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From: Northern Corridor Research Centre (NCRC)
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**Pusat Penyelidikan
Koridor Utara**

NORTHERN CORRIDOR RESEARCH CENTRE

Universiti Utara Malaysia

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"UUM : UNIVERSITI PENGURUSAN TERKEMUKA"
(THE EMINENT MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY)

NCRC ADMIRES THE VIRGIN FOREST OF SINTOK



NCRC ONLINE: Recently, all members of the Northern Corridor Research Center (NCRC) took time off from their hectic schedule to embark on a trek through the Sintok Jungle in UUM. The program started with a rigorous warm-up exercise. Following the exercise, Lt Col Hj Musa Bin Hj Bari, the experienced guide led the group into the jungle. As the group progressed, they savored the early morning breeze and the gentle chirps of birds and insects. Once the group entered the imposing virgin forest, they immediately encountered steep hills, winding trails and steep descents. The path laid was challenging yet, exhilarating at the same time. Staff members cracked jokes and motivated one another to continue walking.

The most memorable aspect of the trek was a visit to the priceless treasure of the Sintok Jungle. Nestling peacefully in the heart of the jungle are three ancient trees, aptly called the 'three brothers'. The three trees combined are over a hundred years old. The official name of the tree is called *Tetrameles Nudiflora* and they can grow up to 70ft high. Indeed, the gigantic trees are a sight to behold and they leave visitors awestruck. Firdaus Abd Rashid a practicum student pointed out that is rare to find three trees of the same species in close proximity to each other.

Practical students from Diploma of Science Geomatic-GIS, UiTM Arau currently attached to NCRC had good things to say about the trek. For Hassanal Firdaus, the most memorable aspect of the trek was the team spirit displayed among the staff. Furthermore, Arief enjoyed the beauty of nature and was impressed by the sheer size of the trees.

Moreover, the natural beauty of the forest was not lost on NCRC Research Fellow Prof. Dr. Ravindra Nath Vyas. He shared some compelling reasons why virgin forests such as the Sintok forest need to be preserved. To begin with, forests are a source of biodiversity and they are the climatic shock observers. Furthermore, Prof Ravi asserted that "at one stage, developing countries had to rely on the agricultural sector to grow. However, once take off is achieved, there is no need to depend on precious resources. Instead, counties should find alternative engines of growth". Lastly, Prof. Ravi suggested that in order to ensure that the forest routes are not overused, it is vital that forest caretakers/managers should find alternative routes.

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