



SWCS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2016

Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society (SWCS)

A Non-Government 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.

Contact us:

Tel:+6088-246 955

Fax: +6088-247 955

or

swcs@sabahwetlands.org

Like us on Facebook:
([https://www.facebook.com/SabahWetlandsConservation Society](https://www.facebook.com/SabahWetlandsConservationSociety))

Visit our Website:
www.sabahwetlands.org
Visit us today : Tue-Sun
(including PH)
8.00am-6.00pm

Sabah Green Carnival: Jari Hijau Green Carnival — 8th October 2016

Jari Hijau is an event which is initiated by Ripples Consultancy Sdn Bhd and supported by Sabah Cultural Board (SCB) and Kota Kinabalu City Hall (DBKK). The primary focus is to provide a platform for all conservation and environmental bodies in Sabah to showcase and educate public about their respective interests.

The event has been graced by YBhg Tan Sri Wences Angang, Chairman of SCB and other SCB officials. YBhg. Datuk Hj Zainie Abdul Aucasa wished Jari Hijau every success in its efforts as they continue to work collaboratively to protect the environment and SWCS are looking forward to having a fruitful long-term collaboration with Jari Hijau and urged everyone present to play their own role to the best of their ability to contribute towards the environment sustainability.



Speech by Datuk Haji Zainie.



Officiating speech by YBhg. Tan Sri Wences Angang.



Exhibition booth by SWCS. From left: Nazirah, Rita and Toru.



Launching gimmick: hitting the 'gong'.

Courtesy Visit to SABAH TOURISM BOARD — 6th October 2016



SWCS always seek for healthy collaborations with other organizations in promoting wetlands conservation. SWCS courtesy visit to Sabah Tourism Board (STB) on 6th October 2016 successfully initiated a good collaboration between both organizations beneficial to both parties.

In the effort of promoting Sabah and in ensuring the success and sustainable growth of tourism sector in Sabah, STB is working closely with industry players. Collaborating with STB will surely be beneficial for SWCS to promote KK Wetlands, as an eco-tourism site in which the income will surely be much helpful for SWCS as a non-profit organization in implementing its nature conservation efforts.

ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMME

SK LADANG SAPONG, TENOM



36 primary students visited KK Wetlands all the way from Tenom. They are excited and enjoyed walking along the muddy zone. This experience would be precious for them to remember!

INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY STUDENT, FACULTY OF SCIENCE & NATURAL RESOURCES, UMS



Dr. Maria Lourdes T. Lardizabal,
UMS.

Every year, Dr. Maria Lourdes from the Faculty of Science and Natural Resources of University Malaysia Sabah brought her students to KK Wetlands to experience the real conservation works done on field. This year, she brought 40 enthusiastic students to participate in our programme. The activities provided for them were mangrove ecosystem interpretation and mangrove tree planting which were done at Sulaman Lake Forest Reserve, in a degraded part of the forest reserve due to illegal shrimp farming in the past. To experience the most adventurous mangrove tree planting activity, you got to come to KK Wetlands!



At Sulaman Lake Forest Reserve tree planting site.

ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTARY WORK

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE, KOTA KINABALU



More than 25 students from the institute got involved in our conservation effort here in KK Wetlands, particularly in nursery work. They helped to prepare more than 150 polybags for young mangrove saplings. In addition, they collected more than 30 saplings of *Avicennia sp.* *Avicennia* tree is the highest salt tolerance of all mangrove trees. They are the most suitable pioneer species to be planted in wetter saltwater wetlands.

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH & SPORT, TONGOD, SABAH — CHARITY & VOLUNTARY PROGRAMME



From Tongod to Kota Kinabalu, the youth came to do voluntary works in Kota Kinabalu. We feel honored that they chose KK Wetlands as one of their destinations. The original planned activity was actually to do tree planting activity, rain unfortunately hindered the planned activity. However, we got them to experience another equally beneficial environmental activity, which was the mangrove cleaning activity in KK Wetlands. Hopefully, the experience in this activity has built awareness in them to manage our rubbish wisely in future, not just dumping it anywhere, anytime!

