

It was a challenging month in Johor last December. With the unexpected increased in rain fall and storms, most areas in Johor were challenged to deal with flash floods and assistance to victims of the floods.

This however, did not stop the progression of Malaysia Marine and Heavy Engineering Holdings Berhad's (MHB) CSR initiatives in Kampung Pasir Putih and Kampung Teluk Kabong in Johore.

Called the "MHB Cares" initiative, this CSR venture by MHB is a welfare and capability enhancement programme focused on improving the orang Seletar community's education, health, safety and environment conditions over three years from 2014 to 2016.

Set only a stone's throw away from MHB's yard, Kampung Pasir Putih is one of the many orang Seletar communities that dwell along the coastal areas of Johore.

Collaboration with eNGO

MHB, teaming up with local environmental NGO, EcoKnights, researched and explored more on the Seletar community of Kampung Pasir Putih with the aim of addressing their plight.

After numerous informal and formal meetings with the community head and the rest of the community, MHB Cares decided to engage its staff volunteers to contribute time, manpower and also physical strength to assist the Seletar in enhancing the current living conditions.

Activities Commenced

Started in October 2013, one of the first activities developed in partnership with EcoKnights was the repair and reconstruction of the jetties leading to the seafront kindergarten and homes of the Kg. Pasir Putih Orang Asal. This effort saw the participation of 100 staff volunteers who took their time off to rebuild safer jetties for the Seletar community. This was eventually completed on 20 November 2013.

The second phase of this CSR initiative followed through with an extensive coastal clean-up fronting the community's homes and the clean-up saw the collection of many debris from old plastic bottles to even discarded car tires. This was again completed last December 2013.

The Launch of 'MHB Cares'

The final phase of the 'MHB Cares' project was recently launched on 12 December at Kg. Pasir Putih by MHB MD & CEO together EcoKnights and the District Officer of Johor Bahru.



Phase 1: Repairing and reconstructing jetties



Phase 2: Intensive beach cleaning activity



Our caring Management and volunteers from MHB painting a jetty



Beach cleaning activity in progress



Mr Dominique de Soras receives a traditional tribal welcome from the people of Orang Asal Seletar



Orang Asal Seletar welcoming MHB management with a Sewang Performance



The official launch of MHB Cares



Mr Dominique de Soras and Pn Yasmin Rasyid handing over donation to the family of Orang Asal Seletar



Together we Care!!

During the 'MHB Cares' launch, Mr Dominique de Soras, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of MHB said, "This programme will concentrate on the welfare development and capability enhancement of the first people communities in Johor. As Kg. Pasir Putih and Kg Teluk Kabong are fence line communities to MHB's east yard, we would like to launch 'MHB Cares' here so that corporate charity can begin close to home."

"My hope is that other companies and businesses in Johore, that are located near such communities, are able to adopt some of the efforts MHB has done, and able to contribute back to communities that are not as privileged as those in urban areas. And we hope, as an environmental organization, to see more participation from other corporates, to take up the role and responsibility as a responsible company," said Yasmin, Presiden of EcoKnights.

Apart from the assistance of volunteers in repair and restoration works of the homes of the Seletar communities, MHB also presented groceries to 50 households, on top of the provision of free dental and health checks for the families.

To cheer the Seletar children, several fun and engaging activities were specially organised that day from a balloon sculptor to a clown.



Some activities for the children



The children of Orang Asal Seletar Kg Pasir Putih



Dental and Oral Hygiene check up for the Orang Asal Seletar



Talk on 'Personal Hygiene' from Waqaf An-Nur

Spirit of Volunteerism in MHB

MHB encourages its employees to become responsible citizens with a genuine concern for the well-being of others. As such, employee volunteerism is a key feature of the Company's community project.

One of the volunteers from MHB who participated in this CSR initiative was Mohd Syafri Abd Rahman, Acting Manager, Admin Services Division. He shared his feedback on the 'MHB Cares' programme.

“I have had a very nice experience and amazing time working for one month at Kg. Orang Asal Seletar, Pasir Putih. I think it is a real blessing that an organization like MHB is there to provide them a better facilities, education and care, it really makes a difference and gives them hope for the future. The whole time that I spent in this community project opened my mind very much. It is highly recommended for those who are care about our community to sign in as a volunteer. This would be a good platform for you to gain an exposure as well as valuable benefit. Share your professional skills and thoughts with others. Change your life by changing others!”



Mohd Syafri Abd Rahman during the beach cleaning activity

About MHB

MHB is recognised as a regional heavy engineering and deepwater support services provider for the oil and gas deepwater industry as well as a key player for LNG ship repair and dry docking. MHB is also a one-stop centre for marine conversion. Located in Pasir Gudang, Johor, Malaysia Marine and Heavy Engineering Sdn Bhd (MMHE) is Malaysia's largest offshore fabrication, conversion and marine repair repair yard. The yards can accommodate the fabrication of large marine structures with a total tonnage of 129,700 MT; and are also equipped with two dry-docks accommodating vessels up to 450,000 deadweight tonnes (dwt).