

A Decent Act for the “Sand-Castle Builder”

Beach cleaning is no longer an exotic exercise that one may find it peculiar to watch a bunch of people working their best to clean up the rubbishes and rubbles on the beach as others play around it. As day goes on, the beach is being violated by not only the sight of alien objects, the smell of foul liquids hovering in empty vessels on the beach and the virginity of the natural habitat that has been host to various living marine creatures on the beach has been taken away by humans’ activities. How far will a person go to persevere in protecting and conserving the nature that he loves so much?



Every great journey begins with one step. Therefore, to address a small example of that dire situation which had been polluting the sight and soul of beach lovers, on the 24th February 2015, a group of students from Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK) currently undergoing their internship training at Marine Research Station, Institute of Ocean and Earth Sciences (IOES), University of Malaya volunteered to conduct a beach cleaning exercise on the Melawi

Beach in Kuala Rejang, Bachok. The students were joined by the staffs of IOES Bachok Marine Research Station. This exercise took place in the beach compound which surrounds the station.

The main objective of this exercise demonstrated was to clean the foreign objects from the beach. The exercise was to divide the foreign objects into recyclable and non-recyclable materials. Paper, plastic and glasses were some of the recyclable materials found on that beach. Other non-recyclable materials were mainly consisted of polystyrene debris, torn shoes, decomposed buoys, daily objects such as toothbrushes, containers and many more unwanted objects.

Through recycling, this can help to reduce the usage of more resources while promoting the effort of sustaining a clean environment for the people and the natural organisms on the beach. The exercise did not only benefit the local community by having a cleaner beach to walk on but also did a favour in helping the nature to decompose objects that it cannot be selectively doing.



Beach Cleaning Exercise

Before



After



As the exercise concluded, the students did well as an act of good teamwork and cooperated among one another to facilitate the smoothness of the entire exercise. It was just a small area that had been cleaned but it was a starting point to initiate further efforts in the future. Though the effects may not be visible right now, with high hope, it might trigger an unpredicted outcome. Like it or not, a small pebble may create small tides that will ripple out to form larger waves.