

## Featured Article

### Karnival Kimia Malaysia (K<sub>2</sub>M) 2022 Science is Magical - Reaching Out to the Rural Community

Science is magical! Institut Kimia Malaysia (IKM), the professional body for Chemists, initiated Karnival Kimia Malaysia (K<sub>2</sub>M) – a community project to promote learning of Chemistry among school students. The program was first organized by IKM (Sarawak Branch) in 2011 in Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). It was then held biennially in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019 at different venue, mainly schools. As the program continues, IKM (Sarawak Branch) is motivated to inspire the rural students to take up science and eventually choosing a career in science. Starting from 2017, K<sub>2</sub>M was held in schools at smaller towns. The program was halted in 2021 due to the MCO. This year, IKM (Sarawak Branch) decided to revive K<sub>2</sub>M, moving further inland to SK Long Bedian. SK Long Bedian is the only K9 school in Malaysia, located 195 km away from Miri and is only accessible through logging roads.

| Year | Venue                                  |
|------|--|
| 2011 | Universiti Malaysia Sarawak            |
| 2013 | Kolej Datu Patinggi Abang Hj. Abdillah |
| 2015 | Universiti Malaysia Sarawak            |
| 2017 | MRSM Betong                            |
| 2019 | SMK Marudi, Sarawak                    |
| 2022 | SK Long Bedian, Long Bedian            |



K2M Usaha Tarik Minat Pelajar Luar Bandar

SABTU, 24 SEPTEMBER 2022

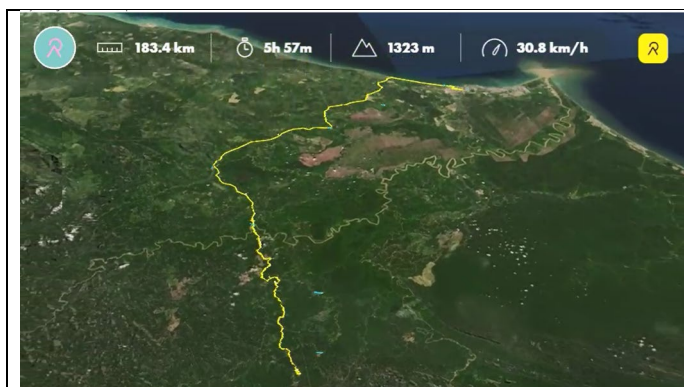
MIRI: Kimia adalah satu cabang pendidikan yang sangat penting selaras dengan perkembangan pesat bidang ini di serata dunia.

K2M in portal of Unit Komunikas Awam Sarawak (UKAS).

<https://ukas.sarawak.gov.my/2022/09/24/k2m-usaha-tarik-minat-pelajar-luar-bandar/>



K<sub>2</sub>M in TVS



From Miri to Long Bedian



Logging roads to Long Bedian

Long Bedian is a lovely little settlement, hidden away from the busy town, lived by mainly Kayan community. On K<sub>2</sub>M 2022 (22 September 2022), IKM (Sarawak Branch) spent a day with the students and the community to inspire, to learn together and to care. This is some memorable experience to share.

To organize a program in a town this far away, it is naturally very costly. IKM has not been alone to put together K<sub>2</sub>M. It was the partnerships with collaborators including Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Sarawak (JPN), Chemsain Konsultant, Rotary Club of Kuching, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Jabatan Kimia Malaysia (JKM) and Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) Sarawak that prevails. As IKM and partners strive to make ways to Long Bedian, there are multiple challenges; one of toughest problem accessing the rural areas in Sarawak is the transport as only 4WDs can trail through the logging roads. Averagely, a vehicle with a capacity of 4 passengers to Long Bedian will cost RM900/day. With an entourage of 40 pax for 3 days of stay, it could easily cost RM27,000 just for the transport. Sarawak Oil Palm Berhad (SOPB) had supported IKM providing the team with some vehicles and manpower. IKM has more helps from other associates who had heard of the program. Food and beverages companies including Sundrop Fruit Juices Sdn Bhd, Borneo Biscuit Factory Sdn Bhd, Pico Food Industry Sdn Bhd have sponsored refreshment for the programme. Many of us are very familiar and have followed the development of mobile network technology i.e., 3G, 4G and 5G. Do you know that in rural areas like Long Bedian, there is no coverage of mobile network, the internet access is through the satellite broadband system? The telecommunication company, e-Eritel Sdn Bhd, has offered the team with internet access through CONNECTme. YB Dennis Ngau, the State Representative for Telang Usan, although was away for his official duty, YB made sure the team of IKM and partners were accommodated in Long Bedian.

