



## INTOUCH® PROJECT SMILE

Volume 15

*Green*  
**WARRIORS**

INTOUCH WITH THE FUTURE

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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 since 2013, Project Smile has extended support and contribution to the environment and communities in need. It is 100% run by Kossan employees voluntarily.*

*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.*

### **Project Smile 20 – Water Warriors, Protecting the Ocean**

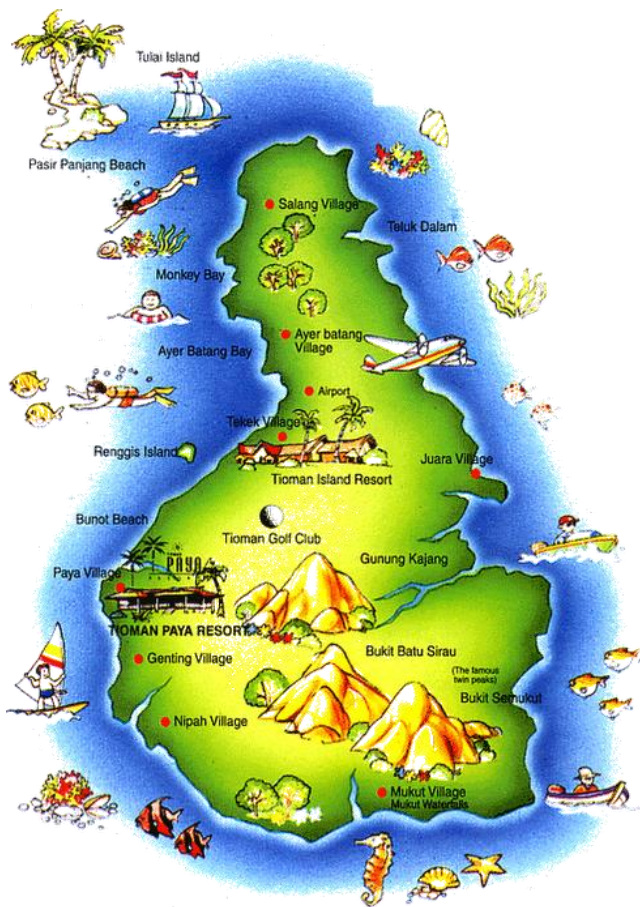
KISB volunteers organized a trip to Tioman Island to help clean the beach as well as funded coral replanting activities to preserve life in the ocean.



**iNtouch®**  
*With The Future*

**Project Smile**

Nurturing GREAT LEADERS Of Tomorrow



**6<sup>th</sup> July 2019, Thursday** – Tioman Island is an island off the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia, acclaimed as a geological wonder and ecological paradise. The island is 20km long and 12km wide with a land area of 136km<sup>2</sup>, including 72km<sup>2</sup> of primarily inland rainforest which is a protected area.

In the 1970s, Time magazine selected Tioman as one of the world's most beautiful islands. Tioman island is home to tropical rainforests which house a variety of critically endangered species. It is also surrounded by numerous white coral reefs, making it a haven for scuba divers from all around the world.

The tourist season peaks between May and August, when the weather generally displays the least rainfall. Rapid overdevelopment and tourism have put significant stress on Tioman's fragile ecosystems leading to an urgent need for protection on the coral reefs and rubbish management system.

Efforts have been made to protect the island's biodiversity by the government and the local communities. For example, replanting corals which requires long and expensive process as well as cooperation from every parties. However, replanting corals is useless if they keep on getting damaged. Similarly, it is pointless to do clean-ups if everyone continues to throw rubbish.



*Beach cleaning activities*

Volunteers from Kossan made a trip to Tioman Island to do beach cleaning. The beach cleaning activity was lead by the Environmental Officer, Mr. Atteleth Don Peris, from Berjaya Tioman Resort. He also explained to us how to do coral planting to recover damaged reef sites.



*Beach cleaning activities*



*Coral planting*



Corals are rescued and placed at the coral nursery to recover. Cement plate is used for coral planting by letting the corals to grow naturally on it. Once the coral shows healthy and positive growth, the coral will be transferred back to the natural reef to grow so that the damaged reef site can be recovered. The survival rate of the coral very much affected by the wave or current, algae growth and irregular water temperature.



*Coral planting at coral nursery, Berjaya Tioman Resort*

KISB volunteers collaboration with Berjaya Tioman Resort Environment program was appreciated with the donorship of 5 plates which will be used to replant corals in the Tioman ocean. Hopefully we can return someday to see these corals grow and provide living space to the ocean's nature and wildlife.



*Team building activities*

We ended the trip with team building sessions to reinforce our team spirit in this program.

**"We know that when we protect our oceans we're protecting our future." – President Bill Clinton**

## How can we protect coral reefs?

Coral reefs are biological rich and complex ecosystems that are sometimes called the "rainforests of the ocean". The decline of coral reefs destabilizes the world ecology. Coral reefs control the amount of carbon dioxide in the ocean, making them critical to the food chain. There are a few ways that you can be a responsible tourist and help protect coral reefs.

### 1. Do not litter on the beach or in the ocean

Throwing litter into the ocean can eventually cause the trash to come into contact with the coral reef. Corals are very susceptible to harm.

### 2. Avoid striking or touching a coral reef

Corals on reefs are actually small animals. The living ecosystem is thus very fragile and susceptible to damage. Running your boat into a coral reef can cause serious damage to the corals. Understand where coral reefs are so your boat does not strike them.

### 3. Do not fish or boat near a coral reef

Coral reefs can be seriously damaged by anchors and fishing nets. Instead, anchor it at an area with sandy bottom or use a mooring. You could also use an installed buoy instead of an anchor.

### 4. Snorkel and scuba dive with care

Leave only bubbles and take pictures when you are in the ocean. Do not ever pull a piece of coral reef off to take with you. Stay horizontal in the water and avoid kicking sand or flailing around with your fins.

### 5. Do not purchase coral souvenirs

Do not buy any jewelry or other souvenirs that made out of coral. It is illegal to sell coral in certain countries. Red and pink coral is especially more pricy as jewelry because of its coloring due its location at deeper waters.

### 6. Educate others about coral reefs

-Volunteer to support reef science and tell others about coral reefs. Many people touch or harm coral