

NEWSLETTER

SABAH WETLANDS CONSERVATION SOCIETY



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 14th Annual General Meeting of Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society (SWCS) was held on 30th March 2019, Saturday in Kota Kinabalu Wetlands Ramsar Site. This year, election for new SWCS Management Committee was held and a total of twelve members were elected as the Office Bearers for the tenure of 2019 - 2021. Datuk Haji Zainie Abdul Aucasa and Dr Haji Rahimatsah Amat were re-elected as President and Deputy President of SWCS.

SABAH WETLANDS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

A Non-Governmental Organization working on Conservation of Wetlands in Sabah

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.



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2019 - 2021

President

Datuk Haji Zainie Abdul Aucasa

Deputy President

Dr. Haji Rahimatsah Amat

Honorary Secretary

George Ngui

Honorary Treasurer

Datuk Verus A.Aman Sham

Honorary Assistant Secretary

Michael Mutu Karsim

Honorary Assistant Treasurer

Mark Chin

Committee Member

Ting Hua Sing

Committee Member

Ar. Rizal Ahmad Banjar

Committee Member

Assoc. Prof. Dr.
Berhaman Ahmad

Committee Member

Dr. John Madin

Co-opted Committee Member

Alex Yong

Co-opted Committee Member

Datuk Gerald Goh

Message from Yuichiro Watanabe Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Volunteer



Kon'nichiwa!

In Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site, I worked for about two years in the field of environmental education as a JICA Volunteer. Having focused on the results from the beginning, I was able to gain a great deal of meaningful experience, supported by the kind and excellent staff and SWCS committee members.

Looking back at the two years activities so far, the major axis has not changed, but depending on the time of day the things that are at the center of the activity have changed consciously. First, about six months later, I set up four pillars of two years activities (Improvement of environmental education program, Promotion of Kota Kinabalu Wetland, Establishment of new income source, Cleanup of in-house mangrove). Up to the first year, the website (English, Japanese, Chinese) and Wikipedia are produced by us and we visited the Sabah Government Tourism Board and made a request for posting the website.

In the second year, I also worked on creating and selling compost and coconut charcoal, a new challenge for myself, and creating and selling collaboration T-shirts with local famous artists. Since my knowledge on animals and plants has been established, we made a map in the park for guests who can download it at the reception desk, plants and animals card that allows you to see and hear birds singing and features, and commentary videos of them.

In addition, as part of the cleaning activities in mangroves, we carried out activities to make garbage collection routine; create a map on the website that divides the Kota Kinabalu Wetland into A-H, post the date and time of the implementation, the number of participants, and the weight of the garbage.

Having done these activities with the staff, we are able to produce some meaningful results.

My experience over the past two years was invaluable and I would never forget.

I look forward to keeping in touch with the staff and SWCS committee members and becomes a lifetime friend.

Arigato semua!!

Yuichiro Watanabe
JICA Volunter



Disclaimer: The views, information, or opinions expressed in this letter are the author's own expression. The information contained in this letter is provided on an "as is" basis with no guarantees of completeness or accuracy.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Visit On 5th March 2019



Yuichiro Farewell On 14th March 2019



Visit by Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) & Brunei Darulsalam, Indonesia, Malaysia & the Republic of the Philippines East Asia Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Malaysia, Business Council on 19th March 2019



Forest & Human

Forests are essential and important for life on earth. Forests provide habitat for a vast array of plants and animals. Forests cover 1/3 of the earth's surface and contain an estimated 3 trillion trees. Forests can exist in dry, wet, bitterly cold, and sweltering hot climates.



Importance

Plants from forest release particles called Oxygen and absorb Carbon Dioxide. A single mature tree is estimated to produce a day's supply of oxygen for anywhere from 2 to 10 people. Forests also provide food, such as fruits, nuts, seeds, sap mushrooms, berries. Forests help us reduce global warming. Trees make the environment cooler; they absorb Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) that causes global warming. Emissions of CO₂ in our atmosphere will cause global warming and climate change. CO₂ is stored in wood, leaves, and soil, often for centuries. Lastly, the forest is important because they provide employment. More than 1.6 billion people rely on forests to some extent for their livelihoods. Forests contribute about 1 per cent of the global gross domestic product through timber production and non-timber products, the latter of which alone support up to 80 per cent of the population in many developing countries.

