

We make Goat Happy!

By Elvin Lim, SCI Malaysia

I have been to so many local workcamps in 6 years but this this one of my best workcamp. And this workcamp definitely broadens my horizon on people and their cultures. Participating in a workcamp, is not just about working it is a bridge that brings together people of different backgrounds together.

This summer the workcamp was held in a Goat Farm (Kuasa Kitar) in Jelapang Ipoh which is run by Pak Cik Affandi (Mat Saman Kati), who has been in the goat farming business for past 15 years. The period of this workcamp was from 5th August 2016 to 15th August 2016. Together with us in this workcamp are 3 Vietnamese volunteers (Khanh, Linh, Tung), 3 Bangladeshi volunteers (Mahadi, Hassan, Unique), 1 Dutch volunteer (Nienke) and 11 local volunteers including SCI Malaysia members.

I had experienced various kinds of farm work such as feeding the poultry and goats, bathroom construction, making a new fence, gardening, cooking, and others. It was a great experience to stay in the farm as well as experiencing their life away from the bustling city. Apart from that, we also learn on how to handle the animals on the farm. The owner of the camp Pak Afandi and his wife Kak Sal, own a small herbal garden also known as 'Farm-acy'. They also grow some vegetables in the gardens. Some of our daily cooking ingredients also comes from Farm-acy such as lemon grass, water spinach, lady fingers and so on. Kak Sal also taught us how to make natural remedies for small cuts / wounds. Besides the daily routine, throughout the workcamp we had other activities such as jungle trekking, soccer, language learning, mini games, wild boar spotting, fruit tasting and many more.

At the end of the workcamp, I had developed more self-confidence and was brave enough to meet new people and to gain new experiences. I also obtained some new

skills and knowledge at the workcamp as well as made new friends. I learned the holistic concept of goat farming. The best thing about this goat farming workcamp, it is self-sustainable. All organic waste either becomes compost or becomes farm animal fodder. I achieved my own goals and obtained more than what I expected – friendships and memories. Thank you everyone for making this happen. After the workcamp, I even met up with some international volunteers before they flew back to their respective countries: Unique (Bangladesh), Tung (Vietnam), Linh (Vietnam) and Khanh (Vietnam). I hope that SCI Malaysia will organize more workcamps at the goat farm in future, so that many more volunteers can gain lots of experience and learn about goat farming.

Amities.