A RAY OF LIGHT FOR THE SUNDAN PANGOLIN IN MALAYSIA

The Sunda pangolin or Malayan pangolin (Manis javanica Desmarest 1822) is the only pangolin species found in Malaysia out of the 8 extant pangolin species found worldwide. Similar to other pangolin species, the Sunda pangolin is also threatened by poaching to fulfill demands for its scales and meat, and habitat loss, contributing to its listing as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. In recent years, although the Sunda pangolin currently is totally protected in across Malaysia (Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak), its population is still recording a steep decline.

As such, the birth of Corona, the first captive born Sunda pangolin in Sungkai, Perak was indeed a cause for celebration. For the full moon celebration of Corona whom was named as it was born during the Movement Control Order due to the coronavirus pandemic, a Zoom party was organised by the Environmental Reporting Collective, which is a group of journalists from Asia, Africa and Europe focusing on environmental degradation and species loss. As a researcher who has been conducting research on the Sunda pangolin since 2008, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu’s own pangolin researcher, Dr Chong Ju Lian was invited to be part of the forum panel of pangolin experts which included Datuk Abdul Kadir Abu Hashim, Director General and Dr. Jeffrine Rovie Ryan Japning of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN), Elizabeth John of TRAFFIC and journalist Ian Yee as moderator to discuss issues related to pangolins in Malaysia.

During the almost 2 hour long Zoom meeting which recorded more than 200 participants from various countries around the world including Australia, United Kingdom, Singapore and Indonesia, the audience got to watch Corona and her mother, Tara interact over live camera in Sungkai where the mother pangolin and her pangopup is currently based. The lively forum which was also streamed live over Facebook had plenty of questions from the audience pertaining to diet, pangolin populations and the recent news about pangolins being totally protected in China, and also the removal of pangolin products listing in traditional chinese medicine.

The non-stop questions and the interest shown by the audience was a good indicator that people are still keen to help save endangered species in any way they could, even during the Covid19 pandemic. As such, there is indeed hope to save and conserve the Sunda pangolin in Malaysia for our future generations to come. (395 words)
MALAYSIA’S FIRST PANGOLIN BABY IS TURNING ONE MONTH OLD!

You’re invited to a full moon party with Malaysia’s first ever captive-born pangolin - Corona!

Join the Zoom party with Corona and her caretakers in Perak, Malaysia to watch her eat and play, and learn about these endangered species.

You can also chat with pangolin experts and receive an exclusive “party pack” in celebration of this momentous occasion.

Thursday, 11 June 2020
4 – 6PM (GMT+8)
RSVP at: bit.ly/pangolinwag

Figure 2: The poster for Corona’s full moon Zoom party

https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/s/sunda-pangolin/

Source: Dr Chong Ju Lian, julian@umt.edu.my; Faculty of Science and Marine Environment & Institute of Tropical Biodiversity and Sustainable Development
WORLD’S FIRST, A CLAY-BASED SHORT FILM AND INTERNATIONAL HORSESHOE CRAB DAY 2020

Horseshoe crabs are living fossils with history of community assimilations through songs, idioms, poems, art and culture. Now, these arthropods are imperiled by overharvesting for food, bait and biomedical testing. Increasing human populations demand for land and with this, coastal area abuse are causing habitat loss particularly for horseshoe crab spawning grounds. With intention to communicate awareness, Dr. Gobinda Biswal from Association for Biodiversity Conservation and Research (ABC) narrates the storyline while Dr. Siddhartha Pati, postdoctoral researcher from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu co-produced the clay-based short film directed by eminent artist Mr. Silpi Kesu Das bearing title ‘A Day for Living Fossil’ to welcome the first International Horseshoe Crab Day on 20th June 2020. Meanwhile, the Divisional Forest Officer of Balasore, Mr. Biswaraj Panda and renown researcher from Fakir Moahn University, Professor Dr. Bisnu Prasad Dash launched the film at ABC Globe channel which is available at https://www.youtube.com/abcglobe. This 6-minute short film gathers the Indian community to create compassion between village folk, researchers, fishermen, and target stakeholders. A storyline of plight and sorrow showcased in this film dictates impacts by humans towards horseshoe crabs because Tachypleus gigas and Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda remains neglected from conservation in Asia despite its emergence into brink of extinction.
Figure 1: Volunteer actors in the short film ‘A Day for Living Fossil’ directed by Mr. Silpi Kesu Das

Figure 2: Dr Siddhartha Pati from University Malaysia Terengganu (center), Professor Dr. Bishnu Prasad Dash (first from right), Mr Silpi Kesu Das (first from left), members from Association for Biodiversity Conservation and Research (ABC), the local community and production team.

