**A wonderful dog walking event at the Great Forest - 22nd June 2021**

The initiative came from **Ruben Calahorrano, a graduate of MÉK**, who wants to do dog walking with students regularly so that students who are far away from their families and were forced into confinement during the pandemic have the opportunity **to recharge spiritually.**

**”The event is free, we will provide treats and toys, also leashes** for the ones who will walk with us. Well, our idea is to invite students to walk dogs, which involves more than dog walking. It also implies **dog hosting, dog training, dog therapy, and also pet education.** In this contour, **we will supervise the activities.** It is sponsored by pet shops and dog food companies that provide the treats. In return, we promote their brands and also teach about animal care for foreign students. In some cases, some international students buy animals here but when they leave they just leave them on the street. This way we all benefit from these activities, both the pets and the students will be happy. It can also **help to increase the happiness of the students, thus improve their motivation to pursue their studies.** During the event, students **will not be so focused on their loneliness or other bad feelings which can result in lower performance. Also is a great way to help students to socialize with each other.”** – Ruben Calahorrano (a MÉK graduate)

”Hosts Ruben and Nikolett were brave and generous enough to bring nine of their beloved pets and taught the participants **how to treat them properly**. Those who joined could discover **how to distinguish between fearful and happy barking, play with them, pet them, and give treats.** It was a pleasant evening, and we hope to repeat it in a short time.”

Ecaterina Savchina - Food Safety and Quality Engineer MSc

”The event was exciting, where we meet Ruben and Nicolett Calahorrano with their beautiful dogs. It was **a joyful time to play with dogs,** doing different games, and giving them treats to enjoy themselves. We got the opportunity to meet international students too, and it was a **memorable experience, which made out hot summer more joyful.**

I look forward to similar events in the future!”

Fenil Dobariya - BSc Food Engineering