

Vital to prioritise water security

Foundation urges government to address degradation of rivers and its catchment areas

WATER shortages, dams drying up, devastating floods, river pollution — more and more water-related issues are making the headlines in Malaysia these days but it is just the tip of the iceberg.

WWF-Malaysia chief executive officer Datuk Dr Dionysius Sharma said these issues were serious and needed to be addressed urgently as continued degradation of rivers and their surrounding catchment areas increased the risks of water crises.

“The health of our rivers and water resources are closely linked to how we manage and use the land within our watersheds or catchment areas.

“Therefore, cooperation among all parties that plan, manage and use our natural resources is vital,” he said.

Dr Dionysius said it was time to implement Malaysia’s aspiration for an integrated approach to water resources and river basin management as highlighted since the 9th Malaysia Plan (2006-2010), and form a key part to our National Water Resources Policy mooted in 2012.

“Strategic action plans outlined in the policy should be translated into action now.

“The government’s commitment and actions remain a key and ultimate driver in this as land use and resource planning are governed largely by government agencies.”

Other stakeholders’ involvement is equally vital to complement the government’s efforts and it is heartening to see some success stories in Terengganu, Sabah and Sarawak where partnerships and collaborative efforts have helped to achieve the goal of water security and healthy rivers, he added.

In Setiu Wetlands, Terengganu, the state government has established several committees involving various stakeholders to mobilise the process towards the state park gazettement.

As a recognised partner, WWF-Malaysia works with these stakeholders in providing information and recommendations particularly on integrated management approach for the wetlands and its watershed.

In April 2016, WWF-Malaysia jointly held a scientific expedition with Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Terengganu Forestry Department and Terengganu National Parks and Wildlife Department, and participated by several local universities and NGOs.

The expedition generated vital findings that could provide justification and guidance for informed decision to support integrated management of the Setiu Wetlands including on the state park gazettement.



Participants from SM Advent Goshen in Kota Marudu, Sabah calculating the water footprint of food in the WaterQuest activity.

Similarly in Sarawak, WWF-Malaysia is complementing the state government’s efforts in implementing integrated watershed management in Baleh, Kapit Division.

In November 2015, the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) led a joint scientific expedition in Baleh with the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Protection of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, WWF-Malaysia and Sarawak Energy Berhad (SEB) to collect biodiversity and ecosystems baseline, and water quality data for Ulu Baleh.

Data gathered will support the proposed Baleh National Park gazettement and subsequently develop a watershed management plan.

A series of follow-up workshops are being planned with stakeholders to create common understanding on the need for an integrated approach and collaborative efforts for watershed management in Baleh.

In Sabah, WWF-Malaysia advocates action that contributes to reducing impact and supporting better management of rivers and river basins.

It has initiated several programmes such as the WaterVoice that allows communities to share their thoughts on rivers and



Researchers collecting fish samples at the Ulu Baleh scientific expedition in Kapit, Sarawak.

through photographs they have taken, WaterQuest where participants learn about water conservation through games; and RiverRangers where local communities are taught to conduct river monitoring activities.

As a result, the communities and civil societies in Ranau, on the foothills of Mount Kinabalu, are now

actively working towards gazettement a water catchment in their area.

In conjunction with the World Rivers Day on Sept 25, WWF-Malaysia calls on the government to implement the Strategic Plans of the National Water Resources Policy as the way forward to address water woes; and all parties to be involved in conserving our rivers.



WWF-Malaysia jointly held a scientific expedition with Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Terengganu Forestry Department and Terengganu National Parks and Wildlife Department. It was participated by several local universities and NGOs.



Participants of Kolej Komuniti Tambunan in Tambunan, Sabah completing a task for the WaterQuest activity.

SMART HOLIDAYS www.smartholidays.com.my

世界邁進 SMART HOLIDAYS

JAPAN
ALL INCLUSIVE PRICE

8D
8JKT-N
Japan Honshu Panorama World Heritage Tour
Osaka • Kobe • Nara • Kyoto • Takashima • Nagoya • Takayama • Shirakawa-Go • Mt.Fuji • Tokyo
ALL IN RM **6998**

7D
7JHT
Romantic Hokkaido Tour
Chitose • Sapporo • Hakodate • Otaru
ALL IN RM **6898**

8D
8JON-DT
Japan Central Delight • Double Theme Park Fun Tour
Universal Studio Ticket • Tokyo Disneyland Ticket
ALL IN RM **7098**

8D
8JFUK-D
The Best of Kyushu Round Island Tour
Fukuoka • Aso • Kumamoto • Miyazaki • Kagoshima
ALL IN RM **7198**

8D
8JHD
Hokkaido Panorama Gourmet Deluxe Tour
Chitose • Tokachikawa • Lake Akan • Ounkyo • Asahikawa • Furano • Biei • Noboribetsu • Otaru • Sapporo
ALL IN RM **8898**

7D
7JKN
Central Japan Shirakawa-Go Tour
Osaka • Kyoto • Nagoya • Mt. Fuji • Odaiba • Tokyo
ALL IN RM **7198**

GROUND ONLY

6D
6JTYO
Japan Relaxing Tokyo Tour + Free & Easy
Tokyo • Hakone • Mt. Fuji • Odaiba
ALL IN RM **3598**

6D
6JOSK
Enjoy Japan Osaka Tour
Osaka • Nara • Kyoto
ALL IN RM **3598**

ROYSTAR TRAVEL & TOURS SDN BHD 03-21430288/0188
(OUTBOUND) No. 171 & 171-1, Jalan Imbi, K.L. KPLILN 1995 (203165-T)

HONG THAI TOURS & TRAVEL KUALA LUMPUR 03-21488448
KPLILN 2041 (97581-J) (M) SDN BHD PENANG 04-228 6612
KPLILN 1340 (165581-H) (OUTBOUND)

PELANCONGAN MEWAH SDN BHD KPLILN 0411 03-77225898
(OUTBOUND) (161061-D)

B.T.T. TRAVEL SERVICES SDN BHD KPLILN 5238 088-488 218
(270319-K)

16, Lorong Brunei 3 off Jalan Pudu, Kuala Lumpur
38, Jalan Rangoon, Penang
Lot F-4-92, Neo Damansara, No.1 Jalan PJU 8/1, Damansara Perdana, 47200, Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
S-219 (Lot 15, 2nd Floor, Block D), City Mall, 88400 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

FOR CORPORATE GROUPS ENQUIRY - Email: incentive@roystartravel.com.my