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BULUH IN THE CITY



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BULUH IN THE CITY

On January 18, The Rimba Project in collaboration with Urban Biodiversity Initiative (UBI) held a day-long event focusing on bamboos in urban landscapes at University of Malaya's very own botanic garden, Rimba Ilmu which is the only university garden that sets aside a large area for conservation and nature education activities. On top of being declared as a National Heritage Site, Rimba Ilmu boasts the largest bamboo collection site in the country with 40 spp. of bamboos including the giant bamboo. 'Buluh in the City' saw a warm reception as about 70 members of the public from varying ages came to further learn about bamboos, a common plant that is often overlooked in urban contexts.

Sembang Buluh, a forum on urban spaces and community interaction with gardens kicked off the event as panelists Angela Hijjas of Rimbun Dahan and Khim Joe of Kebun-Kebun Bangsar along with moderator Thary Gazi Goh of UBI discussed on the current situation of green spaces in urban cities of Malaysia. As local spaces are becoming more marginalised and green spaces are being pushed to the fringes, all parties ranging from individuals and communities to NGO's and landscape architects should work together to cultivate better urban green spaces that serves the public's interest. Key takeaways are power of community-led efforts, value of awareness and education, importance of meaningful interactions with nature and utility over aesthetics in gardens. It was an engaging and relaxed discussion that brought meaningful dialogue on matters close to the hearts of the community.





*"Amazing initiative. To raise awareness to one of most relevant problems nowadays"
- Pedro Magalhães , Jiangxi Normal University*

*"It's great and looking forward to join more events alike!"
- Mok Yi Ying, EcoKnights*

There were multiple sessions of Bamboo Guided Walk where knowledgeable volunteer guides shared insights on local bamboos as they guided participants around the bambusetum area of Rimba Ilmu. As there is a lacking in knowledge of bamboos among the public, increasing the participants' awareness and understanding of the useful and easy-to-grow plant allows it to be viewed from a new perspective.



Balqis Tajalli of Sunprint Studio ran multiple sessions of suprinting workshop that utilises the sun to produce cyan-blue prints. Participants foraged the grounds of Rimba Ilmu and imprinted plants by process of cyanotype to produce artworks of their own. The workshop intersected nature with art letting participants engage with the plants around them in a meaningful way.





"The works of cyanotype using foraged plants and the sun are honest, full of unexpected details and beautiful combinations. Things that weather, imperfect and vulnerable often speaks to my soul. That's where I want to be as an art and design practitioner"
- Balqis Tajalli





"Cooking with lesser known ulams have been exciting. A lot of greenery that opens up flavour profiles that are not possible with the usual contemporary vegetables you find in supermarkets. Bamboo too has been interesting to work with and I look forward to whatever Thary and UBI throw my way"
- Umar Aziz

Projek Dapur Umar by Umar Aziz fed the hungry public with dishes that incorporated bamboos in its preparation, with rice bowls comprising of rice steamed in bamboos being the main highlight.





There were booths set up by Rimba Ilmu, The Rimba Project, Water Warriors and Centre for Malaysian Indigenous Studies (CMIS) selling merchandise ranging from bamboo flasks to fish traps made by bamboo. A booth by UBI demonstrated the method of making qalam out of bamboos.





As visitors participated in making their own personalised qalams and produced artworks using the tool, it was another moment of convergence between nature and art.





A Zero Waste Corner booth was set up as an experiment to reduce water usage and prevent water pollution in the pristine stream of Rimba Ilmu. Dried bamboo leaves were used clean food waste and oil from containers.





Thank you to our
dedicated volunteers.
Everyone was *so*
semangat lah!



