LIGHT UP! INITIATIVE: AN EMPOWERMENT & CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT

2ND QUARTERLY REPORT (APR - JUNE 2016)
DONATIONS THROUGH ORGANISATIONS

The implementation of ELS’ Light Up! Initiative has progressed well in line with its objectives. From its launch in November 2015 until the end of June 2016, a total of 585 mini solar LED lights were donated to a number of organisations to either facilitate the working environment of their team members, or to be passed on to underprivileged communities under the supervision of these organisations. Mercy Malaysia and Persatuan Buku Jalan Chow Kit are the two new recipient organisations in the second quarter of this year.

Twenty-one units of the mini solar LED lights were donated to the Medical/Disaster Relief teams of Mercy Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur in April 2016. More will be given to the mobile medical clinics of Mercy Malaysia Sabah-Sarawak Chapters (Rural Development) via Mercy’s representatives from Kuala Lumpur and from Sabah/Sarawak in the third quarter of the year.

Established in August 2015, Persatuan Buku Jalan Chow Kit is a privately run charity organisation which gives English and mathematics classes to children aged 7-15 in the Chow Kit area of Kuala Lumpur. Due to poverty and/or lack of proper official documents, most of these children do not or cannot attend school.

Classes are conducted every Sunday evening at the loading bay of Wisma Alka Ria, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman. Relying only on street lamps, the area where classes are conducted is not well lit especially during the rainy season. The donation of 22 mini solar LED lights from ELS on 22nd June 2016 has greatly facilitated the teaching and learning activities there. The Persatuan has also asked for ELS assistance in preparing English learning modules for these children. This request will be followed up, and passed on to ELS instructors who can voluntarily participate in this noble cause.
DONATIONS AND STUDENTS’ VISITS

Starting in this quarter is the inclusion of field trips by ELS students to donate the lights and interact with recipient communities, although donations are still done through organisations working with these communities. Other than contributing to the acquisition of the lights from the registration of new students, ELS students and staff have begun to experience the “village” life and hardship first-hand. As an integral part of the Light Up! Initiative, student on-site activities are emphasised, and will be conducted as often as it is logically possible. This is a form of cultural enrichment, which provides students with exposures to other aspects of Malaysian societies, as well as instilling in them philanthropic values and practices.

ELS SUBANG JAYA & KOMUNITI KASIH

On 14th of May, 2016, ten ELS students and staff from ELS Subang Jaya Centre and three representatives from the ELS Management made a field trip to donate 50 mini solar lights to an orang asli community of Kampung Sungai Ulu Ruai, Raub, Pahang. This is the second donation through Komuniti Kasih, after the first 10 units were donated to Kampung Bertang in February this year. The total donation now stands at 60 for Kampung Sungai Ulu Ruai and Kampung Bertang, both of which still do not have electricity. However, due to logistic problems, the ELS team only visited Kampung Sungai Ulu Ruai, which is accessible by road.

The trip was organised in collaboration with Komuniti Kasih, which provided the transport for this day-trip activity. The organisation has been very involved in an education outreach programme with the orang asli in this area for the past few years. Besides donating the lights, basic necessities were also donated by ELS-Subang Jaya students to these two communities. The trip was an eye-opener for the international students, and even for the one Malaysian, who had never been to an orang asli settlement, or a tropical forest before. The lush greenery of the forest and the refreshing streams were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

ELS Subang Jaya students presenting their donation of basic necessities to the village headman

The village headman receiving the lights from Ms Chee Yin Fair, Centre Director of ELS Kuala Lumpur and Mr Dasam Daud, Centre Director of ELS UPM
Mr Choy Lee Wan from Komuniti Kasih showing Ms Chee the classroom where both the children and their mothers have their learning activities.

One for the album
—Kampung Ulu Rua, Perak

Enjoying the freshness of the stream and forest

Interacting with the kids
ELS UPM & OFFICE OF THE STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, DENGKIL, SELANGOR

On learning that some orang asli communities in Dengkil, Selangor are still living without access to electricity and water, ELS approached the Office of The State Legislative Assembly (Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri -ADUN) of Dengkil to make an arrangement for the donation of the mini solar LED lights to these communities. After the courtesy call to YB Sharum Dato’ Mohd Sharif, the ADUN of Dengkil in April, an arrangement was made for the donation to take place in the evening of 18th May, 2016 at Kampung Bukit Unggul, Dengkil.

The venue was organised by the ADUN Office and participated by 30 students and staff of ELS UPM together with 2 representatives from the ELS Management. Thirty-five mini solar lights were given to individual families of Kampung Bukit Tunggul, 35 units more were donated to Kampung Bukit Jenuk via YB Sharum Dato Mohd Sharif, who also took the students on a short tour of the Kampung. An Iraqi student gave a short speech on behalf of ELS UPM students at the event. It was another eye-opening trip for ELS international students, who have now realised the reality of their contribution and involvement in the Light Up! Initiative.

YB Sharum Dato Mohd Sharif (3rd from right) with ELS representatives and the village committee members

A big banner welcoming the ELS team

A courtesy call to YB Sharum Mohd Shariff at his office in Dengkil on 18th April, 2016
An orang asli villager receiving the light

A representative of ELS UPM students giving a short speech

Marching into an orang asli village for the first time

ELS UPM staff and YB Shahrum showing the villagers how the lights work

Group photo at the end of the Presentation Ceremony, Kampung Bukit Unagui, Dengkil Selangor
Light Up! Initiative:
An Empowerment & Capacity Building Project by ELS Malaysia

“Education is the movement from darkness to light.”
- Allan Bloom

Presently, approximately 200,000 Malaysians, especially in rural areas, still live WITHOUT ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY. For lighting, most of them use candles and kerosene lamps, which can be hazardous to the environment and health.

AIM
To adhere to the philosophy of conserving energy while addressing basic needs of the underprivileged communities in Malaysia.

ELS Pledge
In conjunction with our 25th anniversary in November 2015, ELS will donate 3,000 units of SOLAR LED LAMPS to communities without access to electricity, particularly schools in the rural areas of Malaysia as well as organisations that need extra lighting to optimise their tasks.

STUDENTS’ PARTICIPATION & CONTRIBUTION
For every NEW CIEP STUDENT enrolled at any ELS centre in Malaysia, ONE mini solar LED lamp will be donated towards this cause.

If you know any party or cause that will benefit from our LIGHT UP! INITIATIVE, please email Puan Orasa Abdullah at lightup@els.edu.my