SANDAKAN: Students and lecturers from the Tourism and Hospitality Department of the polytechnic here are on a mission to collect 30,000 handprints on a 605-metre banner in conjunction with Earth Day.

“The programme, which started on Thursday, is called ‘The most Earth Day palm pledges in a banner’ and would end on April 13,” said Meltina Magdalena Masanti, a lecturer based in the Sandakan Polytechnic, who is also the Programme Director.

She said their feat would be recorded in the Malaysia Book of Records if they succeed in reaching their target, adding that the handprints would be counted at 2.30pm on April 13.

“We have collected 6,000 handprints from polytechnic students and our programme crew would also go to higher learning institutions such as Universiti Malaysia Sabah Sandakan branch, Industrial Training Institute, Giatmara, sports complex and several shopping complexes and residential areas in Sandakan.”

Participants may paste their handprints on the banner as many times as they want,” she said.

In this respect, besides trying to achieve a new record in the Malaysia Book of Records, Meltina said the programme was also held to spread the message on the importance of caring for earth.

“Every handprint on the banner would symbolise our commitment to caring and protecting our environment and its resources which covers every aspect.”

“We would also like to extend our appreciation to everyone and every individual involved in this programme, especially to the management of Giant supermarket who are kind enough to provide us with a space for this programme,” she said.

Those wanting to participate in the programme may visit Sandakan Giant Supermarket.

A child putting a handprint on the banner, with the help of his mother.