

# Pertubuhan Teknologi dan Penyelesaian Ekopelancongan Borneo (Borneo Ecotourism Solutions & Technologies Society)Activities Report for Year 2009

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## a) Pitas Flood Crisis Relief Mission 2009 (7th Feb 2009)



BEST members participating in the project. From left, Jackson, Susan, Joe, Susi and Aron.

A total of nine volunteers from Borneo Eco Tours and Borneo Ecotourism Solutions & Technologies (BEST) joined a one day flood crisis relief mission in Kota Marudu and Pitas, which is located on the Northern part of Sabah on 7th February 2009. The community project which was organised by Skyline (SIB) Church, District offices and supported by Borneo Eco Tours and BEST to distribute 940 food and groceries packs to the severely affected areas. An amount of RM2,000.00 was also contributed by BEST in this project.

A team of doctors also offered free medical check up for the sick. The team was split into three groups and visited different affected villages around Kota Marudu district and Pitas. Volunteers expressed appreciation for the opportunity given to them to help the local community. They also expressed eagerness to be part of future community projects in one of the poorest

regions in Malaysia.

## b) BEST Society Receives Grant from GEF SGP (23rd & 24th Feb 2009)



Aron Charles (left) receiving the mock cheque from Minister of Natural Resources & Environment Malaysia, YB Datuk Douglas Uggah Embas.

The first ever Global Environment Facilities-Small Grant Program (GEF SGP) Workshop was held on the 23 rd February 2009 in Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur . The half-day workshop aimed to familiarize potential grant recipients with the reporting aspects according to GEF SGP standard.

On the 24 th February 2009, Borneo Ecotourism Solutions & Technologies (BEST) secretary, Charro Aron Charles received a mock cheque from Minister of Natural Resources & Environment Malaysia, YB Datuk Douglas Uggah Embas at Marriott Hotel, Putrajaya. Two other NGOs including BEST received the planning grant of USD 2000 respectively.

Other thirteen NGOs received a full project grant of USD50K each. BEST will apply for the [full grant](#) and shall include its ongoing and prospective Rungus community development and environment conservation projects in the application of the full grant.

## c) Kudat Coco-pot, A Community-based Ecotourism Project (March 2009)

Borneo Ecotourism Solutions & Technologies (B.E.S.T), in an effort to help develop the local community capacity through social entrepreneurship and alleviate poverty among the Rungus community in Matunggong, Kudat, have identified the Kudat Coco-pot as a potential source of income for the community. Since 2008, B.E.S.T is assisting in the production, transportation, marketing and as well as distribution of the Kudat Coco-pot on behalf of the Rungus community and hopes that the project will eventually take off and become self sustaining.

This eco-product under our brand name, Kudat Coco-pot, is an eco-pot made from a coconut husk and not only creates great plant décor, it is also environmentally friendly. It is the hope of all at B.E.S.T that by creating enough support and demand, this new product will eventually replace the coco-pots that are currently being imported from our neighbouring country. The Kudat Coco-Pot is sold for RM9.50 each.



#### d) Toward Personal Development Seminar (4th Apr 2009)



The eco-friendly  
Kudat Cocopot



Group photo with all the participants

On 4th April 2009, Borneo Ecotourism Solutions & Technologies (BEST Society Bhd.) organised a one day seminar entitled "Toward Personal Development" with Matunggong Community Development Committee (MCDC) which was initiated by BEST Bhd in 2008. 60 participants turned up for the one day seminar held at Dewan Majihi, Matunggong.

Mr. Lam Kee Hing from Cornerstone Bhd., who was appointed by Borneo Eco Tours as it trainer was the main facilitator of the seminar. This seminar is part of a two year program by BEST Bhd. to promote community development through capacity building with other NGOs and Government agencies aimed at identifying the potential of the Rungus community in Matunggong. At present, BEST is drafting the final project proposal which will be submitted to GEF SGP Malaysia to tap on the grant or fund for this program.

Besides the above objective, other aim of this seminar is to promote MCDC among the Rungus community in Matunggong and to identify potential projects for future implementation. Eventually, MCDC will select individuals who can be a local champion and act as a catalyst for future community and environment conservation projects in Matunggong.

At the end of the session, Mr Jerri Mulihin announced to all interested participants to register in the 2 years development program. After enrolment in this program, they will have to be committed to the entire future program.



This is to ensure that only those who have the commitment deserve the privilege to take part in the community development program. Total expenses incurred for the seminar were RM1,225.



