

Laboratory tour an eye-opener for students

STARMETRO
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SMJK Chung Ling Butterworth students broadened their scientific minds following a study trip to a laboratory in Taman Inderawasih, Prai, on the Penang mainland.

The visit organised by MY CO2 Sdn Bhd laboratory, Safetyware Sdn Bhd and VA Partners Consultancy Company saw 28 students and five teachers exploring the 12,000sq ft-sized state-of-the-art 'green' laboratory.

The students from the school's Science Society were each handed a lab coat, hair net, gloves and shoe covers before they could set foot into the sterile laboratory.

Inside, the beauty of science came alive at the microbiology station where they took turns to peek through microscopes assisted by a microbiologist to trace the presence of bacteria and microorganisms in various samples.

Further down at the Pipetting and Titration station, the students also had the opportunity to use a pipette to accurately measure the volume of test solutions to determine the concentration.

Toy safety evaluation through various mechanical tests were also demonstrated for the students to understand the safety standards needed for compliance before the toy can be sold to children.

Student Ang Chun Wah, 19, said the visit was an eye-opener as it was the first time he got to enter a real laboratory.

"Not only must the interior be squeaky clean, the equipments have to be advanced and the scientists must be precise when measuring

the chemicals.

"I now have a better insight of a laboratory and this has motivated me to improve the quality of my work according to real industry standard," he said.

Another student Shirley Ooi Yee Shyen, also 19, said she was fascinated by the 'liquid extraction' process demonstrated where precise amounts of liquid must be moved accordingly from a container to another, adding that this has raised her interest in becoming a scientist.

MY CO2 Group managing director Louis Ooi said the visit was to expose students to a real laboratory experience and help them decide on their career and at the same time, help the teachers during lessons.

"As part of our S.H.E (Safety, Health, Environment) corporate social responsibility initiative, the visit was also to instil interest, knowledge and experience of the students in analytical science and to prepare them for a career in the relevant industries after graduation.

"In conjunction with our 10th anniversary this year, we are opening our high-tech facility to students and teachers," he said, adding that interested schools can call him (012-4522575) to enquire.

Among the activities held during the recent half-day visit was a demonstration on how to handle various Personal Protection Equipment by SafetyWare Group Country sales manager Vincent Yaw Chiew Soon and a motivational talk by VA Partners Group founder and director Kam Lian Hooi.



MY CO2 assistant technical manager Ooi Chin Giap (third left) explaining the toys testing unit to SMJK Chung Ling Butterworth students. (Left pic) A student trying out water testing while being guided by MY CO2 employee Rawiah Abd Razak (left) during their study trip at the laboratory in Taman Inderawasih, Prai.