

## Pit Vipers of Malaysia

Pit Vipers are venomous snakes from the family Viperidae. They are named so because of the heat sensing pits behind their nostrils on the side on their snouts. Pit Vipers are ambush predators that rely on their camouflage to stay hidden, awaiting prey to pass in front of them before striking. Many of the Pit Vipers are arboreal, i.e. living on trees. Some are specialized for certain habitats such as montane areas or mangroves.

### Malayan Pit Viper (*Calloselasma rhodostoma*)

*Distinguishing Feature:* Dorsum reddish-brown. Flanks lighter. Triangular marks on sides meeting or alternating on thin vertebral stripe. White tail tips on juveniles.

*Habitat/Distribution:* Dry lowland forests and plantations up to 1524m above sea level. Prefers dense undergrowth and rocky areas. Restricted to the northern states of Perak and Kedah.

*Behavior:* Nocturnal and terrestrial. Flattens itself when threatened.

*Diet:* Small rodents and birds.



Malayan Pit Viper (*Calloselasma rhodostoma*)



**Siamese Pit Viper (*Trimeresurus fucatus*)**

*Distinguishing Feature:* Green dorsum. Males have white & red ventrolateral stripe. Venter bright green.

*Habitat/Distribution:* Mid-elevation hill forests. 400-1280m asl.

*Behaviour:* Nocturnal and arboreal.

*Diet:* Rodents, birds.



Female



Male



Female

**Hagen's Pit Viper (*Trimeresurus hageni*)**

*Distinguishing Feature:* Dorsum pale green. Irregular bands. Flank stripe absent. Venter pale green.

*Habitat/Distribution:* Lowland and mid hill forests up to 600m asl.

*Behaviour:* Nocturnal and arboreal.

*Diet:* Birds, small mammals.



Male





**Mangrove Pit Viper (*Trimeresurus purpureomaculatus*)**

*Distinguishing Feature:* Dorsum olive, grey or purplish-brown with darker mottling. Venter cream or brown.

*Habitat/Distribution:* Mangroves or coastal forests.

*Behavior:* Crepuscular and arboreal.

*Diet:* Small mammals.



**Cameron Highlands Pit Viper** (*Trimeresurus nebularis*)

*Distinguishing Feature:* Dorsum bright green. Interstitial skin consists of thick black and thin blue bands.

Postocular stripe absent.

*Habitat/Distribution:* Restricted to montane forests.

*Behaviour:* Nocturnal and arboreal.

*Diet:* Birds and small mammals.



Male

**Wagler's Pit Viper (*Tropidolaemus wagleri*)**

*Distinguishing Feature:* Female adults have black dorsum with yellow-green cross-bars. Male dorsum green with white and red spots. White and red post ocular stripe present.

*Habitat/Distribution:* Lowland forest, forest edges and secondary vegetation.

*Behaviour:* Arboreal and nocturnal.

*Diet:* Birds and rodents.

Note:

Not included in this article: Malayan Brown Pit Viper (*Ovophis convictus*), Fairy Pit Viper (*Trimeresurus buniana*), Sumatran Pit Viper (*Trimeresurus sumatranus*) and Wirot's Pit Viper (*Trimeresurus wiroti*)

Article & photos by Steven Wong (mnsherp@gmail.com)



Female

# GREEN HUMOUR COMICS

Green Humour is a comic site created by a cartoonist from India, Rohan Chak. Rohan won the Sanctuary Asia Young Naturalist Award 2012 for his work in raising awareness about environmental, wildlife and conservation issues using his comic strips. We thank him for the inspiring work he is doing and pledge to do our best to protect wildlife and the natural environment. To contact him or to view his other works, please email [rohanchakcartoonist@gmail.com](mailto:rohanchakcartoonist@gmail.com) or visit his site at <http://www.greenhumour.com>.



Continue on next page...





## 7 SIMPLE WAYS OF BEING A WASTE WARRIOR



1. Pack your lunch in a metal box instead of plastic.



2. Recycle. Make toys from junk instead of buying expensive, harmful plastic toys.



3. Bake your friend a birthday cake instead of buying him/her a plastic toy.



4. Always refuse a straw, as it adds to non-biodegradable waste.



5. Carry your own water bottle instead of buying plastic bottles.



6. Reduce paper-use by using waste paper to make paper planes



7. Don't hesitate to educate parents and elders.





# NATIONS PLEDGE TO END OCEAN PLASTIC WASTE

## *A STEP FORWARD IN THE WAR AGAINST OCEAN PLASTICS*

On 6th December 2017, 193 nations signed a U.N. resolution in Nairobi on Wednesday to eliminate plastic pollution in the sea, a move some delegates hoped would pave the way to a legally binding treaty.

