

CROSS-COUNTRY

SABAH

Coral roadshow a hit with pupils

■ By Joniston Bangkuai
jon@nst.com.my

SEMPORNA: A unique roadshow to educate children about coral reefs and marine life conservation has benefited thousands of primary school pupils here.

Dubbed "Semporna Coral Seas Roadshow" and carried out under the Semporna Islands Darwin Project (SIDP), the programme began on Jan 18 and concludes today.

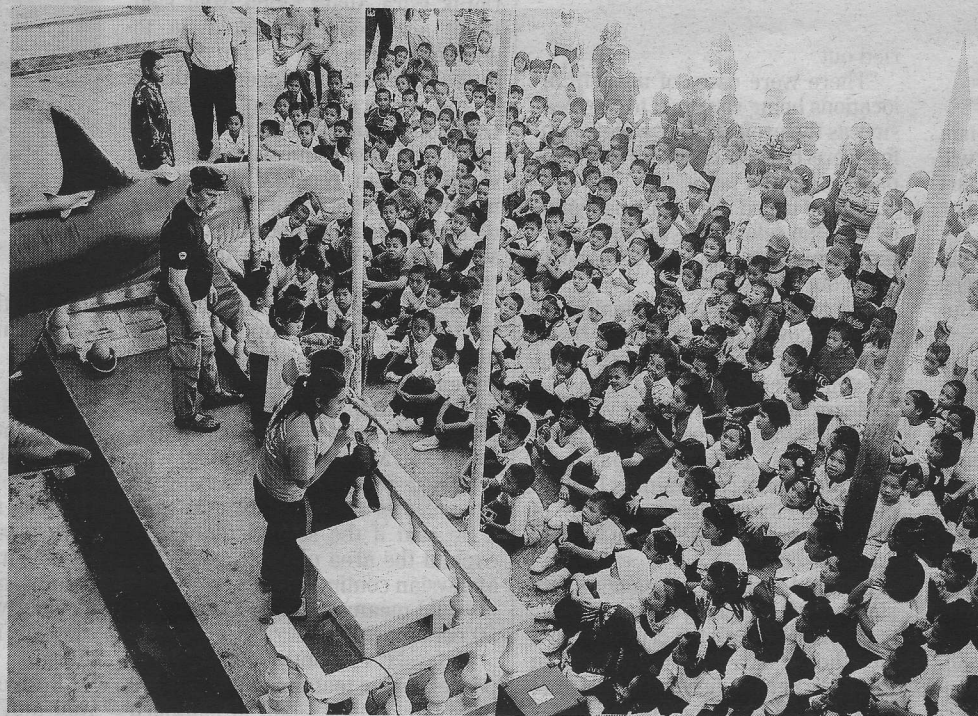
The roadshow, which allowed children to learn new things they never knew about Sabah's amazing marine life, visited 25 primary schools located within the Tun Sakaran Marine Park.

It also involved dialogues with teachers to see how best to set up permanent links with schools and discuss ideas for the establishment of "Coral Reef Clubs" in local schools.

The roadshow was modelled after the Marine Conservation Society's (MCS) "Coral Seas Roadshows", which have been running since 2006 and have reached more than 100,000 children in the United Kingdom.

The MCS, a UK-based non-governmental organisation, is currently working with Sabah Parks on the SIDP which is aimed at raising awareness of the Tun Sakaran Marine Park.

The SIDP is an ongoing programme run by MCS and Sabah Parks and funded by the Darwin Initiative, a UK grant scheme that helps countries look after their biodiversity.



Semporna Islands Darwin Project community officer Norida Salimeu (with microphone) and Marine Conservation Society's Andy Starbuck (with cap) in an interactive presentation with pupils of SK Gelam-Gelam on Bum Bum island in Semporna. — Picture courtesy of Semporna Islands Darwin Project

The objective of the SIDP is to protect the outstanding natural features and biodiversity of the Tun Sakaran Marine Park while promoting sustainable use of natural resources, economic development and traditional culture.

The Tun Sakaran Marine Park was gazetted in July 2004 and is Sabah's largest marine park, covering 340 sq km of sea and coral reefs, 10 sq km of land and eight islands.

"The roadshow is a fantastic

initiative to engage the children in a fun and informative way whilst raising awareness of the importance of marine wildlife found in Sabah and the world's ocean," said Abdul Raof Muhammad Nor, the headmaster of SK Gelam-Gelam, one of the schools visited by the roadshow.

He also said that the roadshow activities greatly added to the student's knowledge in subjects such as Science and Moral Studies.

Tun Sakaran Marine Park

manager Fazrullah Rizally Abdul Razak said the roadshow was an excellent way to introduce to the children some of the threats to the environment such as littering, over-fishing, fish bombing and turtle egg collecting.

Concurring with Fazrullah, SIDP Community Officer Norida Salimeu believed that the roadshow has helped change the attitudes of the children and make them really appreciate the marine environment in their backyard.

Roadshow brings 'the sea' into Sabah schools

SEMPORNA: Thousands of pupils here are benefiting from the Semporna Coral Seas Roadshow, learning things they never knew about Sabah's amazing marine life.

The "Semporna Coral Seas Roadshow" has been adapted and developed from the Marine Conservation Society's (MCS) "Cool Seas Roadshow", which has been running since 2006 and has reached over 100,000 children in the UK.

