

Golden Key Malaysia 1st National Camp

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The Golden Key chapter at **Universiti Teknologi Malaysia** launched the 1st National Golden Key Malaysia Camp on the 22nd November 2008. The 3-day camp in Johor brought together participants from several universities including Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). Mr. Ramlan (GKUTM Chapter Advisor) and Prof. Dr. Mohd. Tajudin Hj. Ninggal officiated the camp.

As the event organiser, GKUTM had a mission to unite all sister chapters from across Malaysia. Ice-breaking sessions helped participants from various backgrounds to familiarise themselves with each

other. Conversation amongst the chapter presidents proved to be a success and there was good interaction between the chapters.

Awareness and protection of the environment was a key focus of the camp. The second day began with a trip to Tanjung Piai-Johor National Park. Being at the southernmost tip of the Asian continent, this park attracts visitors who enjoy ecotourism. Activities included bird-watching, boat rides to the mangroves, a walk along the 400m observatory jetty and guided walking tours. Park Manager Ms. Anne Majenil gave us a brief introduction to the park. Subsequently, Associate Professor Dr. Maketab of UTM, also Chairman of the Malaysian Nature Society (Johor Branch), presented a lecture entitled "Respect, Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle." Dr. Maketab addressed the importance of recycling reusable materials to protect our environment. We later put Dr. Maketab's words to practice and volunteered to clean up the park. We were proud to have collected a total of 558kg of rubbish breaking the record previous set in Tanjung Piai National Park!



Later that evening we hosted a BBQ dinner and enjoyed performances from the participants. Participants were involved in team building exercises including singing, dancing and sketching in front of the other groups.

The following morning, we travelled to Kukup Island by boat. Kukup Island is a mangrove island located at about 1 km offshore from the mainland town of Kukup Laut. Kukup Island was officially gazetted as a State Park to promote preservation of habitat, ecotourism and access to research. It was an enjoyable journey through the mangrove swamp and exciting to see the rich flora and fauna around the island. We also had the opportunity to explore the fishing village where we were introduced to the local lifestyle and received warm hospitality from the villagers.

On the final day we travelled to Danga Bay where participants had the chance to relax and snap their cameras at this popular scenic spot. The Festive Street Mall also gave the participants an opportunity to buy some souvenirs for their family and friends.

The 1st National Golden Key Malaysia Camp ended with concluding remarks from GKUTM's President, Ms. Jennie Chin. A sharing session was held before the camp ended and participants agreed that this camp proved to be a fruitful experience. Many friendships were formed over the three days and it was an event to remember.