

# Activities Report for Year 2010

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2010 is a year marked with outstanding achievements for BEST Society where 10 significant environmental and community projects were launched from mid year until December. A total of RM 123,957.21 which also covers administration, website, office rent, utility expenses were spent on these efforts.

In total, RM 145,644.16 were raised from various contributors including Borneo Eco Tours (RM 30,712.00), Sukau Rainforest Lodge (RM 9,408.00) and other donors (RM 99,024.16). BEST Society will initiate more projects in 2011 and ensure ongoing projects such as the Kinabatangan Wildlife Corridor Regeneration Program (KWICORP) will continue to yield positive results.

BEST Society wishes to extend our gratitude for your support and conclude our projects for the year 2010 with the following summary:

## 1) Kimihang Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign (1st May 2010)

**BEST/SBH/KDT/2010/01/18**



100 participants comprising village folks from Kampung Kimihang Kudat, volunteers from BEST Society and LDP Youth & Wanita Kudat joined forces in the project.

100 participants comprising village folks from Kampung Kimihang Kudat, volunteers from BEST Society and LDP Youth & Wanita Kudat joined forces to clean Kimihang Beach, marking BEST's Environmental Awareness Campaign in conjunction with the World Environment Day on 5th June and the United Nation's 2010 International Year of Biodiversity. It was led by BEST's Deputy Chairman, Mr. Baton Bijamin and staff of Borneo Eco Tours along with the noteworthy presence of Tanjung Kapor Assemblyman, YB Teo Chee Kang. The beach cleaning program is aimed to create awareness among the local communities on the importance of preserving a pristine environment, especially the benefits it brings to health and social life of the villagers. Kimihang Beach was chosen by BEST as the site for this year's Environmental Awareness Campaign as it recently received international recognition by virtue of the Global Environment Facility Small Grant Program (GEF-SGP) to develop a

sustainable ecotourism-based community, due to the beautiful natural surrounding it has, and the uniqueness of the culture that bloomed within the area. The project will run for two years, to encompass strategies for community capacity building through various means of training and setting up of locally initiated enterprises that are based on globally accepted guidelines which will benefit the community and the environment.

## 2) EnvironmentConservation Community Capacity Building Project Launching (6th May 2010)

**BEST/SBH/KDT/2010/02/19**

This project involves collaboration between BEST Society and Global Environment Facility Small Grant Program (GEF SGP). It was launched by YB Datuk Masidi Manjun, Sabah's Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment. The launching was attended by village folks in anticipation of the success of this long-term project which will be run based on a funding of USD 48, 000.00 from GEF SGP. The fund will finance various community building projects and strategies over a period of 2 years (2010-2012). The plan includes beach cleaning along with environmental awareness education, tree planting, herbal and medicinal garden, virgin coconut oil workshop, motivational and life skills seminars, setting up a community based ecotour involving mangrove and firefly cruise, setting up Code of Practice and training of ecotourism guides, conservation and sustainable use of offshore coral reefs and mangrove forest fringing the Loro River and setting up of micro enterprises. A mock cheque from Muthusamy Suppiah, the National Coordinator of Malaysia GEF SGP to Chairman of BEST Society



Mr. Albert Teo for USD 48, 000.00 was presented on stage, followed by the unveiling of the Kimihang Project road sign. The entourage then proceeded to plant 5 ketapang seedlings, before moving onto a tour of the Kimihang Herb Garden and the Loro River Cruise after that, to showcase several of the many natural attractions in Kimihang.



YB Datuk Masidi Manjun, Sabah's Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment during the launching.

### 3) Community Based Ecotourism Workshop (Kimihang CBET – 24th July 2010)

**BEST/SBH/KDT/2010/04/20**

On 24th July 2010, BEST Society organised the “Community Based Ecotourism Workshop” in Kimihang, Kudat. Mr. Lam Kee Hing was the facilitator for this seminar with vast experience in training that reaches into the hearts of the indigenous rural community of Sabah. A special guest, Mr. Chandra Widjaja from Singapore was invited to share his experience and to provide input for improvements. At the end of this workshop, participants coined their Vision, Mission and Goals. Their vision was to improve and enhance the standard of living for the communities in and around Kimihang whereby their mission statement was to develop Kimihang into Sabah's newest ecotourism destination by developing its natural and human capital through creation of business opportunities for the locals.



Some of the participants during the seminar.