If current pollution rates continue, there will be more plastic in the sea than fish by 2050, said the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) which organized the meeting.

Eight million tonnes of plastic - bottles, packaging and other waste - are dumped into the ocean every year, killing marine life and entering the human food chain, UNEP added.

Norway, which initiated the resolution, has seen the evidence of the damage the pollution causes first hand, he said.

"We found micro plastics inside mussels, which is something we like to eat," Helgesen added. "In January this year, a fairly rare species of whale was stranded on a beach because of exhaustion and they simply had to kill it. In its tummy, they found 30 plastic bags."

## **NO TIMETABLE AND NOT LEGALLY BINDING**

Several countries, including China and India, refused to include in the resolution a call on nations to adopt any reduction targets.

Countries did agree that the world needs to stop plastics from entering the sea, but the final resolution

published on Wednesday has no timetable and is not legally binding.

## **THE 5 MAIN CULPRITS**

According to research published in 2015, up to 60% of ocean plastics come from just five countries: China, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand.

While China is a major polluter, contributing 8.82 tons of plastic wastage that wind up in the earth's seas annually, it is certainly not alone. The contribution of other offending countries are Indonesia (3.22 tons), the Philippines (1.88 tons), Vietnam (1.83 tons), Sri Lanka (1.59 tons), Thailand (1.03 tons), Egypt (0.97 tons), Malaysia (0.94 tons), Nigeria (0.85 tons), Bangladesh (0.79 tons), and South Africa (0.63 tons).

The researchers averred that each country's strategy to reducing plastic waste should differ. In China, 84% comes from waste that's not collected, so it needs to concentrate on expanding garbage collection, the report says. On average, the five countries collect about 50% of trash overall. In the Philippines, 74% of its leakage happens after that waste has been "collected," so it should perhaps modernise collection facilities and transport systems to be more retentive.

## **ECONOMIC PRESSURES AND POVERTY**

In developing nations such as Indonesia and the Philippines, the issue of poverty has to be addressed first. In communities that are not affluent and where workers are paid daily wages or low wages, small-scale products such as single-use shampoo packets and confectionery are popular, because economic pressures make it difficult for consumers to purchase in bulk or choose more sustainable products in reusable and refillable packaging.

As Asian economies rise, people have more cash to blow on Marlboros and Sprites at 7-Eleven. But the rubbish these habits produce often does not end up in legitimate landfills.

In the 5 Asian countries listed above, only about 40% of garbage is properly collected. Across Asia, rubbish is often piled up in communal dumps, where stray bits of litter are swept up by the wind and cast into the ocean.

During rainy season, thousands of tonnes of rubbish discarded in rivers and waterways washes up on Indonesia's shores. Heavy machinery is often brought in to clear the tourist beaches of Bali and local communities and non-profits are constantly organising large-scale beach cleanups.

Last year, a tax on single use plastic bags was trialed in 23 cities across Indonesia. While the government reported a big reduction in plastic bag use, there was significant resistance both from consumers and industry, according to Siti Nurbaya, Indonesia's minister for the environment. This is delaying a bill to impose a nationwide tax of not less than Rp.200 (1p) per plastic bag.

Environmentalists will be hoping that the promised funding effectively channels resources and expertise into public awareness and education programmes, improvements in waste management, pressure on industry and initiatives that encourage alternatives to plastic packaging.

## **PROGRESS AND STRONG MEASURES**

China is the biggest producer of plastic waste but has started making efforts to cut down, UNEP head Erik Solheim said.

"If there is one nation changing at the moment more than anyone else, it's China ... the speed and determination of the government to change is enormous," said Solheim.

Solheim eventually wants to see governments ban and redesign some packaging.

"Let's abolish products that we do not need ... if you go to tourist places like Bali, a huge amount of the plastic picked from the oceans are actually straws."

Under the resolution, countries agreed to start monitoring the amount of plastic they put into the ocean.

"While this is not a treaty, significant progress is being made ... 39 governments announced new commitments to reduce the amount of plastic going into the sea," said the



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chief of public advocacy at UNEP, Sam Barrat.

