

Moulding good citizens



■ By Sabariah Salleh

COMMUNITY service helps shape students to be good citizens, said Kolej Universiti Islam Malaysia (KUIM) assistant registrar Muhammad Haizuan Rozali.

"Co-curriculum sees students offering services to the community. Sometimes, they go to a village and organise activities ranging from motivational talks to tele-matches. More importantly, they help villagers to improve their lives by rebuilding public toilets, painting a *surau* or cleaning the grounds," he said.

Not only do these activities encourage students to mix with people from all walks of life, they also teach them to be grateful for what they have, as some villages just have basic amenities.

"It is our aim to expose students to what is happening around them and experience what other people have to go through just to get food on the table," he said.

He said programmes like 'Baktisiswa' give students a chance to be part of a community and be involved in its daily activities.

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— Haizuan

OVERWHELMING RESPONSE:
KUIM sent a humanitarian mission to Cambodia.

For instance, KUIM students were in Kampung Bongek, Negri Sembilan last July.

"Our students did a survey at that village. They researched villagers' perception on development," he said, adding that by doing the research, students got to mix with neighbouring villagers.

The findings are then given to the village's committee

members and district council so they will be more aware of the situation in the village.

"In a way, the research also helps students improve their research skill, which is important when one needs to do a research project or assignment.

"Also, by mixing with villagers, they can discover new things," he said.

KUIM's community pro-

gramme is not only done in Malaysia. The university has embarked on a humanitarian mission to Kampung Keh, Kampot, Cambodia, which received overwhelming response from students.

"So many offered to be part of the team but only 30 were chosen. During the mission, they experienced Cambodia's culture and saw how some people live in poverty.

"The team brought clothes and food to be given to villagers," he said.

Aside from that, the mission teaches students to be grateful for what Malaysia has.

"At least they will realise how our Government works hard to provide all the facilities that we have. It will motivate them to work harder to ensure a better future for our country," he



added.

What is interesting about KUIM's community project is that the programme continues until students are back in college.

"We keep track of the effectiveness of the programme by keeping in touch with the villagers. Sometimes we organise day-visits to the village or bring the villagers for activities at our campus," he said.

It also organises activities with other public universities and government agencies.

"These activities shows KUIM's effort in providing holistic education to our students. Furthermore, there are nearly 67,000 graduates between 2000 and March this year so being involved with these activities will let our students score more points while job hunting," he said.

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