

## PRESS RELEASE



Malaysia-Japan  
International  
Institute of Technology  
(MJIIIT)

### **“Euglena for ALL” workshop at UTM for students using micro-organisms Collaboration with Japanese cutting-edge R&D to develop environmental technology**



Dr. Kengo Suzuki sharing his journey as researchers

Leave a Nest Malaysia Sdn. Bhd., euglena Co., Ltd. and RIKEN conducted a workshop entitled ‘Euglena for All’ on Sunday, 1st December 2019. This workshop was held at Nest-Bio Venture Lab, a biotech lab established in collaboration with Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIIIT), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

‘Euglena for All’ brought together over 25 students aged 13 to 15 years old from various schools in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur. This workshop was a part of the NEST Camp program that brought students to see the world through the eyes of a researcher. They were exposed to many examples of how science and nature can solve issues within their community or even globally. We believe that the workshop sparked the “researcher’s instinct” and equipped the students with on-hand problem-solving skills that are necessary in the uncertain world of tomorrow.



Students learning microscope observation techniques (left, and middle), listening to field sample instruction (right)

At the ‘Euglena for All’ workshop, students were able to sharpen their researcher’s senses not only visually but also through the sense of taste. Students also learnt a role model case of a researcher’s journey as we invited Dr. Kengo Suzuki, Co-Founder and Head of R&D in euglena Co., Ltd. to share his experience over the past 15 years as an entrepreneur.

The main theme of the workshop of course was inputs and learning about *Euglena*, a single cell microorganism with both plant and animal characteristics. This microalga can

photosynthesize, while also being able to move like an animal. Through observing microalgae from the water samples taken in Malaysia and examining the movement of *Euglena* found in the samples, the students were able to understand the key factors and uniqueness of *Euglena* as microalga.

The highlight of the workshop itself was the actual tasting of products containing *Euglena* provided by euglena Co., Ltd, sensing the actual taste and health benefits. The workshop was concluded with the story of how Mr. Mitsuru Izumo, President and Co-Founder of euglena Co., Ltd., discovered the issue of hunger and malnutrition in Bangladesh when he was 18 years old. Through the discovery of *Euglena*, he founded euglena Co., Ltd. and developed *Euglena*-based food as a solution to malnutrition issues for children in Bangladesh.

euglena Co., Ltd. is a premier international partner of Nest-Bio Venture Lab. This company is also focusing on nurturing the next generation in science and technology, providing educational programs such as science workshops for future researchers from secondary and primary schools.

Through this workshop, we believe each and every student is able to discover their own passion in learning science from one small example in *Euglena*. We wish the curiosity drives them through their next journey when they pursue to the tertiary level education. Furthermore, we hope this workshop will create the next-generation researchers that are able to utilize science to create a better world in the future.



Students enjoying field work (top left), eating euglena cookie (top right), Group picture by participants and Dr. Kengo Suzuki

## **Overview of Science Workshop**

**Date:** 29th Nov - 1st Dec 2019

**Time:** 09:00 - 17:00

**Venue:** Nest-Bio Venture Lab, Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIT), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

### ***Leave a Nest Malaysia Sdn. Bhd.***

*Leave a Nest Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. was established in October 2013. It is the second international office outside Japan for Leave a Nest Co., Ltd. which is a science venture company founded in June 2002 by 15 science-major university and postgraduate students. The first project by Leave a Nest Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. was an educational science workshop for primary and secondary school students. In its effort to bridge the knowledge of science and technology and communicate it effectively, Leave a Nest Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. has started to offer never-been-seen-before and unique concept by marrying the best of Japanese and Malaysian practice in our programs such as Science Castle, Great Teachers Seminar, Career Discovery Forum and Hyper Interdisciplinary Conference in 2018 and 2019. We hope to continue spreading and sharing our vision in Advancing Science and Technology for Global Happiness.*

### ***euglena Co., Ltd.***

*In 2005, euglena Co. became the first company in the world to successfully establish the technology for the outdoor mass cultivation of microalgae Euglena for food in Ishigaki Island. euglena Co. currently operates a Healthcare Business for marketing Euglena and Chlorella as functional foods / cosmetics, and an Energy & Environmental Business for biofuel production and its R & D. In April 2019, euglena Co. extended the target of its "euglena GENKI Program", a project which the company launched in 2014 to deliver nutrition-rich Euglena cookies to children in Bangladesh, to include cosmetics and all other products from our group companies. euglena Co. was listed on Tokyo Stock Exchange Mothers in December 2012, and changed to a listing on the First Section of the TSE in December 2014. Its corporate philosophy is "Make People and the Earth Healthy."  
<https://euglena.jp>*

### ***RIKEN***

*RIKEN is Japan's largest research institute for basic and applied research. It has about 3,000 scientists on ten campuses across Japan. RIKEN's Baton Zone Program promotes R&D through collaborations between RIKEN and industry both in basic research and the practical application of research outcomes. There are various systems for working together with industry and one of them is the Integrated Collaborative Research Program with Industry. Using this program, RIKEN and euglena Co., Ltd created a joint research team to speed up the industrialization of algae-based biofuel.*

*Website: [www.riken.jp/en/](http://www.riken.jp/en/)*

*Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RIKEN.english](https://www.facebook.com/RIKEN.english)*

*Twitter: [@riken\\_en](https://twitter.com/riken_en)*

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