



INTOUCH WITH THE FUTURE

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IN THIS ISSUE

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*Project Smile is an initiative by Kossan International Sdn Bhd (KISB) to develop, sustain, and perceive a good relationship between our internal and external community.*

*Initiated in 2013, this program has extended support and contribution to the environment and communities in need. It is 100% run by Kossan employees on a voluntary basis.*

*We look at many areas in contribution projects from schools, orphanages to animals, environment and the less fortunate.*

*It is also a program about developing future leaders through social awareness and motivational activities.*

*We believe that children are the hope for a brighter future, and we want to provide them with opportunities and hope for a better life.*

**iNtouch®**  
*With The Future*

## INTOUCH® Project Smile Volume #12



Endangered Animal Awareness:  
The Sea Turtle

### Project Smile 17.0 – Save the Turtles!

Kossan volunteers organized a trip to Cherating Turtle Sanctuary to help in cleaning up the beach for the turtle to land and lay their eggs during the hatching months.

## Project Smile



Develop **Colorful** Future Leaders





**29<sup>th</sup> June 2018** - Cherating is a village located approximately 300 kilometres away from the capital of Malaysia. It boasts of its beautiful beaches and turtles that land and lay their eggs between the month of April and August.



In total, there are seven species of marine turtles in the world and four of these species namely the Leatherback, Green, Hawksbill and Olive Ridley, land and lay their eggs on Malaysian beaches. While turtles are some of the most amazing animals on the planet, many of their species are endangered.



A group of volunteers from Kossan had made a trip to Cherating Turtle Sanctuary to help in saving sea turtles. The Cherating Turtle Sanctuary started out as turtle hatchery, which was established by the Department of Fisheries since 1972 to protect endangered turtles when they land on shore to lay eggs.



The volunteers worked together to clean up the area around the sanctuary, especially the beach where the turtles usually come for nesting.





Over the years, the number of sea turtles that come to the shore of Cherating is getting lesser. In spite of their long life spans, sea turtles are constantly facing challenges in many other areas, such as their eggs being devoured by inland predators, difficulty in finding the right direction to the nesting ground, and the growing number of poachers who came and take the turtle eggs away for commercial reason.



Armed with knowledge and passion for these gentle animals, Kossan contributed new signage to be placed along the beach area to alert people not to disturb the hatching turtles or take the turtle eggs for any reason. Kossan hopes that with support from everyone, the turtles can be protected and their population will stand a fighting chance to survive in future.



Apart from doing something meaningful to save the turtles at Cherating, Kossan volunteers also took the opportunity to enjoy its beautiful nature by organizing a team building event at The Legend Resort.



It was a great bonding time among the volunteers with a lot of fun from the team building games and challenges. As the saying goes 'Teamwork Makes the Dream Work'.



**"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is a progress. Working together is success."**

**Henry Ford**



# How can we save the sea turtles?

## 1. Turn out lights visible from the beach.

Sea turtle hatchlings use light and reflections from the moon to find their way to the water at night. Artificial lighting confuses the hatchlings and causes them to head inland instead of out to sea, which putting them in dangerous situations.

## 2. Avoid beach fires during the nesting season.

The light and heat from beach fires can disorient sea turtles, causing them to crawl towards the fire. Therefore, avoid constructing beach fires during hatching season.

## 3. Remove beach furniture and umbrellas.

Beach chairs, umbrellas, and tents can be hindrance that can keep baby sea turtles from making their way to the ocean when it's time to start swimming. Remove them at the end of the day, fill in the holes, and never leave them on the beach overnight when the little guys may be making their journey to the ocean.



## 4. Don't disturb nesting and hatching turtles.

Make sure to give nesting areas plenty of space, and do not disturb female turtles as they emerge from the ocean looking for a place to nest. Also be conscious of where nesting areas are so that you can avoid trampling the hatchlings as they head to the water.

## 5. Keep beaches and waterways free of trash.

Sea turtles can become tangled in plastic and trash both on the shore and in the water. Discarded items such as fishing lines, balloons and plastic bags may also be confused for food and eaten by sea turtles, often resulting in injury or death. Plastic bags are a threat, since sea turtles can mistake them for jellyfish, which is one of their main prey sources, causing them to starve or die.



## 6. Reduce the amount of chemicals you use.

The chemicals you use on your lawn and in your home can wash into the coastal waters which can kill marine life. It is very important to properly dispose of toxic chemicals and, even better, find alternative products such as biodegradable solutions.

## 7. Volunteer!

There are countless ways in which you can make a positive difference in the lives of sea turtles. Organize a clean-up day with your friends and clear the beach of litter, give a presentation to your local school on things they can do to save sea turtles, and most importantly, talk to others about what they can do to make sure they are not putting these important creatures in danger.