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BACK TO BASICS: A TOUR TO FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MALAYSIA (FRIM)

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Today's younger generation are keen to be exposed to the rapid growth of technology. Their attention seems to be geared more towards gadgets and electronic devices including phones and tablets. Moreover, with the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and hundreds of Apps, the students learn almost everything from the screen or through virtual reality instead of experiencing it through the real world. Taking it as a challenge to do something distinctive, a group of students from the Faculty of Sports Science and Recreation and their lecturer decided to take a tour at Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) which is in Kepong, Kuala Lumpur. Although the main purpose of the tour is to accomplish the subjects' requirements, the students learnt something more precious beyond that. The tour provided students with opportunities to gain knowledge from the experts and share experience, which they otherwise would not be able to obtain in the classroom. In fact, when it comes to visiting places for leisure or recreation, students prefer to go to modern, attractive, and new places rather than visiting something that is more related to nature, history, culture, or traditions.



Picture 1: Wild ants

FRIM provides lots of information and services to create awareness as well as to visitors about mother educate nature. Regardless of how modern or developed a country is, we still need to appreciate and recognize the other living creatures that give the planet its equilibrium. Moreover, saving the environment through limiting waste and by implementing recycling is very important. Frankly speaking, many of us may come across the three different bins for recycling often enough, but only few of us really understand the impact of recycling. At FRIM, for instance, it is



Picture 2: Trees reaching the sun

almost impossible for visitors to find a bin. We are urged to keep our own trash and discard it in proper bins after leaving FRIM. This concept is applied to educate visitors to be more responsible by taking their rubbish with them and leaving FRIM as they found it when they arrived.



Picture 3: Entrance to FRIM Gallery

As a conclusion, change for a better starts from within. It does not require any hard work. Although, these days people are competing to become the best, the most successful and the most popular, sometimes we need to go "back to the basics". Nature will not last forever - what we earn today may not last long, especially for the next generation. Therefore, we need to be more grateful and use whatever we have today wisely.



Picture 4: One for the memory