“Chile, Oman, Sri Lanka and South Africa today ... announced measures including plastic bag bans, new marine reserves and drives to increase recycling.”

The Thai government says the nation has established a 20-year strategy to tackle the problem, including developing financial incentives for keeping plastic out of the sea and encouraging eco-packaging design and eco-friendly substitutes for plastics.

In Indonesia, the government is starting a mass education programme for schoolchildren, and in the Philippines new laws are being developed.

Part of the challenge is finding substitutes for plastics. An international prize for smarter materials and design for packaging was launched recently by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation.

## WHAT WE CAN DO

It is not only governments that can make a firm decision to end plastic pollution.

Responsible and caring members of civil society can take direct and personal action to eliminate plastic waste from their lives. You can also gain or share new ideas and learn about new technologies and approaches by joining groups such as the Break Free From Plastic movement at <https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/> most-reduce-your-carbon-footprint and <http://grist.org/briefly/groundbreaking-study-outlines-what-you-can-do-about-climate-change/> )

By Wong Ee Lynn

[wongeelynn@yahoo.com](mailto:wongeelynn@yahoo.com) / [gl.mnselangor@yahoo.com](mailto:gl.mnselangor@yahoo.com)

(Sources: [www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com), [www.theguardian.com/environment/](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/), <http://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org> and <http://web.unep.org/newscentre/un-declares-war-ocean-plastic>)

## Nature Guides

# RAPTOR WATCH 2018

## Call for Nature Guide Volunteers

DATE: 10-11 MARCH 2018 (Sat-Sun)

VENUE: TANJUNG TUAN, PORT DICKSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls and anyone in between! We will be saying our loving goodbyes to the migrating birds on their way home to the northern hemisphere. A festival is upon us and the Nature Guide SIG of the Selangor Branch will be registering volunteers for RW 2018. If you are keen to learn and would like to learn to be a Guide, please register as soon as possible!

Please note:

1. Please note that this will be a one and a half day event (Sat. and Sun.).
2. We will be registering 60 volunteers to be on duty on 10th March 2018 (Sat). (8.00 a.m. -5.00 p.m.)
3. Of these, 20 are also required to be on duty on 11th March 2018 (Sun) till 2.00 p.m. Accommodation will be arranged for this group.
4. A compulsory training session will be held at the Tg Tuan Forest Complex on 3rd March. (Sat) from 8.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.
5. There will also be an alternative training session on 4th March (Sun) from 8.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. for those who are unable to attend the training on 3rd. March.
6. Please register only if you are sure of participating in this very important annual staple event of MNS.
7. MNS members from other states are welcome to join us.
8. If you would like to invite non-members as volunteers, please let them know that it is unfortunate that we are unable to extend the insurance coverage for them as it only covers members.
9. Please register with Angeline at [angeline.siok@gmail.com](mailto:angeline.siok@gmail.com). If you need further information, contact her at HP 012-282 8139 (Whatsapp or SMS only).

PLEASE HURRY AS THERE ARE LIMITED PLACES FOR VOLUNTEERS.

Please fill up the online form at <https://goo.gl/forms/e84NwU4s6JVNR13f1> or send Angeline the following details:

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Full name                   | 8. Will you be driving?                         |
| 2. MNS membership no.          | 9. If not driving, do you need carpool?         |
| 3. Expiry date of membership   | 10. If driving, no. of passengers can you take? |
| 4. Email                       | 11. Are you staying over for Sunday?            |
| 5. Mobile no.                  | 12. T-shirt size                                |
| 6. Gender                      | 13. Meals - vegetarian/non-vegetarian           |
| 7. Area of residence (carpool) | 14. Which briefing (date) will you attend?      |

For insurance:

- (a) Full name
- (b) NRIC no.
- (c) Name of next of kin
- (d) Relationship to (c)
- (e) H/P of next of kin



MNS Selangor Branch Photogroup

## Photography Trip to Setinggi Waterfalls

**Date: 13 January 2018**

Very near Serendah town is a small, pristine waterfall that allows for full leisure activity including photography. The waterfall flow is full and cascades down a pool where one can enjoy a cool dip! Located deep in the forest, hiking in will take about a couple of hours on generally flat terrain with mild ascend. You may encounter a friendly leech or two along the way – especially in wet conditions. It is possible to drive in and park at the open area being prepared for development.

