

# SWCS NEWSLETTER



## SWCS HARI RAYA CELEBRATION

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

### 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 Wetlands (KKW) as a model wetlands centre for the purpose of conservation, education, recreation, tourism and research.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015, we had our annual Hari Raya celebration which was attended by the Management Committee of Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society, staffs, JICA volunteer and the new term of interns. This year, we held our celebration outdoors within the premise of Kota Kinabalu Wetlands with a barbeque cookout and buffet must-haves of mouth watering Raya food such as *cendol*, *lemang*, *ketupat*, *satay*, *rendang* and an endless list of *kuih raya* (Raya biscuits)!



Preparations for the event were done week before that by the staff and interns in terms of planning of the food catering and decorations, as well as a project by the interns to create the biggest Raya card out of recycled papers and special performances for the celebration. The Raya celebration kick started at 4pm with a welcoming speech by our president, Datuk Haji Zainie Abdul Aucasa and after that a time to feast on the delectable food. Guests were treated with a special performance by the interns who used recycled materials such as soda cans and tin caps to make musical instruments as well as a karate performance by our JICA volunteer. After that, everyone joined in the camaraderie while dancing and karaoke singing to Raya songs.

We believe this event has fostered good rapport between the SWCS committee, staffs as well as the interns to celebrate this once a year special occasion! To see more pictures, do like us on our Facebook page to check out the latest happenings in Kota Kinabalu Wetlands!



<https://www.facebook.com/SabahWetlandsConservationSociety/>

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME: OUTREACH

### SM Stella Maris

Over the years, as an environmental education centre, SWCS have been very supportive to the local learning institutions in their efforts to raise environmental awareness among the students.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July, an environmental talk was conducted at SM Stella Maris, Tanjung Aru in conjunction with the school's Environment Week. The content of the talk is introducing Kota Kinabalu Wetlands and its functions as an area of conservation, education and eco-tourism. As one of the SWCS objective is to actively promote the conservation of KKW, which is located right in the developing city and being exposed to the urbanization pressure, as the community living within the city, it is our role to educate the students to take care of the environment and teach them how to act towards conserving the wetlands.



More than 150 attentive students were gathered at the school's assembly area for the talk.

### Institut Sinaran

On the 25<sup>th</sup> July, Institut Sinaran (IS), also organized Inter-School Environment Day which is celebrated annually. This year, once again several educational activities were conducted which was participated by the local secondary schools students. Students who were at the event enjoyed the fun and creative activities held during the day. One of the activities that KKW conducted that day is "Nature Quiz", whereas the students need to answer 5 correct answers to get freebies from KKW. Besides that, we would like to express our appreciation to IS for giving us the trust by appointing us to be one of the judges for their contest. A heartfelt congratulations and big round of applause to SMK Kota Marudu for winning the video making contest and also to SM St Francis Convent for winning the 'YB Minister! We have something to tell you' Public speaking Competition! Kudos to all winners.



L-R: Kam Cheng, Deborah, Jane & Rita



*All donations made to the Society are exempted from tax under Subsection 44(6) of Income Tax Act 1967.*

## INTERNSHIP

Internship: Ushering the month of July, SWCS is receiving 5 students from UMS, degree in Conservation Biology, undergoes their industrial training starting on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 until 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015. During the 12 weeks practical, the students are assigned with group assignment, administration work, field work and mini projects in line with the issues stated in the management plan; as well as to monitor and assess the health of the mangrove habitat.

We hope they can grab this opportunity to learn and gain more experiences for their career development in the future. One of the title for their mini project is "Characterization of Firefly habitats and its implication on Kota Kinabalu Wetlands. This study is crucial to increase the firefly population in KKW, which is known to have dwindled. One of the step is by comparing and characterizing firefly habitats at other wetlands, the factors and favorable environment to bring back the fireflies will be simulated at KKW. We wish all the best for mini projects and best of luck for their future endeavor.



L-R: Ain, Davis, She Fui, Kam Cheng and Deborah



## JICA VOLUNTEER : MR TORU TAMAMUSHI



Mr. Toru Tamamushi, a Japan Oversea Cooperation volunteer has joined the Kota Kinabalu Wetlands team starting on 30 June 2015 until 22 March 2017 as Environmental Education Assistant. He received his Bachelor in Marine Science from Tokyo University in 2010.