Mr Lam Kee Hing facilitating the seminar

#### e) Tree Planting Project in Kinabatangan (21st Apr 2009)



First site of KWICORP project in 2005 and KWICORP project second site adopted in 2009

Among the aims and focus of the Kinabatangan Wildlife Corridor Rehabilitation Program KWICORP tree planting project in Kinabatangan are, to restore and increase wildlife habitats and at the same time create wildlife corridors. Aside from that, this project also has the intention to reduce erosion from the river bank while giving opportunity for tourists staying at Sukau Rainforest Lodge to participate in the conservation activities as well. By implementing this project, it is also achieving the objective to improve the scenery during river cruise and help to enhance image of the Kinabatangan as a great ecotourism destination and not forgetting furnishing the effort to raise public awareness towards a sustainable development.

Support and donations towards KWICORP are also increasing. Starting from May 2009 a total donation of RM1,100.00 was received. For the following month of June the amount received was RM 530.00. An amount of RM 2, 550.00, RM2, 050.00 and RM 1, 731.00 was received for each month of July, August, and September respectively. All in all, the total donations received up to October 13, 2009 were RM 8, 661.00.

Sabah Forestry Department also donated 45 seedlings for the first phase and another 150 seedlings on the 21 st April 2009. These 150 seedlings were bought from the local community in Batu Putih, Kinabatangan at the price of RM2.50 for each seedling.

Unfortunately, in February 2009, due to heavy rain and flood, approximately 80 seedlings died within both sites of the area. A total of 428 seedlings that were planted at the old site are now well grown and another 103 seedlings are still growing. After the flood incident, 50 more seedlings were planted at a new site and precautions such as extra effort to help minimize excessive light exposure towards the small seedlings were taken.



#### **f) Kudat Coco-pot Challenge (7th May 2009)**



Mr Phil Dobson (front row, right) receiving the Kudat Cocopot from Ms Alicia Galing of Kg. Rampaian

On 7th May of 2009, Chairman of BEST Society, Mr. Albert Teo and Secretary of BEST, Charro Aron Charles witnessed the handover of 100 pieces of Kudat Coco-pot from local manufacturers to Phil Dobson, the Managing Director of Kudat Riviera in Kudat.

The Kudat Coco-pot, selling at the retail price of RM9.50 each is an ideal plant décor. Meanwhile, Albert Teo has set a target to sell 10,000 coco-pots in the next five years and hope that more landscape nurseries and resort hotels will come forward to buy this product for their hotels and also to help the local community become more self reliant in improving their own livelihood.

#### **g) Water Supply Project Proposal for Kg Desa Aman, Kundasang, Ranau, Sabah**



Deputy Chairman of BEST, Mr Baton Bijamin (middle) handing over mock cheque of RM5000 to the JKKK Chairman of Kg Desa Aman, En Arujin Dani (Left). Witnessed by Mr Aron Charles, Secretary of BEST Society.

BEST Society on 1 st July of 2009 made a contribution of RM5,000.00 to the villagers of Kampung Desa Aman, (pop. 400) Kundasang to finance half the repair cost of the Water Supply Project for the village.

In the year 2007, Desa Aman received two 5000-gallon tanks from the Department of Irrigation and Drainage of Sabah to channel water from Sungai Kalanggaan. Due to poor construction and storm damage towards the piping system in the year of 2008, the water tanks were only operating at 20% capacity. Ever since, supply of water to 40 households had to be rationed.

While waiting for fund allocation from the government, BEST pledged RM 5,000.00 of the total estimated cost of RM10, 000.00 to minimize hardship to the villagers. Deputy Chairman of BEST Society, Baton Bijamin handed the cheque to Mr. Arujin Dani, the JKKK (or the Village Security & Development

Committee Head) of Kampung Desa Aman.

#### **h) Personal Financial Planning Seminar (19th Sep 2009) – Kampung Pinawantai, Matunggong, Sabah**



Left: Seminar lead by Mr Lam Kee Hing  
Right: Participants of Financial Planning Seminar

BEST Society has been actively implementing a number of community projects including a seminar held in Matunggong which entitled "Personal Financial Planning" on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2009 at Handicraft Training Centre, Kampung Pinawantai, Matunggong, Sabah . Mr Lam Kee Hing himself a member of the Panel of Advisors of BEST Society was the facilitator of this seminar.

The main objectives of this "Financial Planning Seminar" are to educate local community on the importance of personal financial planning and how they can spot opportunity through staying in the rural area. Topics covered included "Factors which Lead to Poverty" and "Fundamental Principal in Personal Financial Management (i.e. Expenses control, saving and investing)". This fruitful seminar which was open to all local villagers in Matunggong district was attended by 30 participants including 10 Matunggong Community Development Committee ( MCDC) members set up by BEST Society.

Most of these participants also attended the previous seminar organized by BEST in Dewan Majihi on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2009. Villages which participated in this seminar were Kg. Hobut, Kg. Mompilis, Kg. Pinawantai, and also Kg. Tinangol. The total expenses to run this one day seminar was RM706.00.

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