We will convoy from the meet-up venue (location will be provided to confirmed participants).

To register, please submit membership details to KK Tan at 017-3306700.

Photographers who want to double up into picnicking and water pleasures are to bring the necessary equipment and clothing. Do have an extra set of clothing on standby in the car.

Special photography items worth bringing – tripod, ND and polarising filters!

Maximum participants: 20

Cost: RM20.00 per pax

Nature Guides

## NATURE EDUCATION @ PERHILITAN KRAU WILDLIFE RESERVE

**Date:** 27 – 28 January 2018 (Saturday-Sunday)

**Meeting time on 27 Jan:** 10am

**Ending time on 28 Jan:** 5pm

**Meeting place:** Institut Biodiversiti (IBD), Bukit Rengit, Lanchang, Pahang (Waze or Google Maps)

**Fee:** RM250 (adult) RM200 (child below 12) for members. Non-members add RM70 for MNS 1-year membership.

Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) Nature Guides SIG in collaboration with Herpetofauna and Bird SIG and the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (PERHILITAN) is organizing a special access to Krau Wildlife Reserve endless trails and waterfall. Don't miss the chance of learning with PERHILITAN field officers on bat ecology, herpetofauna and birdwatching. Nature lovers are invited for an exposure to zoological inventory and museum in IBD. It's an opportunity to learn the process of species identification too.

Fee covers 1N dormitory accommodation (male and female separate), all meals (halal), activities at IBD and access to Krau Wildlife Reserve. Transport is by carpooling.

LIMITED TO 20 PLACES ONLY.

Please register at: <https://goo.gl/forms/D3xd4YhJdrGzE4f12>

For further enquiry, contact John Chan at [greenjohnchan@gmail.com](mailto:greenjohnchan@gmail.com) or 016 3569 169.



MNS Selangor Branch Pathfinders Group

## Taman Negara trip

Date: 17–19 March 2018

Charges: RM460 non member/RM440

MNS member ( Deposit RM260)

### Tasik Kenyir

Part of Taman Negara is in Terengganu, know as Taman Negara Kenyir. Taman Negara rainforest is the world oldest jungle believed to be 130 million years old. It spans over 260,000 hectares (or some 369 sq km), fed by 30 rivers with 25 waterfalls and at least 25 known species of fish swimming in this man-made lake. The 340 islands in the lake were once hilltops and highlands before the area was inundated by water.

### Lasir Waterfall

Lasir Waterfall is one of the many spectacular waterfalls within Lake Kenyir. It's a lovely waterfall, that occurred at a boundary between two different rock types. It's a fall from about 500 feet high. The waterfall drops gracefully into multi-tiered levels of boulders forming sprays of water. Ponds of water are available at each of the 5 levels of Lasir and one can enjoy a cold refreshing bath here. There are large camping area and hiking trail up to its top. The fall is well shaded by the canopy of the surrounding forest.

### Saok Waterfall

Saok Waterfalls is another waterfall that is about 15 minutes boat ride away from Pengkalan Gawi. This waterfall has cascading waters over its rocky terraces. There is a flat sandy area at the foot of the waterfall that makes it an ideal place for a time of picnic with your family or friends.

### Ikan Kelah Sanctuary

There are three Kelah sanctuaries in the country . The most successful one is located in Sg Petang which is a river within Lake Kenyir. For those of you who are unaware, Lake Kenyir is a huge lake with an area of 225 sq miles. Kelah(or Mahseer ) is a breed of fish which require clean streams which are highly oxygenated to survive. If the rivers are polluted they simply disappear. The government has been wise to set up a sanctuary in Sg Petang to allow this species of fish to breed in it's natural environment. The sanctuary in Sg Petang is only open to public from March to October.

Charges included:

1. Accommodation 2 nights at houseboat
2. Speedboat
3. Permit for Ikan Kelah Sanctuary
4. 6 meals included (Bx2,Lx2,Dx2)
5. Kayak
6. Chef/Person In Charge: Yee Yee 012-6706490

\*Due to the nature of our work, we may not able to attend your phone call. We prefer FB message or whatsapp.

