



Raja Zarith Sofiah (seventh from right) with some of the children from Kiwanis during the 18th annual Children's Party at the Austin Heights Water and Adventure Park.



Raja Zarith Sofiah (left) hugging Tay Xiu Jin, 15, during the event.

# Fun outing for 350

## Down Syndrome youths spend time at water theme park in Johor

By **NABILA AHMAD**  
metrose@thestar.com.my

**JOHOR BARU:** About 350 youths with Down Syndrome from Kiwanis Club of Johor were treated to an outing to a theme park here recently.

Children of Kiwanis Kluang, Kulai and Johor Baru celebrated their 18th annual Children's Party at the Austin Heights Water and Adventure Park.

One of the youths, Foo Tee Chin, said that the weekend had given her the opportunity to spend time with her friends.

"We are always busy with homework during the weekdays, and I am glad we got to spend some fun time today," she said.

Chan Zi Hau, said that she has been waiting for this event the whole week.

"I have been looking forward to today as I am excited to play at the theme park," she said, adding that during other weekends

the youths of Kiwanis would go to karaoke, bowling or on picnics.

Permaisuri Johor Raja Zarith Sofiah Sultan Idris Shah, who was also present, said in her speech that other organisations should follow in the step of the Kiwanis Club.

"Disabled children and the orphans must be given extra attention considering their situation.

"It is our responsibility to make them feel

needed," she said.

Kiwanis Malaysia district governor elect Vincent To said that there are 51 Kiwanis clubs in Malaysia, with 10 located in the state.

"There are 1,200 Kiwanis members nationwide and each club has its own community service projects such as the Down Syndrome centre, Children's Learning Disabilities centre, Dyslexic and Autism and Heart Care centre," he said.