



The Maxis CyberlinQ Competition is a national competition which requires participating schools to propose community benefiting projects and implement them upon conquering 3 phases, leading them to scoring a victory in the competition.

Sung Siew Secondary School in Sandakan was introduced to the Maxis CyberlinQ Competition in 2006,

also indicated the participation of the secondary school in the current active conservation movement with its ignited concern for our environment. Befriending well known associations like Sugud Islands Marine Conservation Area (SIMCA), Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre and World Wildlife Fund (WWF), a project called "Are You Greedy?" was being implemented in the school. In conjunction with its active involvement in protecting Mother Nature from the mortifying occurrence of global warming, the school formed a team of ten vivacious members and two patron teachers to coordinate the project throughout its implementation phase.

The team adopted its name, Green or Been as inspired by Mr. Kenneth Chung Kuo Ting, director of SIMCA. "Green, the color of conservation and Been resembles the past. Thus, it's either we conserve or we're forgotten," quoted Mr. Kenneth Chung.

"Are You Greedy?", the project is a scheme targeted on the school community. Aspired to guide people in the course of reopening their eyes to finally be able to perceive the deeds of mankind which is now leading the planet into destruction, it functions by its objective, that is, to reveal that even simple everyday activities inflict negative impacts to the environment. The project emphasizes on teaching the young generation, in other words, the school community, that whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of earth, themselves and that there is always a sufficiency in the world for man's need but never for man's greed.

For months, Green or Been worked from presenting their proposal to various activities within the school and then proceed to bigger projects benefiting Sandakan community. The team started off by introducing two inter-class competitions to the school community – 'The Most Adorning Class' and 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Close the Loop'.

The Most Adorning Class was to elevate the keenness of students to create an environmental atmosphere in the class in conjunction with the theme of the competition, "Endeavour the Embrace of The Environment". Classes were decorated with recycled materials – plastic bag flowers and umbrella trees. Even 'Program Bapa dan Emak Angkat' for plants were being implemented by classes. Ever since the recycling competition was introduced to the school, heaps of old newspapers, countless plastic bottles and extremely big bags of aluminum cans could be seen outside every class.

Upon receiving the news that Green or Been was the only secondary school in Sabah chosen to enter the second phase of the maxis CyberlinQ Competition, a Green Week was implemented in which it was a week packed with a diversity of environmental activities involving the school community. An opening ceremony was held and a marine biologist from SIMCA, was invited to give a talk on aquatic animals. With a mesmerizing 3-D backdrop, an exhibition which lasted for two days was held, exhibiting materials on environment.

The most memorable and unforgettable experience for Green or Been was the closing ceremony which turned out to be a huge success. A Senior Wildlife Ranger from the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre and a Canadian volunteer from the British Organisation Travellers Worldwide, gave their presentations on the plight of the orangutans and the importance of



conserving them. If mankind helps to save the orang-utan, then it will play a part in the conservation of other species and habitat as well.

The highlight of the day was the presence of Baby Sen, a 4 month old orphan orang-utan, who received a loud applause when he was brought out onto the stage. The guest of honour looked at ease in the caring arms of the guardian. His presence was symbolic and raised awareness within the school community about the danger this primate is now facing.

They explained that Baby Sen was one of the new arrivals to the centre. Sen was recently surrendered by a village and brought swiftly to Sepilok to receive the special care and attention required of such a young needy baby. The goal is to give every orphan a second chance of survival and to increase the number of orangutans in the wild. Sadly, there are many orangutans out there who become victims of human activities. Sepilok is a platform to educate and raise awareness to local and foreign visitors about the conflict between human activities and nature. Baby Sen's mother died because of human actions.

During the course of the day Sung Siew Secondary school collected donations from the school community. Due to the success of the talks a staggering total of RM1016.69 was collected, higher than the anticipated RM500 target. Also the school donated bananas, toys and wrote kind messages for Baby Sen. These funds were proudly presented to Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre and the money was channeled into adopting two infant orangutans, Naru and Sogo-Sogo, through an 'adoption programme' jointly set up by the Sepilok Orangutan Appeal UK and the Sabah Wildlife Department. Sepilok Orangutan Appeal UK is a British NGO who has been permitted to assist the Wildlife Department in creating awareness of the plight of the orangutans and funding projects, identified by both parties.

This was the first ever visit of a baby orangutan to a school and the first local school to participate in the adoption scheme. With the promising response from the 'Green or Been' activities, it was hoped that other parties will be inspired to follow in Sung Siew Secondary Schools footsteps and feel a desire to make contribution towards conservation.

With the sponsorship from Maxis and Mr. Kenneth Chung, Green or Been had planned to complete their bigger projects. Besides constructing the Sung Siew Mini Botanical Garden, a WWF Day was held in the school to promote the involvement of protecting Malaysia's endangered wildlife and natural surroundings. The idea of protecting reefs was initiated by the Adopt-a-Reef program where Green or Been supported the maintenance fee of the adopted reefs financially in collaboration with SIMCA. Thus, a second fund raise was held to aid the course.

Green or Been had broaden its expectation and started contributing to the Sandakan community. Hence, there were two charity works– revamp Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre and cleaning Sandakan's once famous beach but isolated for its unhealthy environment, Pasir Putih combining forces with SIMCA, Sandakan Municipal Council and the school. They also did a mural painting in Sepilok and tree planting in Wildlife Sanctuary in Kinabatangan.

The team had high hopes that with small steps made, the school community as the young generations at present will one day take charge and continue to have the awareness to play their part in conservation for mother earth and be an example for others to follow the lead.

The team believes that we all can solve the problem that we made to our planet. In fact, we have a moral obligation to do so. Small changes to our daily routine can add up to big differences in helping to stop global destruction. The time to come together to solve this problem is now.

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