Do join MNS Selangor Branch Pathfinders Group Facebook for more further information.



denai.my

*“Where  
flowers  
bloom,  
so does  
hope.”*

- Lady Bird Johnson





MNS Selangor Branch Pathfinders

## Tekiwit Sela'an Waterfall

Dates: 28 April 2018 – 1 May 2018

A hidden gem at inland of Miri, Sarawak - Tekiwit Waterfall, also known as Sela'an Waterfall. It takes 6 hours journey with 4x4 wheel drive to the nearest homestay - Selaan Segah Homestay and Kelesa Camp. From Selaan Segah Waterfall, it takes another 40 minutes drive and 2 hours jungle trekking to see this hidden gem. Sela'an River and Segah River is livehood home for native Kenyah Sela'an and Penan people, as well as home of an expensive fresh water fish - Empurau.

Charges - RM865 non member/RM845 MNS member ( Deposit RM400)

Charges included:

1. Accommodation 2 nights at Selaan Segah Homestay, 1 night at Miri
2. 4x4 wheel 2 ways from Miri airport to Selaan Segah Homestay
3. Entrance fees and Guide fees
4. 7 meals included (Bx2,Lx3,Dx2)

Please take note flight not included.

Person In Charge: Yee Yee 012-

6706490\*Due to the nature of our work, we may not able to attend your phone call.

We prefer FB message or whatsapp.Do join

MNS Selangor Branch Pathfinders Group

Facebook for more further information.



trekkerz



miricitysharing.com



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Shine like  
the whole  
universe  
is yours.

-Rumi





**HABITATS MATTER TO  
YOU & ME  
COUNT FOR 2018 MYGB SURVEY  
2<sup>ND</sup> OR 3<sup>RD</sup> OF JUNE 2018**

A tremendous thank you once more to everyone who joined in the 2017 MYGB survey. Whether you were counting in Peninsular or East Malaysia, atop a mountain, near a jungle, on an island, in your suburb or city, your active contribution of gathering data helped give us more knowledge, of the bird population within a variety of habitats. We hope you enjoyed the brief count, not only seeing the birds but relishing the tranquil moment whilst doing so. We need more people like you to count, so spread the word to friends and family and help us increase the number of counters and count sites for 2018. The MYGB survey will be on the 2nd and 3rd of June. Natural Habitats are important to us but even more so for birds. Let's make it an awesome count for 2018!





**MOUNTAIN GOAL ADVENTURE CONSULTANT (742912-V)**

*Website: <http://www.mymountaingoal.com>. E-mail: [goalus@mymountaingoal.com](mailto:goalus@mymountaingoal.com)*

**Annapurna Base Camp Via Poon Hill Trek  
(4130M) from 27/03/18 to 09/04/18 (14d13n)**



Walk through villages, then climb through forests into the Annapurna Sanctuary, a valley surrounded by high Himalayan peaks. A great opportunity to get into the mountains without the altitude problems of Mt. Everest. This fantastic 10-day trek offers the most spectacular landscape views of the Himalayas, allowing you to be completely immersed in the heart of the towering Annapurna range. Altitudes of 4130m are reached, and a reasonable level of physical fitness is required to comfortably complete this expedition.

Two free training trips will be provided for the trip.  
Contact : +60166375622 WhatsApp, WeChat and Line.  
Further information please sign in:- <http://www.mymountaingoal.com/AnnapurnaRegion.htm>

**Everest Base Camp via Gokyo lake trek  
from 29/04/2018 to 14/05/2018 (16D15N) and  
26/09/2018 to 11/10/2018 (16D15N)**



Experience the culture of the Sherpas en route to Khumbu village. Enjoy a climb to the scintillating Kalapattar (5,545m/18190ft), one of the most spectacular vantage points in the Everest region. Explore enchanting views of Everest, Pumori, Ama Dablam, Nuptse, Lhotse, Makalu and many other towering peaks. Two free training trips will be provided for the Everest Base Camp trip.

Contact : Thong at [goalus@mymountaingoal.com](mailto:goalus@mymountaingoal.com) H/P : 016-6375622 Off : 03-40248896  
Further info please sign in: [www.mymountaingoal.com/everestkalapattar.htm](http://www.mymountaingoal.com/everestkalapattar.htm)

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**The Wildlife Crime Hotline is managed by MYCAT, which stands for Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers. MYCAT comprises the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, Wildlife Conservation Society-Malaysia Programme and WWF-Malaysia.**

**PERHILITAN**  
**hotline**  
**1 800 88 5151**  
8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Sunday including Public Holiday



