

**Young Voices for Conservation** is a unique programme that provides young students the opportunity to delve into themselves and unlock their potential. The programme harnesses the spirit and energy of the youth to create positive change in themselves and the community around them.

Under the six month programme, participating students acted as mentors to their classmates, with the ultimate goal of running an outreach campaign at their school, to raise awareness on the individual's role in conserving the environment.



And the students did more than just raise awareness, they taught their classmates how to take action to protect the environment. Through their passion, the student teams motivated themselves and their classmates to "take shorter showers to save water" to "try and eat less meat" to "keep the wrapper in your pockets until you found a dustbin".



Student project teams participated in training workshops, learned finance and budgeting, as well as enjoyed fieldtrips to the forest, to strengthen their connection with the natural environment.

While most of the students had never prepared a proposal, produced a budget or run an entire campaign on their own before, with the training and advice they received under this programme, they progressed to a level that truly impressed the judges.



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The closing ceremony held on 15 November 2011, marked the conclusion of Young Voices for Conservation. It was a festive event, and included exhibition booths set up by the project teams to display their work, as well as the awarding of prizes to the winning schools.

Prizes were presented by Mr Shariffuddin Mohamad – Executive Director, Operations, AFFINBANK., who was accompanied by Puan Christa Hashim of TrEES and Encik Awang Shaffie from the Forestry Department of Selangor.

While the top performing schools won cash prizes totaling RM18,500 contributed by AFFINBANK, the knowledge and skills gained under the programme made all the participants in TrEES school programme winners.

TrEES school programme has the approval of the Ministry of Education and is run in partnership with the Forestry Department of Selangor and the Selangor Water Management Agency. With strong financial support from AFFINBANK, the programme in 2011 involved 15 schools from Selangor, KL and Putrajaya.



### Prize Winners:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> place winner – RM8,000

- SMK USJ 8

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner – RM5,000

- SMK Bandar Utama Damansara (3)

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner – RM3,000

- SMK Tengku Ampuan Rahimah

#### Financial Management Award – RM1,000

- SMK Bandar Utama Damansara (3)

#### Special Merit Awards – RM500

- SMK Section 18, Shah Alam
- SMK Taman SEA
- SMK Sri Istana, Klang

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