

IEM-WE Community Engagement with Children of Kampung Orang Asli Kuang, Selangor

WOMEN ENGINEERS SECTION



reported by
**Dr Habibah @
Norehan Haron**
Grad. IEM

**Dr Habibah @
Norehan Haron,**
a senior lecturer at
UTM Razak School, is
currently a committee
member of Women
Engineers Section. She
is actively involved in
Engineering Education
and Manufacturing
Systems Engineering
research.



The children playing in the waterfall.

On Sunday, 6 December 2015, a group of volunteers from IEM Women Engineers Section (WE), students and youth spent some quality time with the children of Kampung Orang Asli Kuang, Selangor, about 50 km from Kuala Lumpur. This was our third activity with the children from the village.

Led by Dr Habibah @ Norehan Haron, we had 2 objectives: To check on 2014 SPM and UPSR academic achievements and to evaluate the current motivation status of 20 children who had participated in previous IEM-WE activities.

There were 14 girls and 6 boys, of which 5 girls and 4 boys had participated in WE activity previously. The children, aged between 7 and 17, comprised 5 students in Standard 3, 3 students in Standard 4, 2 students in standard 5, 2 students in Form 4 and 8 students from various other levels.

One of the girls who had joined the programme previously, completed SPM the year before, but was unable to participate this time. We were also unable to get details of her SPM results.

On the other hand, a UPSR student who joined us last year, was with us for this event. She is now in Secondary 1. She had obtained Cs in Science and Mathematics.

FIRST ACTIVITY: SURVEY FORM

We started our visit by distributing survey forms to the children to get their response. As some of the boys were unable to read and spell some words, WE volunteers helped to guide them in filling in the forms.



The children and the WE committee.

From the data collected, all the children who attended our programme (with the exception of one) said it had inculcated their interest in Science related subjects. But only 1 indicated an interest to try for a career related to Science, in particular to be a Mathematics teacher. On the whole, however, nearly 80% said that Mathematics and/or Science were their top 3 favourite subjects in school.

SECOND ACTIVITY: TREASURE HUNT

After getting to know each other, WE student volunteers divided the children into four groups with one volunteer acting as facilitator in each group.

The groups took part in a treasure hunt. The children were very excited and a strong teamwork spirit was obvious. Winners received tokens and hampers which were prepared from the cash and in-kind contributions sponsored by WE committee members.

THIRD ACTIVITY: WATERFALL OUTING

Breakfast, sponsored by WE, was served before the group trekked to a waterfall located about 1 km away. The children chattered excitedly as they guided us to the waterfall. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming as the children played host. They took the responsibility of ensuring that we reached the destination and returned to the village safely.

Shortly after we arrived at the waterfall and relaxed in the natural surroundings, it started to rain heavily. One of the boys advised us to quickly leave the place. He shared with us an experience in which, during the rain, he and some friends were almost swept away by a sudden torrent of water gushing down from upstream.

We arrived back at the village hall soaking wet but we didn't mind as we had spent some wonderful moments with the children.

In conclusion, we felt that the series of activities had influenced the children to develop a fondness for Science and Mathematics. It was observed that the children also showed greater confidence in outdoor activities. ■

IEM DIARY OF EVENTS

Title: Talk on Nominated Sub-Contracts (Especially under Pertubuhan Akitik Malaysia Contract 2006)

18 June 2016

Organised by : Sub Committee on Engineering Contracts of Standing Committee on Professional Practice
Time : 9.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.
CPD/PDP : 2

Title: Pre AGM Talk & 29th WRTD AGM

25 June 2016

Organised by : Water Resources Technical Division
Time : 9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.
CPD/PDP : 4

Title: 2nd Annual General Meeting of the Seniors Special Interest Group

2 July 2016

Organised by : Senior Special Interest Group
Time : 11.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.
CPD/PDP : 2

Kindly note that the scheduled events below are subject to change. Please visit the IEM website at www.myiem.org.my for more information on the upcoming events.