

A SECOND LOOK AT THE FIELD VISIT AT KKWC BY THE AMBASSADORS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) MEMBER COUNTRIES TO MALAYSIA

The EU ambassadors to Malaysia's visit to KKWC on 25/3/2011 is deemed so significant to both SWCS/KKWC that it deserves a recurring spot in this month's newsletter. The delegation's field visit, headed by His Excellency Ambassador Vincent Piket, was hosted by the Sabah Forestry Department. Part of the visit's objectives was to observe the practice of sustainable forest management and its involvement with the community and NGOs. The area of observation began at Kelawat Forest Reserve, Kota Belud, and then to the mangrove rehabilitation project site at Sulaman Forest Reserve, Tuaran, the joint effort project between SFD and SWCS. Bobby Alex of KKWC and a personnel from SFD were on site to brief the delegation on the progress of the project. The project spurred interest among the delegations who posed questions that reflected their enthusiasm. Bobby stirred more interest by informing the delegation that they would soon embark at an already very successfully rehabilitated mangroves forest— the KKWC. At KKWC, the last stop of the delegation's field visit, SWCS had the opportunity to impart its mission and vision to the visiting ambassadors. This was indeed an opportune time to promote KKWC so as to garner the support of the international community to its wetlands' conservation efforts. The seeds of awareness that have been planted would hopefully germinate and eventually draw positive feedbacks.

Sabah Wetlands
Conservation Society (SWCS)
/ Pertubuhan Pemuliharaan Tanah
Lembap Sabah,
was established on
22 August 2005

Our Objectives:

To promote the conservation of wetlands in Sabah and the variety of plants, birds and other kinds of organisms found in them.

To raise public awareness and appreciation of wetlands and public involvement in protecting wetlands.

To manage Kota Kinabalu Wetland Centre (KKWC) as a model wetlands centre for the purpose of conservation, education, recreation, tourism and research.



Datuk Verus Aman Sham welcomes the ambassadors to KKWC.



Mr. George Bandusena, SWCS Deputy President, gave a welcoming remarks and further information on the mission and vision of SWCS/KKWC.



The beginning of the much-anticipated mangrove forest tour.



Jocelyn Maluda (left) conducted the mangroves' interpretative walk while His Excellency Ambassador Vincent Piket, Head of Delegation, trails alongside.



Lee Ka Han and Bobby Alex were also at hand to guide the tour.



The ambassadors were pleasantly surprised by the appearance of several exotic bird species during the stop at the Bird Hide, the longest stop of the tour.

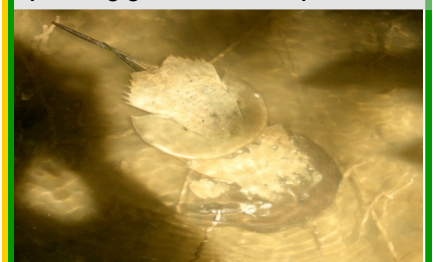


Abraham Sadikun of KKWC delights in releasing a monitor lizard from a poacher's deadly hook.



Professor Shigeyuki Baba (seated) of Okinawa, Japan, the Executive Secretary of the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystem (ISME), dropped by at KKWC on 5/4/2011 in the midst of his search for mangrove replanting sites around Kota Kinabalu. An expert in mangroves replanting, he took time off to share his valuable knowledge and experience with KKWC.

Return of the horseshoe crabs: Spotted more frequently in April during clear, high tides. KKWC remains a conducive spawning ground for this aquatic life.



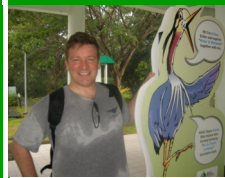
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WASTES SEGREGATION FOR BETTER WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mixed wastes posed the challenge of effective recycling. Hence, waste segregation provides a remedial pad for better recycling, reusing, reducing and composting. The Kota Kinabalu City Hall supports KKWC's effort by providing awareness campaign posters on taking charge and responsibility for our wastes now; Meanwhile, students from S.M. All Saints fuelled the action by segregating wastes into their respective bin.



GUESTS' COMMENTS



"The boardwalk make it easy to go through the mangrove forest without having to step into the mud. The observation tower is the highlight for me as I can get a good top view of the forest and birds. Your conservation work here is just great and I truly admire your efforts."

Ray Psonak, Massachusettes, U.S.A., 30/4/2011

"We like this place. We only have positive things to say about it."

Paul Décaire & Marianne Gagnon, Canada, 16/4/2011



MANGROVES REPLANTING FORGES AHEAD

26-strong team from Teachers' Institute of Kent, Tuaran, braved an early morning date with KKWC staff to replant mangroves at Sulaman Forest Reserve, Tuaran. Fast rising tide was of concern thus the need to make an early start—before 8 a.m.! 600 saplings were planted successfully by these future educators who beamed with pride and contentment with their achievement. Replanting activities are moving in fluid pace that achievement is now ahead by 22.3% of the target! Volunteers are indeed the heartbeat of this replanting activity and they deserve all appreciations and credits for their unwavering support.



They keep rising each time they fall: The future educators demonstrate exemplary work ethics.



One for the record: An elated looking group rested after two hours' of intense labour—for the environment.

UP AND COMING EVENTS IN KKWC — May 2011

- 13 Bird Race in conjunction with Sabah Youth Day
- 14 Mangrove Race in conjunction with Sabah Youth Day
- 18 New interns reporting to KKWC
- 24 New interns reporting to KKWC
- 31 Mangroves replanting at Sulaman Lake Forest Reserve, Tuaran

* List is not exhaustive; new events occur from time to time.

REPLENISHING OF SEEDLINGS STOCK

In mangroves restoration by SWCS, a mangrove tree typically starts life in the centre's nursery, within a humble soil-filled poly bag into which a seedling is inserted. After 5 to 6 months, the seedlings would have sprouted strong enough roots ready for replanting. Restoration effort by SWCS is an on-going process, being an important part of its mission. Hence, the need to continually replenish seedlings stock to ensure an interrupted flow of replanting activity of at least once a month. S.M. All Saints students (above pix) helped out to fill soil into poly bags, a simple act that brings about great and important outcome.



REACHING OUT FOR SPREADING AWARENESS



Instilling mangroves importance during World Earth Day 2011 on 27/4/2011 celebrated at S.M. All Saints.



Enthusiastic and inquisitive students benefit from KKWC's booth during S.M.K. Datuk Peter's, Penampang, "Hari Expo Lestari" on 21/4/2011.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR ALL LAYERS OF SOCIETY



Korean Teachers during a recce visit to Kota Kinabalu dropped by at KKWC for mangroves education.



Government sectors employees during an induction session to the mangroves ecosystem.



S.M. Teknik Beaufort students getting pointers on bird watching.



University students from UiTM, Kota Bharu, Kelantan.

Editor-in-Chief: Bobby Alex of KKWC, Supported by Team at KKWC and SWCS; Images property of SWCS

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