KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	STAR METRO			
TARIKH	:	09/12/2021 (KHAMIS)	MUKA SURAT	:	8
JABATAN	:	JPSM			

On track with reforestation efforts

Company marks project's first anniversary with mangrove planting activity in Selangor

PROJECT RELeaf, which is part of Nestle Malaysia's efforts to tackle climate change and contribute to zero net emissions globally, celebrated its first anniversary.

The project, launched in September 2020, aims to plant three million trees across Malaysia by 2023.

Project RELeaf builds on the pioneering Kinabatangan Rileaf Project that concluded in 2020 with one million trees planted in Sabah.

Nestle (M) Bhd chief executive officer Juan Aranols said, "Long lockdown periods limited our access to planting sites and resulted in some delays to the roll-out of Project RELeaf.

"However, we made very good use of the time and by now, our partner nurseries have nearly one million seedlings and saplings of various indigenous species.

"By the year end, some 300,000 will have been transplanted into their final sites.

"Following the end of the lockdown, we are hitting the ground running and our teams are rapidly ramping up planting activity."

Aranols said Nestle had built partnerships inside and outside of its supply chain, and was currently exploring further collaborations with government and state agencies to ensure the acceleration and scaling up of the RELeaf programme.

"We have a solid plan and resources in place to plant 1.3 million trees in 2022, followed by 1.4 million trees in 2023.

"We are fully committed to materialising our ambition to achieve zero net carbon emissions by 2050, with at least a 50% reduction by 2030.

"Our reforestation initiatives will be complemented by the roll-out of regenerative agricultural practices in our chilli, padi and coffee farming engagements.

"We are also honoured to be among the very early signatories of the pledge to support and adopt the Green Energy Tariff announced by the Malaysian government," said Aranols.

To mark Project RELeaf's first anniversary, Nestle teamed up with non-governmental organisation Impact Revolution Enterprise for a mangrove planting activity at Kuala Selangor Nature Park.



Aranols (right) and Nestle Cares volunteers marking the mangrove restoration project at Kuala Selangor Nature Park.

Aimed at restoring the area's precious mangrove ecosystem, more than 100 Nestle volunteers planted over 500 Rhizophora Apiculata (*pokok bakau minyak*) saplings within the forest.

Nestle Malaysia agriculture services head Yong Lee Keng said, "We are pleased to undertake this mangrove reforestation initiative in Kuala Selangor Nature Park, which is a sanctuary for a wide range of indigenous plants and wildlife.

"Mangrove forests are a vital part of Malaysia's precious ecosystem and play a critical role in the fight against climate change by acting as carbon sinks to reduce emissions, as well as stabilising coastlines, reducing soil erosion and supporting livelihoods among local coastal communities."

The mangrove restoration activity is a programme under Nestle Cares, Nestle's global platform which aims to instil a culture of volunteerism among employees.

Volunteers also carried out mangrove planting activity near Kampung Sijangkang in Kuala Langat, Selangor, earlier this year, aside from participating in the company's annual Beach and Underwater Clean Up across several locations in Malaysia.