

RAMSAR PANEL LAUNCHING CEREMONY BOOSTS KKWC's POTENTIAL IN OBTAINING RAMSAR STATUS

SWCS proudly launched an interactive exhibition on the various Ramsar sites in Malaysia on 19th July at KKWC. The Ramsar Exhibition Panel was officially launched by Mr. Anada Tiega, Secretary General of Geneva-based Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, Mr. Nagae Tsutomu, Japanese International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) Chief Representative and SWCS President, Haji Zainie Abdul Aucasa.

This panel was made possible with the funding of RM28,000 from JICA under the Borneo Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation (BBEC) programme initiative and technical support from Sabah Biodiversity Centre. The Ramsar panel sits within the newly launched KKWC's exhibition hall that features the subject of "Water and Wetlands". This panel aims to educate the public on the Ramsar Convention and its objectives, as well as to particularly promote the Lower Kinabatangan Segama Wetlands as the 1st Ramsar site in Sabah.

More than 50 participants, mostly from the then ongoing Asian Wetlands Symposium held in Magellan Sutera Resort Hotel, Kota Kinabalu, attended the ceremony and thereafter toured through the mangrove forest alongside Mr. Tiega. Being a Ramsar site panel member, Mr. Tiega's visit is of utmost significance to SWCS particularly in view of SWCS' current bid to obtain Ramsar status for KKWC. His weighty supportive views on KKWC would provide the fuel to fire the machinery that would take KKWC closer to this important goal not only for Kota Kinabalu but also for the international community.

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.



Officiating of the Ramsar Panel From right: Haji Zainie Abdul Aucasa (SWCS President), Mr. Anada Tiega and Mr. Nagae Tsutomu



"More and more scientists realize wetlands play a role in mitigating climate change as a great carbon sink", Tiega said



The successfully concluded **Asian Wetland Symposium** in Kota Kinabalu from 18-21 July saw the participation of SWCS in terms of information booth (above pix) and a paper presentation by Ms. Lee Ka Han (fourth from right) on "Wetlands Conservation Through Education and Restoration". The symposium gave SWCS and KKWC the opportunity to be more visible among the participants from all over Asia especially during their mangrove tours at KKWC on 19 and 20 July, and, most notably was the presence of Mr. Tiega, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention.



Jocelyn Maluda (right) of KKWC disseminates information on the new Ramsar Panel



Haji Zainie (left) accompanies Mr. Tiega during the mangrove forest tour at KKWC

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UP AND COMING EVENTS IN KKWC — August 2011

GUESTS' COMMENTS

- 2 CIMB "Wetlands Outreach and Beyond" at SM Tun Fuad, Tamparuli
 - 3 Staff collect mangrove seedlings at Mengkabong, Tuaran for replenishing seedling stocks
 - 5 Launching of CIMB Program "Wetlands Outreach and Beyond"
 - 10 Mangrove replanting tourist tour by HIS Tour
 - 13 Sabah Tourism Board's visit to KKWC
 - 16 Full-day Environmental Education Program for 17 Japanese students
 - 20 Mangroves replanting at Sulaman Lake Forest Reserve, Tuaran
 - 21 Japanese family of four tour visit by Pan Borneo Tour
 - 25 - Japanese group visit by Exotic Adventure Tour
 - 33 Japanese students visit by JICA
 - 25 Japanese group visit by Exotic Adventure Tour
- *List is not exhaustive; new events occur from time to time.*

"I like it here; I've been to wetlands in many places and I must say the boardwalk trail here is much better laid out as it takes you through the entire mangrove forest."

Petr Mareš, Czech Republic, 8/7/2011



"We were quite disappointed the birds didn't come out today, but probably because it wasn't the right time. We should have come here early in the morning or late evening. Anyway, we saw lizards, crabs and the hole in the mud ground made by the tilapia fish and that was much better."

Peter & David Mensley, England, 16/7/2011

MANGROVE REPLANTING



July 2 will mark as a very significant day in the personal journals of 43 staff of **Securities Commission Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur**. On that appointed day, the city dwellers arrived as scheduled at the replanting site at Sulaman Lake Forest Reserve and managed to sow an impressive 172 mangrove seedlings! Many vowed to return many years from now to see the growth of their planted trees and had remarked that people should do this at least once in their lives.



Students of SK St. John Beaufort listen attentively to Jocelyn Maluda, Education Officer of KKWC, as she imparts a wide range of subject matter from water, wetlands, biodiversity to food chain making use of the visual aids available in the new exhibition hall at KKWC. Special thanks to **St. John Alumni Beaufort** for making this educational trip possible for these eager and grateful students.



EFP FOR ADULTS

Amidst the effort to spread mangroves awareness to the young, the **adults from rural areas** are not sidelined. Brought in by the Department of Rural Department on 6 July to KKWC, their presence could not be more appreciated. All are in leadership positions in their respective village and have the capacity to influence their fellow villagers in taking care of mangrove areas. This in itself is a valuable measure that can save many mangrove areas around the state.

REACHING OUT FOR GREATER AWARENESS



Under the CIMB-sponsored "**Wetlands Outreach and Beyond**" program, SM Stella Maris, Tanjung Aru, becomes its benefactor on 26 July. Seigo Murakami and Jocelyn Maluda of KKWC (top left) dedicatedly engaged the students in the environmental board game which received enormous response—all done in the name of instilling awareness on the conservation of mangrove and environment. (Top right) Students displayed their elation on receiving a note book momento of the program which would be a friendly reminder of KKWC's visit to their school and the purpose therein.



The Ihara family from Japan once again set foot in KKWC in their yearly visit here. Mrs. Ihara, a volunteer for Borneon Conservation Trust, passes her passion for nature and environment to her two young children.

A D I E U I N T E R N S



L-R: Christinee Binti Marion, Salmiza Bte Sharudin, Steppenny Eric Sungkit, Alice Lim Mei Koi, Teeneswary A/P K. Jayaraman, Yusnita Binti Yusuf, Daniel Chin Zhi Hao, Wilvia Olivia Ak William and Patricia Peng Hului



(Top left) Wilvia presenting her final data report and (bottom) during Q&A with SWCS Exco members and KKWC staff on 29 July



Over the years, KKWC has readily taken in many interns befitting one of its establishing's purposes i.e. being an institution to propagate education and research. Interns are valuable assets to SWCS for they carry the torches that enlighten the public on mangrove restoration and conservation as a result of their short but meaningful stint with KKWC. Some of them left with parting remarks on their internship experience:

"After spending 8 weeks at KKWC, I've now become aware about the importance of wetlands to the environment and how it contributes majorly in protecting the earth."

"I would like to congratulate SWCS and KKWC for standing up to build this centre together and create awareness to the local communities about the importance of wetland."

"I learnt a lot from my training here from bird watching to identifying mangrove species and also the many organisms found in KK wetland. I am grateful I did my internship here and will never forget whatever I have learnt here. Thank you KKWC!"

The researched datas of the interns are kept in KKWC's resource centre for reference and are deemed valuable sources of information.

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

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