



10.45kg of debris collected in Helping Hands Dive

Terengganu; 14 March 2018 – 24 volunteer divers set off early Wednesday morning from Laguna Redang Island Resort to Terumbu Kili located within Redang Island Marine Park in Terengganu, Malaysia with a mission to undertake a Marine Clean Up and Coral Rescue.

Covering an area of 119 sq. m, the participating divers successfully removed a total of 130 pieces of marine debris weighing over 10.45 kgs. During the 40 minutes dive, 91 pieces of fishing lines which were tangled within the pristine coral reefs were cleared, with no observations of animals tangled.

All debris were collected and transported back on land for weighing, sorting and proper disposal according to the guidelines set out from Project Aware. The data collected is now available online on Project AWARE's Dive Against Debris®, a citizen-science program that contributes to the global effort to combat marine debris.

Helping Hands at Redang Island Marine Clean Up and Coral Rescue mission was co organized by the International SeaKeepers Society, Asia and Laguna Redang Island Resort. The event was supported by the Universiti Terengganu Malaysia (UMT) and Our Singapore Reefs.

Under guidance from researchers of the Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), the volunteer divers also were assisted to plant 100 rescued coral nubbins on bases before relocating them to the Laguna Redang Island Resort's coral nursery to safeguard the corals and encourage survival and the growth rate of the broken coral by providing a stable substrate.

Laguna Redang Island Resort has committed to a two year rehabilitation program lead by UMT's Dr. James Tan to restore the degraded reef in selected areas of Redang Island. This will be achieved through a program of growing coral nubbins to improve the coverage of the coral reefs once the transplanted fragments grow and survive.

Commented Dr. Tan, "the reefs at Redang have also experienced a reduction in coral cover due to various causes. Previous studies have shown that damaged reefs progressively recover after being restored via good management. Reef rehabilitation has been practiced for many years and coral transplantation is a tool to assist in rebuilding damaged reefs thus enhancing reef recovery."

To further create awareness and deeper understanding of the state of our marine environment, the participating UMT lecturers conducted a series of public talks that centered on marine conservation ranging from coral reefs and its value, marine debris, the impact to coral reefs from marine pollution caused by personal care products and the advanced techniques of identifying stress on coral.

Operations Manager of Laguna Redang Island Resort, Mr. T. S. Chan says, "Laguna Redang Island Resort has actively undertaken long term conservation projects with UMT since our opening, and we want to do more. We also recognize that keeping the waters clean and healthy is a shared responsibility which requires a multi-prong effort towards sustainable tourism. "

Director of Operations & Programs for The International SeaKeepers Society, Asia, Ms. Gail Tay added, "we are very pleased to be included in this mission together with our programming partner, Our Singapore Reefs given that 2018 has been designated as the third International Year of the Reef. The coral transplant program by Laguna Redang Island Resort is an important contribution towards the restoration the island's reefs. The Project Aware Dive for Debris marine cleanup is an action taken towards protecting the waters and we hope that this will inspire more data collected from other areas around the island".

Mission of the day ends on a high note with a sense of having contributed to conserving Redang Island's marine environment and expressing a commitment to regularly do more. This program was indeed a fruitful demonstration of what a successful collaboration of marine science experts, citizen science, NGOs and the resorts can achieve in sustainable tourism.

Media Contact: Ms Gail Tay, Director of Operations & Programmes; International SeaKeepers Society, Asia.

Contact Phone: HP: +60128225832 Email: gail.tay@seakeepers.org

About Laguna Redang Island Resort

Laguna Redang Island Resort is nestled in 20 acres of lush greenery on the Redang Archipelago in the state of Terengganu on the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia. The resort is located on the most prestige stretch of the Long Beach (Pasir Panjang) directly facing the South China Sea and spectacular sunrise. The exact location was also made famous in the year 1999 Hong Kong blockbuster movie "Summer Holiday" starring Sammi Cheng and Richie Ren.