## MNS HQ

JKR 641, Jalan Kelantan,  
Bukit Persekutuan, 50480 Kuala Lumpur  
(just before the Seri Perdana turn off to  
Jalan Mahameru)  
Open: Monday –Friday ; 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.  
T: 03-22879422 F: 03-22878773  
mns@mns.org.my www.mns.my  
Membership: Leong Wee Chin



### BRANCH EXCO MEMBERS 2017-2019

#### Johor Branch

Blog: <http://mnsjohor.blogspot.com/>  
Chairman: Abbott Chong Ching Hua, [abbott\\_chong@yahoo.com](mailto:abbott_chong@yahoo.com)  
Vice-Chair: -  
Secretary: Belinda Wong Mei Lang, [belinda@bellogistics.com](mailto:belinda@bellogistics.com)

#### Kuching Branch (Sarawak)

Email: [mnskuching@gmail.com](mailto:mnskuching@gmail.com)  
Chairman: Rose Au Nyat Jun, [anyatjun@yahoo.com](mailto:anyatjun@yahoo.com)  
Vice-Chair: Johan Roslan, [kabob71@gmail.com](mailto:kabob71@gmail.com)  
Secretary: Audrey Dominic Neng, [audreyneng@gmail.com](mailto:audreyneng@gmail.com)

#### Miri Branch (Sarawak)

Email: [mnsmiri@yahoo.com](mailto:mnsmiri@yahoo.com)  
Blog: [mnsmiri.blogspot.com](http://mnsmiri.blogspot.com)  
Chairman: Iqbal B Abdollah, [9w8iqa@gmail.com](mailto:9w8iqa@gmail.com)  
Vice-Chair: Musa Musbah, [sammua@yahoo.com](mailto:sammua@yahoo.com)  
Secretary: Achmed Azizie B Marzuki,  
[achmedazizie@hotmail.com](mailto:achmedazizie@hotmail.com)

#### Selangor Branch

c/o MNS HQ address  
[www.mns.my/selangor](http://www.mns.my/selangor)  
Email: [mns.selangor@gmail.com](mailto:mns.selangor@gmail.com)  
E-group: [malaysiannaturesociety@yahoo.com](mailto:malaysiannaturesociety@yahoo.com)  
Chairman: Pasupathy Jayaraj, [pasupathy\\_jayaraj@yahoo.com](mailto:pasupathy_jayaraj@yahoo.com)  
Vice-Chair: Wong Ee Lynn, [wongeelynn@yahoo.com](mailto:wongeelynn@yahoo.com)  
Secretary: Grace Chin Haw Yiing, [gracehychin@gmail.com](mailto:gracehychin@gmail.com)

#### Kedah Branch

Address: 3 Jalan Timur 1, Kawasan Perusahaan Mergong  
Barrage, 05150 Alor Setar, Kedah  
Chairman: Left Kol Husamuddin bin Yaacob, [husaya@gmail.com](mailto:husaya@gmail.com)  
Vice-Chair: Mohamad Yani Madewnus, [madew75@gmail.com](mailto:madew75@gmail.com)  
Secretary: Phang Fatt Khow, [fkphang05@yahoo.com](mailto:fkphang05@yahoo.com)

#### Kelantan Branch

Address: 204, Jln Sultan Yahya Petra, 15150 Kota Bharu,  
Kelantan.  
Email: [meklawa@gmail.com](mailto:meklawa@gmail.com)  
Chairman: Amir Hamzah bin Abdul Shukor,  
[amir7711@gmail.com](mailto:amir7711@gmail.com)  
Vice-Chair: Zulhazman Hamzah, [zulhazman@umk.edu.my](mailto:zulhazman@umk.edu.my)  
Secretary: Nazahatul Anis Amaludin,  
[anisamaludin@gmail.com](mailto:anisamaludin@gmail.com)

#### Langkawi Branch

Email: [mnslangkawi@yahoo.com](mailto:mnslangkawi@yahoo.com)  
Chairman: Borhan Hamid, [brobob@ymail.com](mailto:brobob@ymail.com)  
Vice-Chair: -  
Secretary: Daisy Jeyarani A/P Samuel,  
[daisy\\_samuel\\_2005@yahoo.com](mailto:daisy_samuel_2005@yahoo.com)

