



BUMIARMADA

World Turtle Day – 23rd May 2017 **A talk on Migration Pattern of Sea Turtles Using Satellite Technology** **By Tn. Syed Abdullah bin Syed Abdul Khadir** **Department of Fisheries, Malaysia**

World Turtle Day® was launched in 2000 by the American Tortoise Rescue (“ATR”), a non-profit organisation established in 1990 for the protection of all species of tortoises and turtles. The day was created by ATR as an observance to celebrate and protect turtles and tortoises and their disappearing habitats around the world. Today, organisations and individuals participate in the day by creating awareness programmes on how these species are threatened by habitat destruction, the exotic food trade, global warming and pet trading.

Turtles play a crucial role in marine ecosystems by helping maintain the health of sea grass beds and coral reefs. Furthermore, they are often culturally important to coastal communities and can provide substantial tourism. However, despite their iconic status and importance to people and the marine environment, sea turtles are now at risk of extinction.



On 23rd May 2017, Bumi Armada’s Sustainability Committee invited the Fisheries Department to give a talk on the migration patterns of sea turtles in conjunction with World Turtle Day. This informational programme was meant to raise awareness on the turtle conservation programme that the department currently runs in Cherating, Terengganu which BAB has supported and partnered with for over 3 years.

The program was held in Menara Perak’s Lobby, and was attended by over 30 BAB staff and was officiated by Capt Roland Sinnadurai, General Manager - HSSEQ, OMS and Vice Chairman for the Sustainability Committee. Tn. Syed Abdullah, a seasoned professional, then took our staff over the conservation efforts that were currently run by the Fisheries Department.

“ We work round the clock in trying to save as many species of sea turtles hatchlings that are laid upon Malaysian shorelines. Upon laying her eggs, mother sea turtles often leave beach fronts and continue their journey out at sea. It is at this time that we act quickly to secure these sites, to protect turtle eggs from being stolen. The department waits for the hatchlings to break out of their shells and stores them in an artificially built sea environment, before they are ready to go out to sea” said Tn Syed enthusiastically.

Malaysia currently gets visits from Green sea turtles, Hawksbill sea turtles, Olive Ridley sea turtles, and the famous Leatherback sea turtles. These wonderful creatures are normally seen on the east coast of Malaysia and around Sabah and Sarawak. However there is the occasional turtle that one may see in Klang! Tn Syed elaborated that many of these creatures come back to Malaysia as our shorelines are seen as home through the years of research that’s been carried out.

Marine conservation plays a big role in BAB’s sustainability outlook, and the company has partnered up with the Department of Fisheries since 2014. The funds donated are used towards sea turtle conservation programmes at Sea Turtle Conservation and Information Centre (TCIC) Cherating, Pahang and includes efforts in upgrading the infrastructure, education, public awareness and research activity.

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