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# Green and enterprising

## School sells plants in eco-garden to generate income for club

By JOLYNN FRANCIS  
and LAU SIN YIAN

**T**HE Methodist Boys' School Interact Club in Penang plants trees to beautify and green the school and also sells plants from their eco-garden to the public.

Club teacher advisor Wong Chiew Lee said that they started organic eco-farming in 2012 and now have plants to aid patients suffering from all types of ailments.

"We have plants for people who suffer from diabetes, renal failure, cancer, high blood pressure, piles, urinary tract infection and more," Wong said at a recycling awareness event under the Healthy Setting Hospital Programme at the Penang Hospital on Tuesday.

She said the public would go to the school to buy the plants starting from RM5, and this generated income for the club and contributed to the school.

She said the money would be used to purchase gardening equipment and tools such as hoe,

wheelbarrow and rubber hose, to maintain and upkeep the plants and trees.

The Healthy Setting Hospital Programme was started in 2006 by a group of proactive Penang Hospital staffers to educate and create awareness among hospital staff of the importance of recycling, and to create a healthy and clean environment for staffers and patients alike.

The event also saw the sale of homemade citrus enzymes by the school that could be used on the skin at RM10 a bottle.

Fellow exhibitor from Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) also sold handicraft made by disabled individuals' and pillows by aborigines.

UUM Entrepreneurial Action Us (Enactus) public relations deputy vice-president Eow Ee Mei said that they taught the disabled how to crochet coin purses, pencil cases and hairbands from strings of disposed plastic bags.

"Ninety percent of the profit goes back to the disabled and 10% to our transportation expenses as we are based in Kedah," she said, adding that it takes months for the disabled to crochet a bag due to their disabilities and existing duties at their respective centres.

The Enactus also teaches the Semang Negrito tribe from Baling, Kedah, how to use the *kekabu* cotton to make pillows, bolsters and headrests.

Penang Hospital (Medical) deputy director II Dr S. Shameni said that they recycled about 30,000kg to 50,000kg of material yearly, including boxes, paper, plastic bottles, tin and aluminium, and part of the proceeds would go to patients who were poor or did not have a guardian.

"We would provide transport money and food for them after they have been discharged from hospital. About 20 to 50 patients receive help like this every year," she said.

**We started eco-farming in 2012 and now have plants to aid patients suffering from all types of ailments.**

— WONG CHIEW LEE

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1 Members of the public visiting the Methodist Boys' School booth at the recycling awareness event at the Penang Hospital.



2 (From left in white) Dr Shameni and Penang Hospital head occupational therapist and chairman of the Recycling Programme Ooi Siew Chen checking out some items at one of the booths.