MCS is currently working with Sabah Parks on the Semporna Islands Darwin Project (SIDP)2, which is raising awareness about the Tun Sakaran Marine Park3, near to Semporna.

Abdul Raof Bin Muhammad Nor, Head Teacher at SK. Gelam-Gelam in Pulau Bum-Bum, Semporna, was full of praise for the Roadshow.

"This is a fantastic initiative and is engaging the children in a fun and informative way whilst raising awareness about the importance of the wonderful marine wildlife found in Sabah and the world's oceans. The Roadshow activities greatly add to the students' knowledge in subjects such as Science and Moral Studies".

Life-size models of marine creatures and interactive activities are making the 'Semporna Coral Seas Roadshow' full of interest for local children. Fazrullah Rizally Abdul Razak, Manager of Tun Sakaran Marine Park said 'Sabah Parks is glad to be part of this initiative. The Roadshow is helping children learn about coral reefs and their local Marine Park as well as introducing them to some of the threats to the environment such as litter, over-fishing, fish-bombing and turtle egg collecting'.

The Roadshow Team from Sabah Parks and the Semporna Islands Darwin Project, are also initiating dialogue with teachers to see how best to set up permanent links with schools and discuss ideas for the establishment of 'Coral Reef Clubs' in local schools.

The roadshow is running for three weeks and visiting 25 primary schools as well as communities in the Tun Sakaran Marine Park and making a special presentation for the public at the Semporna Library. Audiences are entertained and informed

with a DVD showing and an interactive presentation by Andy Starbuck who has brought his life-size models of sharks, turtles and a dolphin all the way from the UK.

The children then break into smaller groups and enjoy supervised activities such as "Build Your Own Reef", jigsaw puzzles, sticker books and a colouring competition, around the themes of marine life and conservation.

Norida Salimeu, Community Officer for the Semporna Islands Darwin Project under Sabah Parks, said:

"Children love the models and the activities and its making them think differently about the sea and its marine life - we want to change attitudes and make the younger generation really appreciate the incredible marine environment in their backyard".

The current roadshow is running from Monday 18th January - Friday 5th February 2010. It is hoped that it will be possible to repeat this travelling roadshow later in the year so that more children can benefit.

The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) is a UK-based non-governmental organisation (NGO). Its mission is to protect the marine and coastal environment for wildlife and future generations.

For more information visit:
www.mcsuk.org

The "Semporna Islands Darwin Project" (SIDP) is an ongoing programme being run by the Marine Conservation Society and Sabah Parks and funded by the Darwin Initiative - a UK grant scheme that helps countries look after their biodiversity. The aim of SIDP is to protect the outstanding natural features and biodiversity of the Tun Sakaran Marine Park while promoting sustainable use of natural resources, economic development and traditional culture.

For more information visit: www.sempornaislandsproject.com

The Tun Sakaran Marine Park, under the management of Sabah Parks, was gazetted in July 2004, and is Sabah's largest marine park, covering 340km² of sea and coral reefs, 10km² of land and 8 islands.

For more information visit: www.sabahparks.org.my



Students getting to know the types of marine creatures in our waters.



Top and below: Students involved in activities.



Semporna coral sea road show an eye opener for many

SEMPORNA: Thousands of primary school children in the Semporna area are benefiting from a unique Semporna Coral Seas Roadshow which produced many learning things they never knew about Sabah's amazing marine life.

The 'Semporna Coral Seas roadshow' has been adapted and developed from the Marine Conservation Society's (MCS) 'Cool Seas Roadshow', which has been running since 2006 and has reached over 100,000 children in the UK. MCS is working with Sabah Parks on the Semporna Islands Darwin Project (SIDP), which is raising awareness about the Tun Sakaran Marine Park near Semporna.

Abdul Raof Bin Muhammad Nor, Head Teacher at SK. Gelam-Gelam in Pulau Bum-Bum, Semporna, was full of praise for the Roadshow. "This is a fantastic initiative and is engaging the children in a fun and informative way whilst raising awareness about the importance of the wonderful marine wildlife found in Sabah and the world's oceans. The Roadshow activities greatly add to the students' knowledge in subjects such as Science and Moral Studies," he said.

Life-size models of marine creatures and interactive activities are making the 'Semporna Coral Seas Roadshow' full of interest for local children. Fazrullah Rizally Abdul Razak, Manager of Tun Sakaran Marine Park said 'Sabah Parks is glad to be part of this initiative. The Road-

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The 'Semporna Coral Seas Roadshow' is running for three weeks and is visiting 25 primary schools as well as communities in the Tun Sakaran Marine Park and making a special presentation for the public at the Semporna Library. Audiences are entertained and informed with a DVD show and an interactive presentation by Andy Starbuck who brought his life-size models of sharks, turtles and a dolphin all the way from UK.

The children then break into smaller groups and enjoy supervised activities such as 'Build Your Own Reef' jigsaw puzzles, sticker books and a colouring competition around the themes of marine life and conservation. Norida Salimeu, Community Office for the Semporna Islands Darwin Project under Sabah Parks, speaks for the whole Roadshow Team when she says "children love the models and the activities and its making them think dif-

ferently about the sea and its their marine life - we want to change attitudes and make the younger generation really appreciate the incredible marine environment in their backyard".

The Roadshow is running from January 18 - February 5, 2010. It hopes to repeat this travelling roadshow later in the year so that more children can benefit.

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