Sprucing up Sungai Sepang Kecil

Green effort to rehabilitate mangrove forest and coastal mangrove swamps

MORE than 35 Cargill Malaysia employees volunteered to participate in a day-long environmental conservation programme in Sungai Sepang Kecil.

The programme aims to rehabilitate mangrove forest and coastal mangrove swamps along Sungai Sepang Kecil.

Cargill employees were guided by Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) coordinators on mangrove sapling planting techniques.

The employees planted the mangrove saplings at a designated site along Sungai Sepang Kecil. A total of 100 mangrove saplings were planted.

Mangrove ecosystems are home to unique species of flora and fauna and they also protect coastal areas from erosion and extreme weather conditions. Replanting of mangroves support eco-tourism activities for the benefit of the coastal community.

Since 2009, Cargill has planted a total of 600 mangrove saplings in Selangor.

According to Cargill Cares member of FF project manager Simon Ng, there has been a significant increase in the number of employee volunteers for environment-related projects.

To gather mangrove seeds for future planting, Cargill employees planted mangrove trees seeds along the Bagan Lalang beach and placed them in polybags which contained beach soil.

Almost 250 mangrove polybags were prepared and later transported to the MNS Environmental Interception Centre.

The employees rounded up their day by cleaning up a stretch of the Bagan Lalang beach while some volunteers collected trash and debris including plastic bags, ropes, plastic containers, bottles, and construction debris. Nearly 450kg of rubbish were collected.

Cargill Cares manager and account executive Norlizah Ibrahim said the employees were keen to participate in the programme and to contribute to conserving the environment for future generations.

"It was well worth the time and effort, despite the scorching heat. We also hope the local residents, especially the children, will learn to appreciate and take responsibility of maintaining the cleanliness of the beach and its surrounding."

The programme was organised in conjunction with Cargill’s annual worldwide environment-focused volunteer programme which stretches for seven weeks from Earth Day through World Environment Day (April 22 and June 5).

Cargill has been carrying out environment activities in partnership with the MNS since 2009 and the programme this year was the third event in Sungai Sepang Kecil. It reaches out to the local communities in the area by raising awareness on how to preserve our natural resources and the environment for future generations in the face of climate change.