He took the JOCV training course called "International Environmental Hygiene" and acquired knowledge on public hygiene, waste disposal issues and water supply systems in developing countries, apart from that he also received hands-on educational teaching methods on natural environments, as well as planning and presentation methods for Nature Interpretation in developing countries. Mr. Tamamushi also had undergone JOCV's 70-day pre assignment training in language (Malay), development studies and cross-cultural relations. He can speak Bahasa Melayu very good and keep improving the vocabulary and comprehension.

At the end of this volunteer programme, our goal is to increase the range and the quality of existing environmental education programme, as well as to create new EE programme and directly contribute to mangrove conservation work.

We are hoping within these two years, both Mr. Tamamushi and KKW staffs are able to exchange knowledge, share information and work hand-in-hand towards the same objectives. Warm welcome to Toru. Yokoso!



## IN-HOUSE EXPERT: UP CLOSE & PERSONAL WITH SWCS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**George Ngui** is a legal practitioner and owner of Ngui and Associates, located in Jalan Lintas, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, which is a full service law firm that specializes in serving the legal needs of multinational corporations, public authorities, organizations, small entrepreneurial companies, and private individuals. He currently specializes in the areas of environmental law, civil litigation, criminal litigation, corporate law, construction law, banking and finance, family law and intellectual property law.



1. Name and origin

*George Ngui, Penampang, Sabah*

2. Occupation and for how long?

*Legal Practitioner for more than 10 years*

3. Where did you hear about SWCS?

*My first encounter with SWCS was via mass media, i.e newspaper. Then the current President of SWCS, Datuk Haji Zainie Abdul Aucasa, approached and invited me to be part of the committee member. I was the Honorary Assistant Treasurer back then and now I am the Honorary Treasurer for 2 terms, until 2017.*

4. When did you start joining SWCS?

*It was 5 years ago.*

5. What are your contributions for SWCS?

*I am the Honorary Treasurer, who is responsible for the management of finance of the Society.*

*With my current profession and passion for the environment, my largest contribution was successfully applying the Judicial Review: Defending the Wetlands. SWCS sought to the Court's intervention in its quest to protect Kota Kinabalu Wetlands (KKW) from potential threats due to high-rise residential development within its proximity. The Application of Judicial Review was made at the Kota Kinabalu High Court by SWCS, represented by Messrs. Ngui & Associates.*

*Apart from that, as the Organizing Chairman for the 3 in 1 Fundraising Event was organised in June 2014.*

6. What is your opinion about SWCS?

*KKW is one of the green lung in the heart of Kota Kinabalu City. This is the suitable place to distress, to enjoy simple walk and get closer to the nature. In KKW we have more than 12 species of mangrove trees and approximately 92 species of birds found inside this 24-hectare mangrove conservation area. Therefore, I would like to encourage public to take time from hustle-bustle city and drive to KKW, which is just 10 minutes away from KK city to experience the exotic view of mangrove forest, flora and fauna.*

7. How do you compare SWCS in the past and present?

*Back then, we have a great team managing KKW. Now, we have a very strong team with different expertise, various professional background that have vast knowledge in environmental. The executive and management committee of SWCS consist of the public servant, developer, businessperson, architect, academician, environmentalist, project manager and lawyer. Nevertheless, everyday is a learning process for SWCS to improve and make this a better place.*

8. How do you see SWCS in 5 years time?

*KKW will be one of the famous eco-tourism attractions, a landmark for conservation area. I am seeing, KKW will be the second RAMSAR site in Sabah and we will proudly be the second urban wetlands in the world. This RAMSAR site title is crucial for KKW to exchange ideas, networking, and information. In addition, it would obtain financial supports from the people who are passionate for the environment, to realize KKW as a model wetland centre for the purpose of conservation, education, recreation, tourism and research centre. The SWCS will become the Conservation Centre complemented with commercially sustainable model.*

Reference:

<http://www.ibwire.net/ngui-kuang-kee-legal-services-attorney-judge-stanford-whos-who-certified/>

<http://borneolegal.com/our-people/>

## GUESTS' COMMENT



**10th July 2015**

“Excellent location, not far from city. Facilities are very good with boardwalk leading into mangrove swamp which would otherwise be impossible to view or see bird’s wetlands wildlife of the region. Great finish for the last 500m of gravel path walk. Enjoyed that. A lot of good work has been done, however, maintenance of the boardwalk must be kept to acceptable safety standards. Friendly staff. Please keep up with the good work”.

