

MANGROVES RESTORATION : YOUTH CHALLENGE

Mangroves are critical coastal ecosystems that impact our lives. They nourish biodiversity as nursery grounds for many coastal and marine species as well as support fisheries. On April 20, 2019, Persatuan Siswa-Siswi Sains Matematik (PERSIK) together with Persatuan Pendidikan dan Kebajikan Nelayan Pantai Malaysia (JARING) had organised a mangrove restoration programme entitled Mangrove Planting for the Future. This programme aimed to enhance the awareness of the mangroves value among university students and to support the go green campaign by the government. The students were given an exposure about the benefits of mangrove as coastal defense, nesting/breeding habitat for fish and shellfish, and carbon storage.

The programme, which was held at Kampung Sungai Betul, Bagan Tiang, Kerian, Perak had an involvement of 40 students. According to the representative of the Kampung Sungai Betul, it was good that the students were interested on mangroves and the ecosystem. He also hoped that the university would keep on supporting programme like this since it would assist the community to restore the ecosystem and increase the productivity of fish which indirectly improves the fishermen's income. Besides learning about the ecosystem, the students also planted about 200 mangroves trees with the help of the villagers before the programme ended.



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