



MELAKA MUSEUMS CORPORATION
Perbadanan Muzium Melaka
Kompleks Warisan Melaka
Jalan Kota, 75000 Melaka



Report for UNEP Convention of Biological Diversity:

Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity in Melaka, Malaysia

Melaka, Malaysia (19th September 2012) - Scores of 13-year-old students from Sultan Muzaffar Syah Science Secondary School (MOZAC) have attended an awareness talk on "Endangered Sea Turtle and Marine Biodiversity" held at the Marine and Coastal Heritage Gallery in Maritime Museum Phase II.

The event is organized by Melaka Museums Corporation (PERZIM) in collaboration with Melaka Department of Fisheries, Turtle Conservation Society of Malaysia (TCS), Malaysian Nature Society (Melaka Branch), WWF-Malaysia Melaka Hawksbill Turtle Conservation Project Team and their Hawksbill Eco-Club.

It was officiated by the PERZIM Deputy Chairman Datuk Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani. He hopes that such activities can help to raise public awareness on the status of this endangered sea turtle as well as the critical surrounding marine and coastal ecosystems. PERZIM is constantly striving to improve the quality of service provided by museum as the centre of not only tourism, but also education and scholar references.

Mr Robert Leong Ho Fook, the Head of Licencing and Enforcement Unit of Melaka Department of Fisheries, was invited to be the speaker to brief on the turtle conservation done in Melaka and the importance of such effort. Born in Melaka with early education in St. Francis Institution Melaka, he had started working with the department since 1977. The students were fully engaged in the interactive talks and the displayed video entitled "Turtles! Our Treasures – Threats to Their Survival".

According to Mr. Robert, "Hawksbill turtles which have existed since the dinosaur eras are listed as Critically Endangered by IUCN Red List. The main nesting sites in Melaka are Padang Kemunting, Upeh Island, Terendak Camp, and Tanjung Dahan. Unfortunately, out of every five thousand hatchlings, usually only one will manage to survive and grow. Hence, we need to take extra care of this marine heritage."

The talk by Mr. Robert was then followed with a quiz on sea turtles to gauge understanding of the students. Mohamad Nur Sa'ad Bin Osman and Izyan Nani Bte Imran successfully won the quiz as the top two achievers and were awarded the gift of books published by PERZIM.

Posters exhibition on the conservation effort done by participating stakeholders were also on the display, including an injured hawksbill turtle specimens presented by the Department of Fisheries. Ms. Chen Pelf Nyok, the co-founder of TCS also presented the posters to help students in differentiating the differences of sea turtles, terrapins, and tortoises in Malaysia. Meanwhile, the students were getting better informed of the "Raptor Watch" conservation done by Malaysian Nature Society in the Important Bird Areas of Cape Rachado Forest Reserve through this exhibition. Colourful sea turtle merchandises were sold at the booths and the students are especially excited in colouring the sea turtle bags provided by WWF-Malaysia and Hawksbill Eco-Club.

The half day tour ended near 6pm but the exhibition remained open to public till the end of December 2012 as part of the effort by PERZIM to spread the awareness on the importance of our marine and coastal heritage in Melaka, the UNESCO World Heritage City.

Anyone who is interested to visit the exhibition is welcomed to purchase the entrance tickets which cost RM3 for adult and RM1 for children below 12 years old for local citizens. Meanwhile for non-citizen, it is RM6 for adult and RM2 for children below 12 years old. Each ticket entitles the holder admission into the three museums under this Maritime Museum Complex, which are Maritime Museum “Flor de La Mar”, Maritime Museum Phase II, and the Royal Malaysian Navy Museum.



Participants from Sultan Muzaffar Syah Science Secondary School attended the event held at the Marine and Coastal Heritage Gallery in Maritime Museum Phase II.



Ms. Fahril Liza Binti Jaafar, the Community Liaison Officer from WWF-Malaysia received a token of appreciation from PERZIM Deputy Chairman Datuk Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani.



Mr. Robert Leong Ho Fook from Department of Fisheries was giving a talk on the sea turtle conservation program done in Melaka.



The students were listening attentively and busy jotting down notes of the talk on sea turtles.



One of the quiz winner, Izyani Nani Imran, received the gift award from Mr. Robert Leong Ho Fook.



Participants were watching the video entitled "Turtles! Our Treasures – Threats to Their Survival".



One of the participants was painting the motif of sea turtles on the eco-bag provided by WWF-Malaysia and Hawksbill Eco-Club.



Students were happily showing the result of their artwork with the teacher, Mr. Azlan Bin Abu Hassan and Ms. Fahrol Liza Jaafar, the Community Liaison Officer from WWF-Malaysia Melaka Hawksbill Turtle Conservation Project Team.



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The exhibition on Endangered Sea Turtle and Marine Biodiversity at the Marine and Coastal Heritage Gallery in Maritime Museum Phase II.



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A student was buying the sea turtle merchandise displayed by Turtle Conservation Society of Malaysia, WWF-Malaysia, and Hawksbill Eco-Club.



The organizers and participating stakeholders. (from left to right: Ms. Lim Ming Hui, the President of Malaysian Nature Society (Melaka Branch), Ms. Fahrol Liza Jaafar, the Community Liaison Officer from WWF-Malaysia Hawksbill Turtle Conservation Project Team, Representative from Hawksbill Eco-Club, Mr. Robert Leong Ho Fook, the Head of Licencing and Enforcement Unit of Melaka Department of Fisheries, Encik Yunus Bin Abd Talib, Curator Assistant of PERZIM, Encik Saiful Bahri Bin Harun, Muzium Assistant of PERZIM, Ms. Lai Yin Yee, Curator Assistant of PERZIM.