

River Care Education Centre (RCEC)

The River Care Education Centre (RCEC) aims to organize river care activities and enhance larger community participation at all levels. There are currently two existing RCECs, Penchala River Information Centre and the newly launched Sungai Penchala Open Classroom in late 2015.

Penchala River Information Centre

This centre aims to act as a one-stop learning centre for visitors regarding the Penchala River Education Programme. Apart from the Environmental TOT Camp for Youths, three other activities were carried out in this centre as of July 2016.

20th March & 17th April 2016 – SMART Ranger training for **Desa Mentari Block 2 & 3 Residents** focusing on nature craft.

4th April 2016 – RIVER Ranger training was given to 40 students from **Yayasan Chow Kit** focusing on physical, chemical and biological monitoring of upstream Penchala river.

8th May 2016 – River Care We Care training was given to 20 students from **Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)** who were previously outreached by Mobile River Care Unit (MRCU).



Penchala River Information Centre which is located adjacent to the river, where visitors have a direct learning experience.

Ongoing Sungai Way Initiatives at the Community Information Centre

Despite shifting the main focus to Sungai Penchala, ongoing initiatives from the Sungai Way Project are carried out by trained communities in the Sungai Way Information Centre, which also provides information on the project and act as an outreach for nearby communities to follow.

A **wetland nursery** with nurturing of 4 wetland species namely *Phragmites australis*, *Typha latifolia*, *Pistia stratiotes* and *Eichhornia crassipes* was developed and currently under the maintenance of Sahabat Sungai Way Community – the caretaker for the centre. Setup of a **nursery for herb plants** is a new initiative conducted mainly to beautify the river banks of Sungai Way. A proper **composting site** with a redesigned signboard was developed for the community for their composting initiatives where the harvested compost was used as fertilizers for herbs in the nursery.

Interested parties are always welcome to contact us for an informative visit to the Centre.



(From left to right): Wetland and herbs nursery plus composting site at the Sg Way Information Centre.



Yayasan Chow Kit students listening to "voice of the stream" (left) and UPM students during the river monitoring (right)

Sungai Penchala Open Classroom

Setup of open classroom at the source of Sungai Penchala aimed to amplify hands-on learning environment with the surrounding environment as a source of knowledge and long term observation site which can be utilized by the public to experience natural and human-created characteristics of the environment. The Open Classroom located in Bukit Kiara comes under the jurisdiction and management of National Department of Landscape.

On **1st June 2016**, together with World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), RIVER Ranger training was carried out at the Open Classroom for 35 trainee teachers from around Malaysia.



Trainee teachers performing biomonitoring of the river



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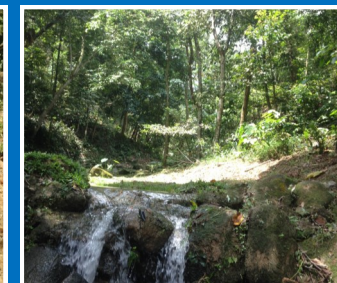
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SUNGAI PENCHALA RIVER EDUCATION PROGRAMME (2015-2017)

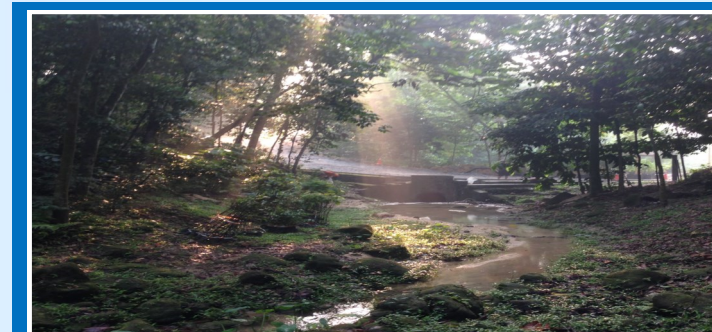


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Saving our rivers through the W.A.T.E.R Project

The W.A.T.E.R (Working Actively Through Education and Rehabilitation) Project is initiated by G.A.B Foundation in December 2007, in partnership with Global Environment Centre (GEC) and close collaboration among key stakeholders comprising of government agencies, corporate sector, non-governmental organisations and communities to educate the public about the importance of water and how we should conserve and protect its source: our rivers.