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA SABAH



This passionate easy-going group of students from UMS volunteered in cleaning up the mangrove. As what we usually do with volunteers in this activity, we try to 'brain-wash' them to become someone who care for our environment and to hate the act of littering. Exposure to the site help much in creating awareness more than just by words!

OUTREACH

SMK PREMPUAN LIKAS, CHARITY BAAZAR



In corresponding to the Charity Bazaar event in SMK Perempuan Likas, SWCS was invited to make exhibition to share information and knowledge with students and the general publics. The exhibition was mainly on introduction of KK Wetlands, SWCS roles in wetlands conservation, and not least about the importance of the wetlands itself.

GUESTS' FEEDBACKS IN OCTOBER!



Nice effort at keeping this natural space. Pity animals are a bit shy, but I've still managed to see 4 types of birds during my short visit. It's encouraging that the environment is taken care of and the mangrove are being conserved. Well done and keep up the good and hard work!! Thanks!

Fernandez from Spain — 7 October 2016

Beautiful sanctuary. Lovely walk through the mangroves. Plenty of birds to be seen if you are quiet. Mud walk at the end is a fun adventure if you don't mind getting your shoes dirty. Thank you.

Peter Underwood from Australia — 20 October 2016



Lovely walk through mangroves, kingfishers, egrets and crabs. Very good boardwalk, great information on walk.

Ian Hert from United Kingdom — 29 October 2016



Beautiful place! Its great that they are trying to educate the population on proper recycling and waste disposal!

Laura C. from Australia, 30 October 2016

We really enjoyed the visit. It was educational and relaxing to visit the little green heart in KK. Thanks also to the bird watching tower and the nice staff attention.

Paula Montes & Chris Schmid from Mexico, 6 October 2016

Very nice ecological center in the middle of the city, did not see too many fishes, crustaceans and birds. Will be nice to have more guided tours to understand the mangrove forest and the importance to the ecosystem. Our guide, Azmeel was very good to introduce us to the different animals.

Xi Xi from Singapore, 7 October 2016

KEEPING THE MUDFLAT INTACT Why?

Mudflat is a type of wetlands usually found within the ocean's tidal range, without or with less vegetation covers. Mudflats are most likely to be seen as less important land, however in fact, it support a wide diversity aquatic wildlife, and; waterbirds as their grazing ground.

In KK Wetlands, the sole mudflat is located at the Bird Hide, surrounded by vegetation of mangrove trees at eastern side and mangrove ferns at western side. The site is the only site we could spot most waterbirds such as the Egrets, Pacific Golden Plovers (during migratory season), Herons, Bitterns, and not least, Kingfishers during high tide. Historically, we recorded endangered bird species, the Chinese Egret and Lesser Adjutant grazing at the site.

As the sole mudflat and important waterbird area in KK Wetlands, keeping the mudflat visible from above and from the spotting point (Bird Hide) is crucial, in which we need to control the vegetation covers at the site. Mangrove trimming

at the site done occasionally, at least two times in a year.

Mangrove trimming in October 2016

BEFORE



AFTER



At least 13 trees of two species (*Avicennia alba* and *Rhizophora apiculata*) were trimmed. Ecologically, the mangrove trees and the mudflat are equally valuable, considering their own roles in keeping the ecosystem balance of the wetlands.

SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS!

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

- 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

What Can You do to Help?

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

SUPPORT US BY JOINING OUR PROGRAMMES:

Environmental Educational Programmes:

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

Environmental Voluntary Work

(* Contact us for activity booking form)

Tel No: 088-246955

Email: swcs@sabahwetlands.org

Contributors:

Davisthon Soitoh
(Conservation & Education Assist.)
Toru Tamamushi
(JICA Volunteer)
Rita Ignatius
(Manager/Exec. Secretary)

Compiled by :
Davisthon Soitoh