Source: Dr. Siddhartha Pati, IUCN-HSC-SSG; patisiddhartha@umt.edu.my, Institute of Tropical Biodiversity and Sustainable Development (BIO-D TROPIKA) https://www.youtube.com/abcglobe
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY 2020 LOGO IN MALAY

On 22nd May is the International Day for Biological Diversity 2020, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) an associated organization of the United Nations. CBD invites LOGO design every year on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity with suitable themes/slogans. In the year 2020, the CBD focuses on nature-based solutions for the betterment and protection of all life on Earth. Dr. Mannur Ismail Shaik, Lecturer, Faculty of Fisheries and Food Science, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu has designed CBD LOGO in Malay language for the year 2020. This logo has been recognized and published in the CBD website https://www.cbd.int/idb/2020/logo.

The theme/slogan for the year 2020 was “Our solutions are in nature” and the slogan emphasises hope, solidarity and the importance of working together at all levels to build a future of life in harmony with nature. It is expected, from each of us, that we will “Build Back Better” by using this time to increase the resilience of nations and communities as we recover from this pandemic. It also shows that people are part of nature rather than separate from nature.

In the year 2019 also Dr. Mannur Ismail Shaik has designed the LOGO for CBD in the Malay language in connection with the International Day for Biological Diversity 2019 and published on their website. This contribution promotes Universiti Malaysia Terengganu for its international visibility.

Source: Dr. Mannur Ismail Shaik, mannurismail@umt.edu.my; Faculty of Fisheries and Food Science
The country's first national e-Sailing competition is happening from June to December on the official virtual sailing platform, “Virtual Regatta”.

Dubbed “Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) Terengganu e-Sailing League 2020”, the virtual sailing race has six series – overall, Closed IPT (institutes of higher learning) students, Under 12-years-old, 13 to 15-years-old, 16 to 21-years-old, and 22-years-old.

The competition was launched by UMT in collaboration with the Terengganu State Sports Council and the Terengganu Windsurfing Sailing Association.

It will see 170 participants including those from Indonesia and Brunei, joining in the fun.

UMT Sailing Training Centre director Mohd Hafizi Said said most of the participants were national athletes who will participate at the Tokyo Olympics next year, including Khairulnizam Mohd Affendy, Malaysian Games (Sukma) participants as well as students pursuing maritime courses in higher learning institutions.

“Since 2017, we (UMT) have organised the Terengganu Monsoon Challenge regatta (sailing race) but this year following the Covid-19 pandemic and the new normal, we are trying to do it on an online platform.

“Athletes miss participating in competitions so this virtual tournament will motivate them to regain their competitive edge as they will compete against the same competitors.”

“It was a great opportunity for athletes to keep training because the virtual platform enables them to feel as if they are sailing in real life thanks to the simulated speed and wind direction in the game.

“In the final stages of the tournament in December, we plan to bring participants together to one location to ensure they have the same Internet speed when competing,” said Mohd Hafizi.

The virtual competition will continue even if the threat of Covid-19 dies down as “it is part of our early preparations to find a national e-sport champion to compete in the annual international e-sailing World Championship.”

The first series was held from June 12 to 14.

The Virtual Regatta serves as a learning platform for both veteran and new sailors.

It has also benefited UMT maritime students who cannot go to sea for their practical lessons.

Source: https://www.thestar.com.my/news/education/2020/06/21/launching-boats-online
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- Application can be made online via http://gsea.umt.edu.my throughout the year.
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- Please include any other relevant documents e.g Curriculum vitae, supporting letter(s) and professional certificates (if any).
- Intake: September
- MBA program is offered at UMT Off-Campus Cyberjaya

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