



Remember Walking In the Sand

Beach cleaning is not a new activity in Malaysia to safeguard the beauty of the beach from human pollution. Beach cleaning involves the activity of collecting the rubbish along the beach. In fact in 2014, Ben revealed over 5.25 trillion pieces of plastics in our oceans kill more than 200000 members of the marine life a year. This issue should be overcome and halt as soon as possible to decrease the pollution and minimize the increase in dead marine life.

A good move was implemented by Bachok Marine Research Station IOES UM to conduct this beach cleaning. The lecturers, staffs, postgraduates' students and also six internship students from Universiti Malaysia Kelantan Jeli Campus had involved in this beach cleaning programme that were held on 22th March 2018. Associate Professor Dr Lim Po Teen (Head Station), Dr Leaw Chui Pin (Senior Lecturer), and also Dr Hii Kieng Soon (Research Officer) were among the staffs that involved in this activity which were conducted at the Melawi Beach in Kuala Rejang, Bachok. The activity was started at 9 am and end at 11 am in the afternoon.

The main objective of this exercise 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 the beach. Meanwhile, non-recyclable materials found were mainly consisted of polystyrene debris, torn shoes, worn buoys and bobbers, daily objects such as toothbrushes, containers and many more unwanted objects.

Throughout beach cleaning, we separated all recycle and non-recycle things by identify and separate them according to different countries to know from where the sources come. Tables 1.1 and 1.2 below show the number of plastic and glass bottles respectively.

Table 1.1: Number of plastic bottles according to the countries involved

Countries involved	Number of plastics
Malaysia	104
Japan	3
Vietnam	41
China	93
Thailand	4
Singapore	2
Philippines	5
Venezuela	1
Indonesia	1
Korea	1
Jerman	1
Scotland	1
Unknown	40

Table 1.2: Number of glass bottles according to the countries involved

Countries involved	Number of glass
Malaysia	13
Japan	1
China	34
Thailand	25
Unknown	25

The results revealed most trashes come from local, China and Vietnam respectively. As ocean water circulates throughout the year, it is not surprising at all to see all those trashes float around on our sea water. However, what is shocking and become questionable is how many more trashes were floating on our sea water and already harmed our marine life. Meanwhile, the ocean is a great source that provides us with the basic elements of life. Not only does it produce half of the oxygen that is in the air we breathe, but it is an imperative part of the water cycle where it supplying us with the water we drink. The frontier of this necessary resource is the world's beaches because they support the health of the ocean.

Beaches are not just an attraction for vacationers, but a nesting grounds and a habitat for wildlife. Whether an individual lives on the beach or hundreds of miles from the coastline, it is pertinent that we all realize the profound stake we have in an ocean that is abundant and healthy. So to take care of our beach, we need to always have the awareness and simply act by picking out the trash and debris. When trash gets into the oceans, animals can easily mistake that trash for a certain food source. Sea turtle as for example might mistake plastic bags floating around as a jellyfish before swallowing it as a whole. Worn out

fishing nets also can harm marine life by making them stuck. So by taking part in beach clean-ups activity, you are leaving a great example to others on how to reduce marine debris in the seas and allowing wildlife to remain safe from pollution.

Besides that, by cleaning the beach, it lessens the chance of people stepping on glass or other danger and risk from litter and there is so much beauty to come of a clean beach. Cleaning the beach also will give some benefits to the environment by preserving biodiversity and can help to remove cigarette butts, weeds, trash, broken glass, and many other things. It makes the beach safer and cleaner for everyone.

Beaches are fragile environments. We must be attentive in how we treat these stretches of land. It is necessary to keep our beaches clean if we hope to keep our oceans clean. Furthermore, by keeping this environment trash free we help protect and preserve marine life. Each individual can better the ocean's ecosystem by playing their part in keeping the beaches clean. The process is simple, easy, and a great lesson for the entire community.

We are the protectors of the environment and the life it sustains. Keeping our earth as well as the oceans clean is a great way to teach the family about the importance of having a clean earth free up scattered trash. The easiest way to do this is to simply pick it up. Taking part in an annual beach clean-up is one way to keep the oceans healthy for generations to come.

In the nutshell, small action and awareness from community can help to better the environment. Clean up the beach is one action that enhances green service in sustainable way by reducing the amount of debris along coastal area or shoreline. With this program, cooperation among the IOES staff and students has been built up. Coastal area is one part that quite common place which have amount of rubbish that high potentially able to give negative impact to marine ecosystem and aquatic life which able to violate our main protein sources. So, next time when you walking in the sand, make sure to pick up trash if you see one. Small action indeed can be beneficial to larger things.

References

Ben Spencer (2014). 'Shocking image of dead albatross's stomach stuffed with plastic reveals just how much garbage is in our oceans'. *Daily Mail Online*. Retrieved on March 28, 2018 from page; <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2868708/More-five-trillion-pieces-plastic-litter-seas-oceans>.



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H

Figure A-H : Staffs and students were having good time collecting rubbishes along the beach



I



J

Figure I-J : All those rubbish were successfully collected



Figure shows the recyclables materials found at the beach.

