

Environmental Education Programs

This year, our first environmental education program was implemented at three schools in Dungun, Terengganu, during March 2011. The program was funded by CIMB and supported by Tanjung Jara Resort. 3 schools were selected to participate in this program, each of different sizes and groups: SK Kuala Abang, SK Seberang Dungun and SK Pulau Serai. We also worked with Tanjung Jara Resort to run the programme for a group of children from the Garden International School in KL and Kuantan.

This half day program consisted of 3 station games namely Build Your Own Reef, Sustainable Fishing Game and the Turtle Action game (by Turtle Conservation Centre). They contain lessons on the importance of coral reefs, the need for sustainable marine resource management, as well as the life cycle and challenges of a sea turtle. In addition to the station games, there was a colouring competition for students in Standard 5, and six prizewinners were selected from each school to participate in a snorkeling trip, provided by the Resort. At the end of the program, all participants were given Reef Check Malaysia stickers to remind them of the little steps which they can do for the environment.

The program received good response from both teacher and students alike. A head-teacher from SK Seberang Dungun commented that "This is a good opportunity for the children to be exposed to environmental education. Our students do not get opportunities like this often compared to urban school children." One of the parents of the winners commented, "My son was so excited with this program. He told me of the lessons he learnt in the program and how he went diving in the pool. I could see he enjoyed himself very much." A teacher who accompanied the winners to do their DSD commented "Programs like this are essential for the students' development. These are activities where they cannot obtain from day to day classroom settings."

We would like to thank our sponsors for making this program possible and we hope that the program could be expanded to other coastal schools in the near future.



This year, the Rainforest to Reef (R2R) Programme for the Marine Park Island schools continues to run for the 3rd year. The first supporting activity was successfully carried out on all three islands: Tioman (9th April), Perhentian and Redang (16th April).

A total of 100 students participated in this program and 20 Alstom staff volunteered to be program facilitators. The children were given the opportunity to appreciate nature through the jungle trekking activity and to learn on the importance of the forest ecosystem through station games along the jungle tracks. A poster drawing competition was held in the latter part of the program to encourage the participants in expressing their creativity.

Our thanks to Berjaya Hotels and Resorts in Tioman and Redang; Flora Bay Resort and Watercolours Dive Centre in Perhentian, for assisting us with the transport of participants.



The Rainforest to Reef program this year at SK TTDI (2), sponsored by KPMG, kicked off with a recycling bin designing competition in April 2011. Prior to announcing the winner of the recycling bin, a short learning session was conducted for 400 students who were present that day. They were taught on the importance of recycling and the varying time that trash take to degrade or decompose. Since 2009, SK TTDI 2 has started a recycling program with the help of KPMG. Students were encouraged to bring their recyclables to school which will then be sold to Alam Flora in return for some cash. The program is slowly building up and we hope more schools will emulate SK TTDI 2 in the future. We would like to especially thank the the staff of KPMG and the teachers for their dedication and proactiveness in supporting this program.



PERHENTIAN ISLAND PROJECT

SGP The GEF Small Grants Programme



The Association of Operators Pulau Perhentian Terengganu (Persatuan Pengusaha-pengusaha Pulau Perhentian Terengganu) had their 2nd Annual General Meeting on 2nd March and elected the new committee members for 2011.

This year, the Association is undertaking a project funded by GEF SGP which focuses on promoting responsible tourism on the island. A few investments have been made in green technologies to green business operation such as the compost machine, some grease traps and some water pumps. The association is also partnering with Reef Check Malaysia to give environmental talks to resort staff to raise their environmental awareness level. On top of that, we are also running environmental programmes with the village school children.



SURVEY PROGRAM

Reef Check Malaysia has started the annual EcoDiver survey trips this year with the assistance of our highly committed certified EcoDivers. We would like to thank them for their contribution. Five sites have been surveyed so far in Redang on the 6-8th of May 2011. More surveys to come in our upcoming trips as detailed below:

- Perhentian 20-22nd May 2011
- Tioman 17-19th June 2011
- Bidong 22-24th July 2011
- Tenggol 9-11th September 2011



For more information, visit our website!

NETWORK NEWS

Please contact any of the dive centres listed below if you are interested in EcoDiver training or if you want to participate in a Reef Check survey.

ScubaZone
Watercolours
Sunlight Divers
Redang Kalong
Scuba Explorers
Tioman Dive Centre

Kuala Lumpur
Perhentian
Perhentian
Redang
Tenggol
Tioman

s-zone@streamyx.com
info@watercolours.com.my
info@sunlightdivers.com
ddenmsia@tm.net.my
info@scubaexplorers.com.my
enquiries@tioman-dive-centre.com

REEF CHECK MALAYSIA

Malaysia is part of the "Coral Triangle", the area of the world's oceans recognized by scientists as having the highest biodiversity. Coral reefs therefore represent an economically important ecosystem and are the foundation of a significant percentage of the country's tourist industry. There are some 3,600 km² of reef around the country, including fringing reefs and offshore islands. Over 350 species of hard coral have been identified in Malaysian waters.

However, a lack of comprehensive management programmes is leading to degradation of this important economic resource. This situation is exacerbated by inadequate information on the status and location of the reefs, further hindering management efforts.

In 2001, Reef Check Foundation appointed a National Coordinator for Malaysia, to promote Reef Check and carry out training and surveys. While there were some successes, lack of funding and support prevented the coordinator from having a major impact on marine conservation in Malaysia.

In 2006, the British Government provided funding for a one year project to establish a more sustainable Reef Check programme in Malaysia. That project culminated with the registration of Reef Check Malaysia Bhd as a non-profit company in August 2007.

DIVE CENTRE NETWORK

Calling All Dive Centres: We are looking to expand our small network of Reef Check Certified Facilities. You can help us by training more EcoDivers and arranging surveys to improve reef monitoring in your area.

Becoming a Certified Facility is easy – all you need is an EcoDiver trainer on staff. Contact us to ask how it all works!



REEF CHECK MALAYSIA ON SOCIAL NETWORK

We are now active on Facebook. Add us as friends and join our group – Reef Check Malaysia, to find out more on what is happening!



SUPPORTERS

Reef Check Malaysia is grateful to the following organisations for their support: Without their help, we would not be able to continue our work to preserve Malaysia's marine resources.

