

A journey of self-discovery

A GROUP of Universiti Kuala Lumpur Royal College of Medicine Perak (UniKL RCMP) students joined a three-day, two-night corporate social responsibility trip to Pos Kemar, Gerik, Perak on Sept 14-16.

The team included 70 UniKL RCMP staff and students, 15 Yayasan Malaysian Resources Corporation Berhad (MRCB) staff and five NGOs from the Malaysian Relief Agency (MRA) Perak and brought with them a donation of 200 boxes containing essential food items.

MRA also brought preloved items and food rations enough for three days. The excursion was fully sponsored by Yayasan MRCB.

On the second day, the donation boxes were presented to 20 families by the Yayasan MRCB staff while medical students and volunteers prepared breakfast for about 600 Orang Asli, conducted health checks, ran a colouring contest and telematch competition.

UniKL RCMP programme adviser Prof Dr Abdul Karim Russ Hassan said almost 2,000 people participated in the health checks and that the villagers were healthy and received proper nutrition, although most of the children suffered from skin diseases.

Dr Abdul Karim thanked Yayasan MRCB for sponsoring the UniKL RCMP corporate social responsibility programme for the second time – the first was at Sg Kejar Royal Belum Perak, which also involved the indigenous inhabitants.

MRA representative and UniKL RCMP lecturer Dr Ibrahim Zubil explained that the organiser chose Pos Kemar for its remoteness and accessibility issues.



Participants having a great time with the Orang Asli children in Pos Kemar.

“There are 15 villages with a total population of 5,000 Orang Asli, whose main sources of income come from rubber tapping, farming and selling agricultural products and fruits,” he explained.

Second year MBBS student and project manager Nur Hanis Iskandar Zulkarnain said that not many are keen to travel into the jungle, but: “As a medical student, I gained much experience and encourage others in the health line to do the same thing.”

Nursing programme clinical instructor Seelaa Segaran said, “I was able to see the life of the indigenous community for the first time,” adding that the programme helps her build relationships with her peers and colleagues.

Head cook Shaharul Afendi Shahrudin Kee who prepared meals for up to about 2,000 people said he had to adapt to a situation that presented limitations, “however, those were overcome by a marvellous cooking team.”

Other activities included hygiene demonstrations and personal care kits distributed to the children.

The positive response from the Orang Asli community was encouraging and they look forward to more programmes in the future.