



Students enjoying the outdoor concert just before the lights were turned off for the hour.

# Symbolic Earth Hour

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**T**O commemorate Earth Hour recently, UCSI University (UCSI) this year organised an event to raise public awareness about environmental conservation.

The event, "The Pledge for Mother Earth" was opened to public, and featured a hot air balloon for visitors to witness the city shut down for the hour.

There was also the option for visitors to make a personal pledge to be pasted on helium balloons, which were released into the air during the hour of darkness.

Local bands like Disagree, An Honest Mistake, Eve and Halfway Kings were also invited to enlighten the event with their music.

UCSI student Amanda Marie Paul Dausip, 21, said that she hoped to see as many people participating in the event as possible.

Anticipating her ride on the hot air balloon,

she said, "hopefully I get to see total darkness because that would be a sign that everyone is actually participating in Earth Hour."

Asked what her efforts were in conserving the environment, Amanda said, "I try to use less water by taking shorter baths on a regular basis, and also set a timer to my air conditioner to run only for a few hours at night."

Her friend, Veronica Ong, 20, agreed, adding that environmental conservation should start from a personal level.

"I think it should start from the people around me because it is down to the individual to make a difference."

However, Veronica admitted that this was an ongoing struggle as although there are many larger efforts to create awareness, many people still do not understand the importance of doing their part.

"As for myself, I try to reduce my usage of plastic bags and polystyrene containers. I reuse the plastic bags given, and always carry my own container when I buy food."