The goals are to develop capacity building among the communities in and around Kimihang, to create business opportunities generated through

various projects, to develop small scale industries including virgin coconut oil, handicrafts, and foods, to create employment opportunities through community based ecotourism (CBET) projects, to develop tourism facilities to attract local and international tourists, to protect and enhance the natural environment through education and also to provide clean drinking water. It was concluded that after two talks and an intense brainstorming workshop, objectives were met and the common vision among members were identified. It is hoped that this momentum will be maintained and that enthusiasm remains high among members of the community.

### 4) Terokongan Project (Living Water Project / Projek Air Kehidupan – Aug 2010)

**BEST/SBH/KDT/2010/05/21**



A traditional drilled-well

The district of Kudat has a dry climate, with seasonal rains. Villagers have to rely on traditional drilled-well which relieves some of their needs, albeit a very little amount and a poor quality of brown coloured water. Seeing the struggle for clean water, Borneo Eco tours through its non profit foundation, BEST Society have joined forces with Rotary Club of Kota Kinabalu and Rotary Club International to initiate the Air Kehidupan “Living Water Project” at three villages, Terongkongan Laut, Terongkongan Darat and Kimihang to replace existing wells that are often dry throughout the year. The project is expected to cost RM 200,000.00 of which BEST Society would raise RM50, 000.00 with the remaining RM150, 000.00 to be shared between Rotary International and Rotary Club of Kota Kinabalu.

BEST Society hope to find ten kind donors who will contribute RM5, 000.00 each. Once the project is completed, names of the donor companies will be listed on the project website. The scope involves geological survey, modern drilling of up to 100 feet to the water table, installation of pipes, pump, filters and tower for 5000 Gallon water tanks, along with an awareness and literacy program for surrounding villages after these facilities are in place.

### 5) Business Opportunity Seminar (SME Bank – 10th Aug 2010)





BEST Society continues its active involvements in community projects by jointly organizing a seminar with the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Bank on 10th of August 2010 in Kudat. The one day seminar was organized in Kg. Pinawantai Handicraft Center, Matunggong District, of which, three SME Bank officers conducted the session, headed by Mr. Rosle Kassim as SME's Branch Manager along with Mr. Augustine Jumat and Ms. Aini Aucasa. The seminar was aimed to educate the local community on the SME Bank's services including detailed lessons on steps to fill up

application forms so that they are more prepared to start up businesses on their own. During the seminar Mr. Augustine explained about the **Rural Economy Funding Scheme (Skim Pembiayaan Ekonomi Desa, SPED)** which is relevant for the local Rungus community in the rural area to apply. The seminar was attended by 61 people from 21 different villages. Among the villages involved were Kg Pinawantai, Kg Kimihang, Kg Tinangol, Kg Popot, Kg Lajong, Kg Tinutudan, Kg Minyak, Kg Bangau, Kg Mompilis and Kg Hobut.

Participants were satisfied and grateful for the opportunity presented to them. This beneficial seminar cost a total of RM 1,200.00 for its overall expenditures and was funded by GEF-SGP UNDP as part of the capacity building effort. Due to positive feedback for the seminar, BEST Society will arrange a study trip to SME Bank Industrial Park in Lok Kawi, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah as business exposure and opportunity for selected participants.

## 6) Environment Education Program for Sukau Primary Students (June 2010)

BEST/SBH/SDK/2010/03/12



Through this program, BEST Society instilled a sense of ownership and appreciation for the beautiful asset to our young friends.

On 26th June 2010, 18 students under 12 years of age and four teachers from Sukau National Primary participated in the one-day Environmental Education Program at the Sukau Rainforest Lodge. Through this program, BEST Society instilled a sense of ownership and appreciation for the beautiful asset to our young friends. From slide show, to leaf litter collection, to planting their own rainforest trees, to guided nature tour on the Hornbill Boardwalk, it was apparent that learning is fun as the students diligently participated in every program which was lined out.



Sealing the experience with personalized certificates, we hope that the lucky 18 would grow up to make a difference to the community and environment. BEST Society spent RM 590.75 to organize these activities, including all transportation and administrative cost. 9 Trees were planted at KWICORP Site 2 by the students.

## **7) Sukau Medical Camp 2010 (16th to 19th Sep 2010)**

**BEST/SBH/SDK/2010/07/13**



The Medical team comprised of Doctors and Pharmacists from Queen Elizabeth Hospital I & II Kota Kinabalu, and Dentists from the Sandakan Dental Department, assisted by other Volunteers and JKKK Kg Sukau, Kg Abai and Kg Bilit.