It was all a wonderful day filled with laughter and joy. IKM is grateful for the warm hospitality from the teachers, students and community. The team of IKM demonstrated the wonders of science through experiments and games, which is the main objective of the program. This year, the program has extended beyond education emphasizing reaching out to the community. The eye-testing, sponsored by SOPB, was offered to the students as well as the community in Long Bedian. Miri is the nearest town to find to an optician. It is very expensive to commute and it can be a burden to the family and to elderly who are less mobile. Hence, the eye-checking initiative including prescription of spectacles has added value to this K<sub>2</sub>M, showing care to the community. A total of 60 pairs of glasses were prescribed for students and community with eyesight problems, respectively. Meanwhile, NREB has also taken the initiative to teach the community in making compost; the session was engaging with hands-on experience. The program included a dinuh (traditional glutinous rice balls of Kayan) making session where the women community taught the team of K<sub>2</sub>M how to make dinuh. Together, the team and the community break into impromptu traditional dance of Kayan.





Opening Ceremony by Mr Baru Tai, District Officer, representing YB Dennis Ngau



K<sub>2</sub>M team with Mr Baru Tai and gorgeous student dancers



Science through games



Science through experiments



Motivational talk by Dr Lau Seng



Making compost with the community



Eye checking for students



Eye checking for the community

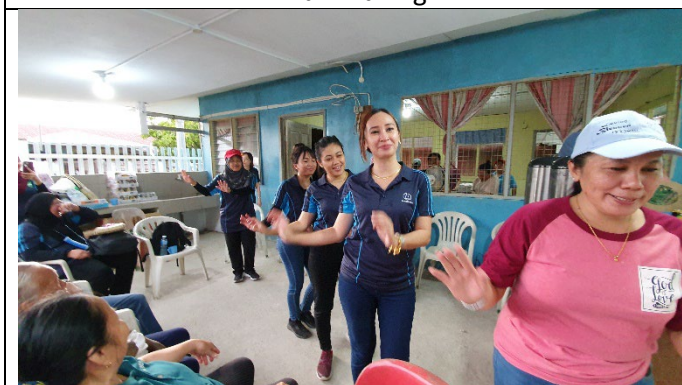




Dinuh making



Dinuh making



Traditional dance of Kayan



SK Long Bedian

It was a successful event, made possible with the amazing coordination and hard work of the teachers in SK Long Bedian. IKM and partners sincerely thanked the teachers for giving us an unforgettable experience in Long Bedian and assurance that, the move of K<sub>2</sub>M to inspire rural students shall continue. The World Bank documented that Sarawak has the largest proportion of the nation's rural population. In the district of Baram alone, there are a total of 73 rural schools covering an area of some 20,000 km<sup>2</sup>. Some of these schools are very far and are only accessible through logging roads and rivers. Our rural community needs us. It is indeed challenging to reach out to our rural community but with the partnerships between agencies/institutions/private/NGOs, no one is left behind. Mother Teresa said, "Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love".



Students and K<sub>2</sub>M Team singing "Keluarga Malaysia"



Amazing students of SK Long Bedian



Giant "Durian" in Long Bedian



The long house in Long Bedian

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