FEEDBACK

Total number of participants

Sembang Buluh	66
Bamboo-themed Cyanotype Workshop	26 (including 4 walk-ins)
<i>*pre-registered activity limited to 10 people per session</i>	
Volunteers	30

Participants comprised of

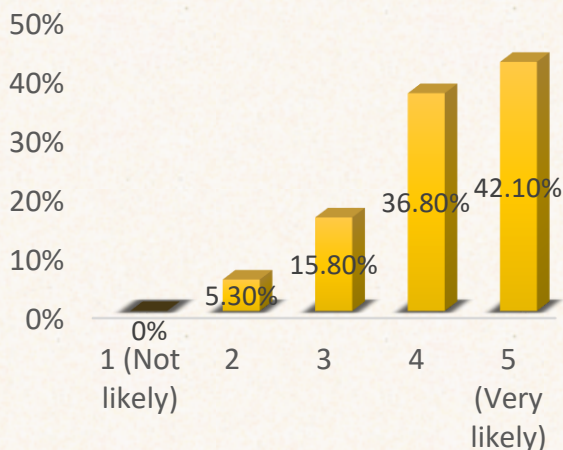
Undergraduates & Postgraduates of University of Malaya
Secretariat Eco-campus
Local residents of Klang Valley
Resident artists of Rimbun Dahan
Gibbon Protection Society
EcoKnights
United Nations Development Programme
Malaysian Conservation Alliance of Tigers (MYCAT)
Sampah, Menyampah!
Jiangxi Normal University
Monash University



"The whole event was thoroughly enjoyable. Having a chef-in-residence was a brilliant idea, infusing the environment with added aroma. The late addition of 2 speakers for the forum added so much more to the discussion. Their experiences at Rimbin Dahan and Kebun-Kebun Bangsar were invaluable. And of course the cyanotype workshop was the icing on the cake. The facilitator was patient and guided us through the process with the help of volunteers on hand. It was my first time doing this type of art and it's got me hooked! The setting within the greenery of Rimba Ilmu for the event was truly a good choice. What better way to get people back to nature by sitting under the shade of tall trees and enjoying the 'music of the jungle'. We even heard the cackling sounds of a woodpecker as it flew overhead amongst the trees. More of such events please!"

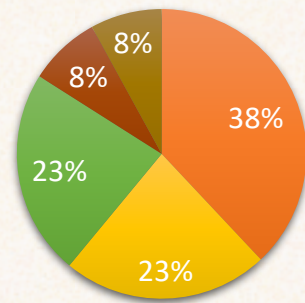
- Lee Siew Chin

How likely are you to attend future events run at Rimba Ilmu?

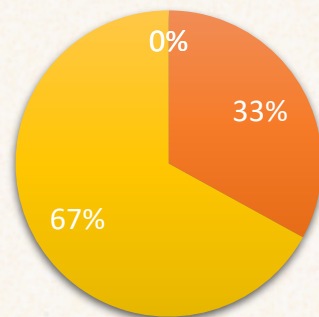


On a scale of 1 (Not satisfied) to 5 (Very satisfied), how satisfied were you with each of the events?

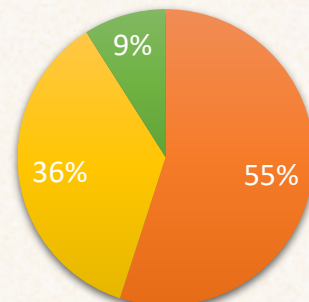
Sembang Buluh



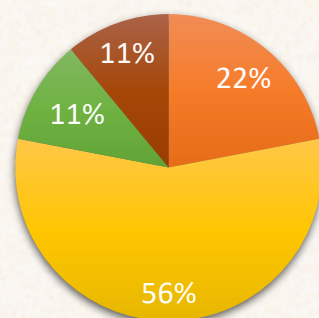
Projek Dapur Umar



Bamboo-themed Cyanotype Workshop



Bamboo Guide Walk



■ 5 (Very Satisfied) ■ 4 ■ 3 ■ 2 ■ 1 (Not Satisfied)

**Percentage does not represent total attendees*

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Special thanks to



Rimba Ilmu Botanic Garden is a National Heritage Site