Sites for the project at Bukit Kiara (top) and Taman Lembah Kiara (bottom) being part of the Penchala River.

Penchala River Education Programme (2015-2017)

The Penchala River Education Programme is an expansion from the **Sungai Way Rehabilitation Programme** with the project now independent and ongoing initiatives are being sustained by all targeted groups. Using the same successful model of the parent programme, the Sungai Penchala Education Programme is a three-year project (2015-2017) aiming to protect and enhance Sungai Penchala through engagement of **four** main target groups: **local community**, **business community**, **youth groups** and **education institutions**. The project prominently adopts the "Civic Science" concept by GEC to educate target groups about caring for their own environment.

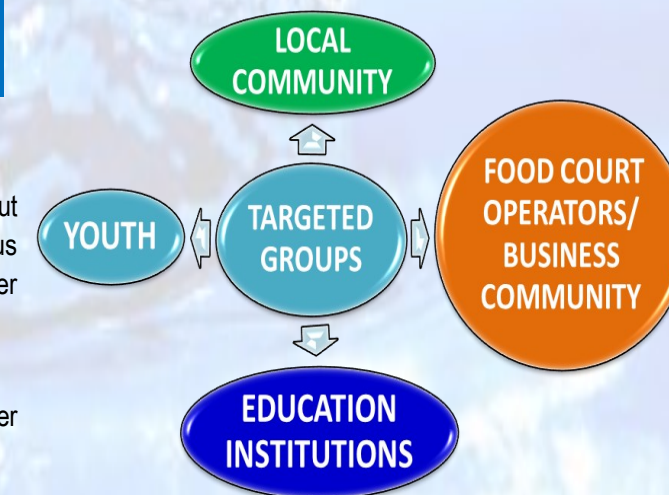
Project Progress Meetings

As of July 2016, three project progress meetings were carried out (one national level and two state level meetings) with various stakeholders to update on the project's status and further discussions about future implementations.

4th March 2016 – State Level Meeting at DID Kuala Lumpur

2nd June 2016 – State Level Meeting (Selangor) at Penchala River Information Centre

8th June 2016 – W.A.T.E.R Project National Level Coordination Meeting at DID Malaysia



Educating Local Communities

Local communities within the Penchala basin are an essential part of the programme as their subsequent initiatives can shape the future status of the river.

Community Follow-Up Activities

Follow-up Initiatives were subsequently planned by trained communities based on their local issues or resources. The project team has been providing constant advice and assistance on proposed initiatives by each trained community.



Presentation of initiatives to visiting Japanese community

17th January 2016 – SMART Ranger training for **Bukit Kiara Long House Community** including composting, garbage enzyme plus soap and candle making from used cooking oil.

26th January 2016 – Presentation of initiatives by local communities to the **Japanese Community** at the Bukit Kiara Longhouse.

Education Institutions — Shaping the future generation

Students from educational institutions remain an essential group that is consistently engaged and trained, focusing on environmental education trainings and follow-up initiatives based on school resources.



Training of Trainers for schools within Penchala Basin at Taman Lembah Kiara

Schools

The TOT for schools was successfully carried out on 27th April 2016 at Sekolah Kebangsaan Taman Tun Dr Ismail 2 (SK TTDI 2) with practical training at Taman Lembah Kiara. Besides SK TTDI 2 being the host school, the two other schools, SMK Taman Tun Dr Ismail and SJKT Vivekanada joined the training adding up to a total of 30 students and 6 teachers involved.

The students were exposed to hands-on experience of physical, chemical and biological monitoring of upstream stretch of the Penchala river at Taman Lembah Kiara, adjacent to SK TTDI 2.



SMART Ranger training for Desa Mentari (Block 2 & 3) residents

10th & 19th February 2016 – Establishment of communities' **SMART Ranger committee**

20th March & 17th April 2016 – SMART Ranger training for **Block 2 & 3 Residents of Desa Mentari** focusing on nature craft on products (candle and soap made from used cooking oil)

23rd April 2016 – **Sg Way river Clean-up activity** involving Desa Mentari communities.



