. Education, Apr 27th, am.-** Motivational talk to Form 5 & Upper 6 students at SMK Kabong - sharing of info session on the access to UNIMAS & FSS; sharing of experience sessions by saudari Khairunnabihah Zainal Abidin, our Chancellor Award 2011 recipient & also by saudara Mohd Annuar Mahrup, a student with disability;
- 2. Information, Apr 27th pm.-** attended a briefing introducing the history of Saratok and Kabong at Majlis Daerah Saratok;
- 3. Health, Apr 28th am.-** Talk on HFMD to the KEMAS kindergarten kids and their parents; demonstration on the proper ways of washing hands (distribution of leaflets on HFMD awa hand sanitizers, bacteria-free soaps etc) & sharing session on a healthy diet (distribution of leaflets on healthy diet);
- 4. Recreational, Apr 28th pm.-** 3 hours experience of becoming "nelayan moden" (equipped with sunscreen, life-jackets and decorative straw hats) in an activity initiated by Persatuan Nelayan Kabong, fishing by pulling "pukat tarik" along the seaside (not the deep sea)
- 5. Entertainment, Apr 28th pm-** a complete surprise to UNIMAS entourage when our planned closed-door performance was turned into a huge open-to-public event together with invited dangdut singer and local Kabong "artists" (estimated a few thousand people turned up in a celebration to welcome the Prime Minister who visited Kabong the day before);
- 6. Environment, Apr 28th am -** Cleaning areas around Kg. Sungai Endut and planting trees along the main road to Kg. Sg. Endut;
- 7. Community service, Apr 28th am -** repairing the roof and replacing "tikar getah" of a house belonging to an old couple from Kg. Sg. Endut; handing over donations in the form of food, electrical goods and clothes to four needy families from Kg.Sg. Endut.

Coverage of our activities was reported in Utusan Sarawak 29 Apr 2012, p.10 .

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

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