

## **Go Green – It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop**

Being a student in Malaysia, having to go to school everyday for five days a week only to start the class with these familiar words, “Class, clean up the rubbish around your area or I will not start the class and will extend the time” had always been a bore to me. Always coming to class with recyclable papers and stationary, she was our teacher, Miss Lee. Miss Lee firmly believes that a small act into saving our environment goes a long way. I had always known why the teacher tended to force and persuade us into doing so, but being a teen, being told was something I would not like. There were times when some of my friends would clean the class out of pure kindness. Sadly, most of us took that for granted. Just like that, high school ended. We all then parted ways to places we desired in order to further our education. We left behind a teacher, who would constantly remind us that “cleanliness is the key” and “saving the environment is one of the ways to keep our mother earth happy”.

After graduation from secondary school, we visited our former school and Miss Lee when we were free. She always gifted us cute crafts, handmade by her with recycled materials. We thought it was so sweet of her to gift us the items. Being determined to educate the world with ways to keep the goodness of Mother Earth going, she reminded us that this is one of the ways to save the Mother Earth.

One day, she called us up to a late meeting at her house. We thought it was just another normal outing, but this time, she had something planned. She wanted us to follow her to a place to help her with an event about saving the environment. We were hesitant at first, having to attend an event that we did not desire, but since it was Miss Lee, we decided to go instead.

It took us 6 hours to go into a reserved forest, somewhere we never knew existed. Some of Miss Lee’s friends were there, greeting us with a warm welcome. Miss Lee introduced us as her former students, and that we came to help her with what she planned on doing. She then brought us around the area, showing us the place. Honestly, it was amazing as it was far away from the city. She showed us something that she had been working on for a very long time – a calm and clean environment with items made only of recycled materials, specially prepared for students to motivate them to reuse, recycle and reduce in their everyday life.

We then found out that Miss Lee started this programme when she was about 25 years old while she was completing her degree in university. She started off with just recycled materials from her house; it then escalated into something so huge and amazing. Seeing how amazing it was, we then joined her in the program. We enjoyed every single bit of it and learned a lot in the program. We believe that her efforts will not go to waste as it is a good platform and

opportunity to educate students about saving the mother earth. Because of her, we now believe that hard work and persistent effort will pay off. She shows us that it doesn't matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop. She requested us to help her keep the programme flowing even when she is no longer around in the future. We agreed, believing that our small contribution will make a big change. At the end of the day, it is all for a good cause which benefits the upcoming generation.



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Motto: "Are you not ready or are you just scared?"