Sungai Way River Clean-Up activity with Desa Mentari

Tertiary Institutions

Colleges and Universities

Tertiary institutions within the Penchala basin have also been approached for the centralized training of trainers (TOT) activity. Several tertiary institutions have been outreached in 2015 through Mobile River Care Unit (MRCU) at their respective environmental events. The RIVER Ranger Training for Universities/Colleges was conducted on 23rd July 2016 at the Penchala River Information Centre. A total of 14 students attended the training with 4 Monash University students led by Professor Khu Soon-Thiam and 8 students from Sunway University led by Wang Yi Bin, vice president of the Sunway Student Volunteers (SSV).



Monash and Sunway University participants during the RIVER Ranger Training at Bukit Kiara, Taman Tun Dr Ismail

Business Community Programme

Food court operators and corporate businesses within Penchala basin were engaged to educate about waste management issues and mitigations in their business operations.

Food Court Operators

Waste Audit & Training of Trainers (TOT)

Food court operators in SS2 Food Court was engaged with close collaboration with the Department of Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management from MBPJ. An initial waste audit was conducted from 30th October 2015 to 2nd November 2015 involving 18 food operators. A follow-up Training of Trainers was carried out with the support from MBPJ on 4th November 2015.

Follow-up initiatives for Best Management Practices (BMP)

8 of the operators interested in the follow-up BMP initiatives so far. A follow-up meeting with MBPJ was conducted on 10th June 2016 to update on the progress of business community activities and further steps to be

taken particularly on the centralized composting machine and also oil and grease traps.

Corporate Businesses

Global Environment Centre was approached by LexisNexis to give a talk on Integrated Solid Waste Management with regards to the company's keen interest on starting a recycling initiative towards "Zero Waste" concept.

The talk was given on 22nd April 2016 in conjunction with the company's celebration of Earth Day 2016. The company showed interest to follow-up with future trainings on solid waste management and will be working together with DID Petaling along with two other targeted businesses which are AVON and Sin Chew Daily.



(Top & Bottom) Talk by Mr Lee Lih Shyan of MBPJ and training for SS2 Food Court Operators



Solid Waste Management Talk for LexisNexis during Earth Day

"If a man fails to honor the rivers, he shall not gain the life from them."—Anonymous

Youth Groups

The youth community is the new target group of Penchala River Education Programme in 2016, with the aim to train youths to become teachers and educators that can apply environmental elements into their activities and programmes.

The recent activity of the new target group featured youth volunteers from Educational, Welfare and Research Foundation (E.W.R.F) participating in a three-day environmental camp. A total of 55 volunteers from E.W.R.F and 15 youths from Sungai Kinta participated in the Environmental Training of Trainers (TOT) Camp for Youths from 27th to 29th May 2016.

The key activities focusing on environmental skills include:

- **RIVER Ranger** - Trekking and training on physical, chemical and biological monitoring at the source of Penchala river (Bukit Kiara; Taman Tun Dr Ismail)
- **DRH2O** - Focusing on water conservation skills with exposure to water auditing, water saving gadgets and the water footprint/virtual water concept



Captain ball competition (right) and group photo of all the secretariat and participants during the TOT camp (left).

- **SMART Ranger**- Focusing on solid waste management with exposure to soap and candle making from used cooking oil, composting, garbage enzyme, art of recycling and nature handicrafts.

Apart from training activities, participants showed their talents during the "Environmental & Art Performance". The participants worked together to perform a short drama on stage that infuses environmental elements. An entertaining game of "Captain Ball" was played on the penultimate day of the three-day camp before prizes were given to reward the participants.

In overall the camp was a success and an eye-opener to most who have not experienced hands-on environmental skills with the ultimate hope of establishing a good partnership with E.W.R.F to establish potential environmental initiatives.



(Presentation of the RIVER Ranger module (left) and participants during the RIVER Ranger training (right).