September 19th 2010, the Sukau Medical Camp concluded with success as Doctors, Dentists, Pharmacists and Volunteers attended to a total of 561 patients for various ailments. This camp took place from 16th – 19th September 2010 and was headed by BEST Society with support from the health department of Sabah (JKNS). The Medical team comprised of Doctors and Pharmacists from Queen Elizabeth Hospital I & II Kota Kinabalu, and Dentists from the Sandakan Dental Department, assisted by other Volunteers and JKKK Kg Sukau, Kg Abai and Kg Bilit.

The objective of this camp was to provide medical service to denizens of the Lower Kinabatangan who may have difficulty accessing general healthcare and dental facilities. For this event, BEST Society spent over RM20,000.00 to finance all expenses including medicine, transport, accommodation, meals, allowances, and rental of facilities.

## **8) The 10th Biennial General Meeting of the EAPacRC (8th – 10th Oct 2010)**

**BEST/SBH/KK/2010/08/02**



**10th Biennial General Meeting (BGM) cum Regional Conference  
of the East Asia and Pacific Regional Council of Cheshire Homes (EAPacRC)  
“Changing Attitudes - Include Everybody In Development”  
8th - 11th October 2010  
Promenade Hotel, Kota Kinabalu  
Sabah Malaysia**

**Welcome  
To SABAH**  
*Land Below The Wind*



The theme for 2010 is 'Changing Attitudes – Include Everybody in Development', a focus on paradigm shift in disability work from the charity to the rights-based. The BGM programs kicked off at the Promenade Hotel with a welcoming cocktail on 8th October 2010 before the Official Opening on the 9th October. The 10th EAPacRC BGM-cum- Regional Conference was officiated by the Guest of Honour, the Honourable Datuk Hajah Azizah Bre. Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Mohd. Dun, Minister of Community Development and Consumer Affairs Sabah, Malaysia. This was followed by theme talks, experience sharing and business meetings throughout the day. During the night, an official dinner reception, 'Malam Mesra' was held at the Ocean Seafood Village Restaurant featuring cultural performance and entertainment by people with disabilities. On the 10th October, the Official Opening of the new RM1.4 million Sabah Cheshire Home buildings took place in the evening. A block of male residents, a bakery for training and a rehabilitation room are the latest additions to the existing building.

## **9)Kimihaang Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) Processing Workshop (21st – 22nd Oct 2010)**

**BEST/SBH/KDT/2010/09/23**



A number of 31 participants from a total of 7 villages  
were benefited through this fruitful workshop

A Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) processing workshop was successfully organized by BEST Society on the 21st – 22nd October 2010 in Kimihaang VCO Processing Center, Kudat. The head of Unit Kelompok Pengusaha VCO Kampung Kimihaang, Kudat, Mr Ronnie Onginjan from Kimihaang Agro Enterprise was responsible as the trainer during the two days workshop. The main objective of this workshop is to teach participants on how to extract



virgin coconut oil through fermentation and grated coconut pressing.

A number of 31 participants from a total of 7 villages were benefited through this fruitful workshop. This two days workshop was close officiated by Kudat ADO, En Yasin Nasir on behalf of Kudat District Officer, En Sebastian Lim. The workshop is very simple and helpful as it implicated technical activities which they can operate easily on t heir own. Total expenditure spent for this workshop was RM 2420.

## **10) Mindset Development Seminar (13th Nov 2010)**

**BEST/SBH/KDT/2010/10/24**



A total of 50 participants attended the seminar.

This seminar was held on the 13th of November 2010 at Pusat Kemahiran Komuniti Bestari (Smart Community Skills Centre), Kg. Hobut, Kudat. A total of 50 participants attended the seminar which involved Head of villages and Chairman of Jawatankuasa Kemajuan dan Keselamatan Kampung, JKKK (Village Development and Security Committee). Mr. Lam Kee Hing led the seminar as a facilitator and for this seminar; participants invested RM 10.00 per person for the usage of seminar materials.

This is another initiative brought up in the hope to educate local community about investment and based upon their feedback at the end of the seminar, this program has given them guidelines to nurture positive mindset. A total of RM 1, 100.00 was spent by BEST Society to conduct this seminar.

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