Laguna Redang Island Resort comprises of 276 units of comfortably furnished rooms that ranges from Suite Rooms, Sea View Rooms, Pool View, Garden View and Standard rooms. All these rooms are housed in 14 blocks of authentic Malay architectural wonder, reminiscent of a traditional village setting. The resort was designed by Malaysia renowned architect, Y. Bhg Raja Dato' Kamarul Bahrin Shah bin Ahmad Shah. All guest rooms are spacious and uniquely decorated with a distinctive Malay design that exudes warmth and coziness while the panoramic view of the sea and hills completes the ambiance.

Redang Island is a haven for snorkelers and divers with its crystal clear turquoise water and spectacular corals and marine lives. Laguna Redang Island Resort takes pride of being blessed with these wonders that nature provides, and is fiercely protective of this fragile environment. In 2006, Laguna Redang Island Resort, with the Rotary Club of Kula Terengganu, deployed 100 numbers of artificial reef balls in front of the beach to encourage growth of more reefs in Redang Island. Since then, numerous other initiatives had also been carried out that include underwater cleanup, beach cleanup, marine awareness talks by UMT, a local university, supporting SEATRU projects that raises awareness of sea turtles and a turtle sanctuary in Redang Island, recycling practices, making own enzymes for cleaning, and will continue to do so. Usage of polystyrene and plastic had been kept to a minimum, and ways to further minimize (if not eliminate) them are ongoing. Laguna Redang Island Resort had also set up a permanent science lab for Universiti Malaysia Terengganu to carry out their marine research activities. Guests are reminded to keep the island clean on a daily basis during their arrival and during their snorkelling safety briefings. We strive and find ways to try as best to protect what nature offers us for many years to come for the sake of the next generations and promote sustainability tourism. For more information visit: www.lagunaredang.com.my

About The International SeaKeepers Society

The International SeaKeepers Society is a non-profit organization focusing on the health of the world's oceans and climate. SeaKeepers works with the boating and yachting community to take advantage of their unique potential in order to further marine research and to raise awareness about the issues our oceans face. The International SeaKeepers Society acts as a global catalyst working with governments, scientists, industry, and other marine organizations to further its mission and to support sensible, achievable marine protection and restoration. The International SeaKeepers Society established SeaKeepers Asia in 2016. This expansion with a new chapter in Asia is under the leadership of Julian Chang. For more information visit: www.seakeepers.org

About Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT)

Located by the South China Sea, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) is geographically privileged by having the best location in the preservative of natural heritage and wonder of Malaysia for the students to gain first-hand knowledge and experience alongside the respective experts and researchers from various course. Having Marine Science and Aquatic Resources as the niche area, UMT possess the needed facilities and experts in ensuring the students to gain the best educations. UMT continuously performs variety of physical charging and activities that support the development and deployment of excellence through improved infrastructure and infostructure to support teaching and learning activities, researches, science and community developments locally and globally. For more information visit: <http://www.umt.edu.my/index.php?go=utama>

About Our Singapore Reefs

Our Singapore Reefs (OSR) is a community initiative that was established in May 2017 by a group of divers who love Singapore's coral reefs. The group aims to promote awareness about Singapore's marine biodiversity and provide a platform for academics, businesses, NGOs and agencies to work together for a common cause. This initiative will empower the public with means to conserve and protect Singapore's reefs and encourage them to be active citizens. For more information visit: www.facebook.com/oursingaporereefs/

About Project Aware Dive Against Debris

Project AWARE's flagship citizen-science program, Dive Against Debris®, empowers scuba divers to remove marine debris from the ocean and report data on the types, quantities and locations of materials collected.

Project AWARE is a global movement for ocean protection and is co partnered by The Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI). For more information visit: www.projectaware.org

A. Images:

Photo	Description	Photo credits
1	Deploying the Coral Nursery Structure underwater	TS Chan
2	Departing for the Underwater Cleanup	TS Chan
3	Sorting and Weighing the collected debris	Gail Tay
4	Setting the Coral Nubbins on bases	Gail Tay
5	Helping Hands Dive @Redang Group Photo	James Tan