

Swinburne S'wak's third 'Run for the Wild' attracts 280 runners



File photo shows Swinburne Green Club volunteers with Yin (left) after 'Ride for the Wild' held in May.

KUCHING: Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus (Swinburne Sarawak) will host the city's biggest conservation awareness run, 'Run for the Wild' this Dec 17.

The event, jointly run with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Malaysia and Sarawak Biodiversity Centre, enters its third consecutive year this time.

It will gather 280 participants in the 5km and 10km categories, as well as the 1.5km 'Fun Walk' – all in support of the orangutans, sharks and rays.

It will also feature other activities such as a conservation awareness talk, face and henna painting sessions, Zumba sessions and a colouring contest for primary school pupils.

Swinburne Sarawak has a long history of collaborating with WCS Malaysia on the annual 'Run for the Wild' and 'Ride for the Wild' events, providing the venue and volunteers from among the university's student clubs such as the Green Club, Running Club, Cycling Club, Football Club, Debaters' Club, and Student Leadership and Volunteers Programme.

For the student volunteers, being part of the event provides them the opportunity to do their part in promoting conservation efforts to the younger generation.

Second-year Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering student – also a lead marshal and 10km pacer – Marco Lai Chung Yi initially did not have much knowledge about conservation issues, but being involved in a meaningful event such as this gave him a new sense of purpose.

"As a volunteer, my involvement does not only expose me to issues that are happening in Malaysia and around the world, but also helps to highlight the importance of conservation indirectly by raising funds and awareness in society," said Lai through the university's press statement yesterday.

Swinburne Sarawak senior lecturer and Faculty of Language and Communications associate dean Christina Yin, who is also Swinburne Green Club advisor, commented that it is heartening to witness so many Swinburne students volunteer for the conservation cause.

"We hope that more young people, not just Swinburne

students, would actively change their lives to live more sustainably. Being developed shouldn't mean that we show off our progress by increasing our carbon footprints, or by surrounding ourselves with new gadgets and fashionable clothes and accessories. We should live sustainably and make sure that there's a sustainable, healthy future for our children, and the nature and wildlife around them," she said.

Although registration for the run and walk has closed, members of the public may still join the 'Virtual Run', which is taking place throughout this month. They may also sign up their children to take part in the 'Wildlife Conservation Colouring Contest' this Dec 17.

More information on these events can be found at www.runforthewildmalaysia.com

For more information about Swinburne Sarawak, email Marcella Gider via mgider@swinburne.edu.my, or visit the university's website (www.swinburne.edu.my), Facebook page (@swinburnesarawak), Twitter page (@Swinburne_Swk) or YouTube channel (Swinburne Sarawak).