**From: C.T. Ng and friend, Alor Akar, Kuantan Pahang**



**14th July 2015**

“This place is incredible! I saw so much more than I thought I would. Crabs, mangroves skinks, fish, crustaceans and of course so many birds, including an egret and a stork billed kingfisher. But the most impressive was the 1.5m monitor lizards I saw swimming from the bird hide. It crawled onto a small island, snapped up something to eat, sat for a little while and then swam off again. It is so important that it continues to be protected; as the only small piece left, it is very precious.”

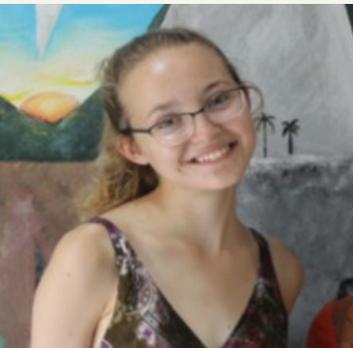
**Friendly friend, name Abigail Harris from Tonbridge , England**



**14th July 2015**

“We had a great time visiting. It’s our first time seeing a mangroves forest. Many birds and other wildlife. We hope not all mangrove forests will be lost.”

**Norby, Gjerdrum and his sweet friendly family,  
all the way from Norway**



**15/7/2015**

“I am so pleased to have visited the centre, it is peaceful and great to be in nature. Places like this are real and so special. I find it a heart-warming pleasure to discover conservation efforts! Much love.

**Miss Jaya Entwistle, Llangolden, Wales, UK**



## WHAT'S HAPPENING ON AUGUST

### Environmental Education Programme:

- ◆ 5 August 2015: SM All Saints + Japan students
- ◆ 6 August 2015: Borneo Trails & Opening Ceremony TCPC, IBTP UMS.
- ◆ 8 August 2015: UPM + SMK Lok Yuk
- ◆ 9 August 2015: UPM + SMK Likas
- ◆ 19 August 2015: Hokkaido Takikawa High School + SM All Saints
- ◆ 22 August 2015: HSBC & SM St Micheal Penampang
- ◆ 27 August: JTB
- ◆ 28 August 2015: SM Tsung Tsin



### Outreach Paper Making:

- ◆ 6 August 2015: Institut Perguruan Gaya

### Environment Voluntary Work:

- ◆ 8 August 2015: UPM + SMK Lok Yuk
- ◆ 9 August 2015: UPM + SMK Likas



## SUPPORT US BY JOINING AS A MEMBER!

### Kota Kinabalu Wetlands

This is a 24-hectare mangrove forest reserve right in the heart of the city of Kota Kinabalu that has been designated as a State Cultural Heritage site since 1998. It is managed by SABAH WETLANDS CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

This environmental education centre on the site has been in operation since 2000. It has an administrative building with an exhibition hall, a 1.5 km boardwalk, a bird hide, observation tower and outdoor class room.

### Benefits of Being Our Member

#### Support us by taking PART in our Environmental Educational Programmes:

- KK Wetlands Mangrove Experience Programme
- Mangrove Conservation Experience Programme (includes tree planting in Tuaran)



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(<https://www.facebook.com/SabahWetlandsConservationSociety/>)



Visit our website:  
[www.sabahwetlands.org](http://www.sabahwetlands.org)



### What Can You do to Help?

- Be a member
- Be a volunteer
- Perform Environmental Voluntary Work
- Carry out Corporate Social Responsibility

• As a member, you will be able to participate in members' events, enjoy free entry to Kota Kinabalu Wetland.

• Eligible for 50% discount for binocular rental\*.

• Most importantly, you know you are helping this ecosystem to survive and provide essential services to it.

\*Subject to change without further notice

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