

Celebrating World **Kidney** Day

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THE World Kidney Day 2008 was kicked off on Sunday with a walkathon themed "Amazing Kidneys Walk" for kidney patients and the public at Taman Jaya Recreational Park in Petaling Jaya. This was followed by activities at the nearby Amcorp Mall.

Malaysian Society of Nephrology, National Kidney Foundation of Malaysia (NKF) and the Health Ministry jointly organised the celebrations for the third time to raise awareness on the importance of one's kidney and kidney disease prevention.

Haemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis and transplant patients from various hospitals and dialysis centres around the Klang Valley took part in the walkathon.

The World Kidney 2008 celebrations were officially launched by NKF's vice-president, Lynn Kulasingham, and its board of governors at Amcorp Mall's foyer area.

The slogan "Are your Kidneys OK?" has been purposely chosen by the International Federation

of Kidney Foundation to prompt members of the public to take the necessary steps to ensure the good health of their kidneys.

It is indeed a sad fact that in Malaysia, more than 2,500 dialysis patients are added annually to an existing list of 15,000 dialysis patients, a number obtained from the records compiled by the National Renal Registry in 2006," said Lynn in her keynote address.

Besides a children's art competition, a kidney

health exhibition, health talks in multiple languages and health screenings were conducted by the NKF LifeCheck- a customised 40-seater bus which has seven work stations.

NKF's "Kidney Care", a community education programme, which is a long-term initiative to promote the prevention of kidney diseases and end-stage kidney failure was also launched at the event.



Lynn Kulasingham (first from left) and other dignitaries at the launch of the of World Kidney Day 2008 celebrations and Kidney Care programme.

ANWAR FAIZ/HESUN