Current Issues

Recently there are few issues in Malaysia regarding the forests, as we know that forest plays an important role for the people and ecosystem. However, the forests are also suffering from the threat either by human or nature. In 2018, there is an issue regarding massive deforestation that happened in Gua Musang, Kelantan due to the Corporates wanting to convert the forest land to agriculture land. This clearing of forest land affects the river and the indigenous people. The indigenous people living in Gua Musang are having a hard time in finding non-timber forest products for their own use and to sell, not only that due to land clearing the river is also polluted because soil erosion makes it harder for them to get clean water supply.



Deforestation
Credit: IUCN.org

Luckily, in January the administration of the Prime Minister filed a lawsuit towards the Kelantan state government due to their failure in protecting the indigenous people's land in Gua Musang. Besides that, throughout January to April there were a lot of cases of forest fires in Malaysia. Most fires occurred due to the hot and dry conditions because of the El Niño phenomenon, some forests affected by fire are Gunung Korbu forest reserve which is also near indigenous people villages and 60 hectares of forest in the industrial area of Gebeng, Pahang also affected. The fires were put out by water bombing for the area that is too big and hard to approach and filling water in drainage helps to avoid the fire from spreading.

Article references:

<https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/wilayah/2019/02/535911/>

<http://www.astroawani.com/berita-malaysia/>

<http://www.fao.org/3/y5507e/y5507e01.htm>



7th March 2019. Environmental Education Programme & Mangrove Tree Planting with SMI Holiday (Japan Group).



14th March 2019. RRCEA Project with students from Cosmopoint Kota Kinabalu.



21st March 2019. RRCEA Project with students from Almacrest International College.



22nd March 2019. Environmental Education Programme with students from UCSF.



27th-28th March 2019. Outreach at Universiti Malaysia Sabah.



29th March 2019. Mangrove Tree Planting with students from Asian Tourism International College.

Guests' comments



It was a very peaceful, relaxing and exciting experience.
- Elizabeth & Marty Manoukian from USA



Good experience even it was a rainy day.
-Revato Rucci from Switzerland



Very Good! Keep up the good work!
- Vicki and Family from USA

Upcoming Events

MARCH

Environmental Education Programme

- SMK lok Yuk Kota Kinabalu
- UTHM Johor
- UITM Kota Kinabalu

Environmental Voluntary Work

- Universiti Putra Malaysia
- Rotaract Club UMS

Mangrove Tree Planting

- SMK Likas
- UITM Kota Kinabalu

Other

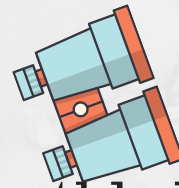
- RRCEA - Asian Metropolitan College
- RRCEA - Cosmopoint College

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Volunteering is good for your heart

Volunteering for KK Wetlands Ramsar Site can be a great fun! If you have passion for the environment or just want to gain more outdoor experiences, this is the appropriate channel. Do not miss the chance! Sign up to be a volunteer now or contact us for more information.

02

Monthly Bird Monitoring

Join our monthly birding activity on every 15th-17th day of the month

FOR MORE INFO

How to REGISTER

Call us at 088-246955 or drop us an email at swcs@sabahwetlands.org

membership**Benefits of being our member**

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- As a member, you will be able to participate
- in members' events and enjoy free entry to
- Kota Kinabalu Wetlands Ramsar Site
- Eligible for 50% discount for binoculars rental*.
- Most importantly, you know you are helping
- this ecosystem to survive and provide
- essential services to it.

support us by joining our programmes

1. Environmental Education Programme

- i. KK Wetlands Mangrove Experience Programme
- ii. Mangrove Conservation Experience Programme
- iii. Handcrafting from Mangrove

2. Environmental Voluntary Work

- i. Nursery Work
- ii. Mangrove Clean-Up

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