

Jastre counts on youths to protect environment

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THE actions of youth can make a big and real difference in protecting the environment, the director of Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation (Jastre) said yesterday.

With the youth constituting half of Brunei's population, their role in conserving and protecting the environment sustainability is of paramount value and importance, Hj Mohd Zakaria Hj Sarudin said at the launch of the Awareness and Fundraising Week: A 4-in-1 Experience in Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College (MS).

"They are not only the leaders of tomorrow who will shape the future of societies and culture, but already today can play a key role to spearhead and champion diverse initiatives for social change," he said.

Hj Mohd Zakaria also encouraged the eco-clubs of schools around the country to collaborate to make a bigger change in the environment, saying that eco-clubs lead to far-reaching efforts to meet challenges and enhance participatory and ownership roles of the youth in the country.

"Eco-clubs provide the platform and venue for students to put their act together and initiate steps that they can take to create a positive change to reshape how our youth think, use and manage their environmental resources."

Jastre is collaborating with Butra Heidelberg Cement (BHC) Shd Bhd provided financial support to eco-clubs in a number of schools in Brunei to carry out environmental activities, one of them the MS Environmental Club.

The Awareness and Fundraising Week: A 4-in-1 Experience at MS yesterday re-launched the Bring-Your-Own (BYO) Campaign, and introduced the Interhouse 'Green Cage' Competition, Interhouse 'Landscape' Competition as well as fundraising activities to support the good cause.

Aimed at fostering recycling habits among students and staff, the Interhouse 'Green Cage' Competition will see the four college houses Pahlawan, Panglima, Laksamana and Hulubalang, building a collection of recycling bins to be placed within the open area of the school canteen.

The four houses will also compete in the Interhouse 'Landscape' Competition to create a green landscape in order to foster greeneries within the school compound and to instil passion in the students and staff to care for the environment.

Students sold a variety of food at the fundraiser to generate funds for the participating college clubs to supplement their existing resources for their respective club activities.

Forty per cent of the profits raised will be contributed to the MS Environmental Club for future college environmental activities, Dk Sarimah Pg Hj Ahmad, acting principal of MS, and also the chairperson of the Awareness and Fundraising Week in MS said.

Hj Mohd Zakaria also added that Jastre and its partners will continue to work closely with eco-clubs in schools by providing necessary assistance to implement their environmental initiatives and activities. The Brunei Times