#### Negeri Sembilan/Melaka Branch

Chairman: Dr Zorina Khalid, [drzorina@yahoo.com](mailto:drzorina@yahoo.com)  
Vice-Chair: Lee Seng Hong, [leesenghong88@gmail.com](mailto:leesenghong88@gmail.com)  
Secretary: June Teng, [MNS.N9Melaka@gmail.com](mailto:MNS.N9Melaka@gmail.com)

#### Pahang Branch

Email: [mnsphg@yahoo.com.sg](mailto:mnsphg@yahoo.com.sg)  
Chairman: Noor Jehan Bt. Abu Bakar,  
[versed\\_anggerik@yahoo.com](mailto:versed_anggerik@yahoo.com)  
Vice-Chair: Chin Wai Fatt, [chinwaifatt@yahoo.com](mailto:chinwaifatt@yahoo.com)  
Secretary: Chow Mee Foong, [chowmeefoong@yahoo.com](mailto:chowmeefoong@yahoo.com)

#### Penang Branch

Nature Information Centre (NIC),  
673-B Jln Kebun Bunga, 10350 Penang. Tel: 04-2273673  
Website: [www.geocities.com/mnspenang/](http://www.geocities.com/mnspenang/)  
Blog: [mnspenang@yahoo.com](mailto:mnspenang@yahoo.com)  
Email: [mnspenang@yahoo.com](mailto:mnspenang@yahoo.com)  
Chairman: Tan Choo Eng, [chooengtan@yahoo.com](mailto:chooengtan@yahoo.com)  
Vice-Chair: Tajul Arosh Baroky, [tajul\\_ab@yahoo.com](mailto:tajul_ab@yahoo.com)  
Secretary: Tan Pek Tao, Peggy, [tpeggypeach33@yahoo.com](mailto:tpeggypeach33@yahoo.com)

#### Perak Branch

Email: [mnsperak@gmail.com](mailto:mnsperak@gmail.com)  
70, Jln Chan Chee Keong, Ipoh Garden South, 31400 Ipoh.  
Blog: [mnsperak@yahoo.com](mailto:mnsperak@yahoo.com)  
Chairman: Ooi Beng Yean, [bengyeen@gmail.com](mailto:bengyeen@gmail.com)  
Vice-Chair: Zaharil Dzulkafly, [zaharil\\_tbp@hotmail.com](mailto:zaharil_tbp@hotmail.com)  
Secretary: Georgia Tham Yim Fong, [georgi8tham@yahoo.com](mailto:georgi8tham@yahoo.com)

#### Sabah Branch

Chairman: Anna Wong, [annawg888@gmail.com](mailto:annawg888@gmail.com)  
Vice-Chair: Jimmy Omar, [jemyomar@gmail.com](mailto:jemyomar@gmail.com)  
Secretary: Nur Syamimi Makbul, [mimimakbul@yahoo.com](mailto:mimimakbul@yahoo.com)

#### Sandakan Branch (Sabah)

Chairman: Hatta B Yunus @ Sawabi, [hattasawabi@gmail.com](mailto:hattasawabi@gmail.com)  
Vice-Chair: Ooi Chin Hock, [ooichinhock@gmail.com](mailto:ooichinhock@gmail.com)  
Secretary: Chong Ket Vui Dusun, [dusun\\_chong@yahoo.com](mailto:dusun_chong@yahoo.com)

#### Terengganu Branch

Address: 1926, Bkt Kubang Jambu, 20050 Kuala Terengganu.  
Email: [mnsterengganu@gmail.com](mailto:mnsterengganu@gmail.com)  
Chairman: Wong Chee Ho, [cheeho04@yahoo.com](mailto:cheeho04@yahoo.com)  
Vice-Chair: Prof Sulong Bin Ibrahim, [sulong@umt.edu.my](mailto:sulong@umt.edu.my)  
Secretary: Dr Chong Ju Lian, [julianchong78@gmail.com](mailto:julianchong78@gmail.com)

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**Submissions:** Articles including the author and photographers' names (max. 800 words), advertisements, digital images (100 dpi & no larger than 640 x 480 pixels & separately from the article), etc. must reach the Editor by the 13th of each month (unless noted otherwise) via the following e-mail address: [tapir2005@gmail.com](mailto:tapir2005@gmail.com).



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# ATTENTION!

**Please bring your membership card to all activities as proof of membership.**

*This issue's editor:  
Khor Hui Min*

*Next issue's editor:  
Khor Hui Min*

Have you been to an MNS activity lately? Why not share your experience with other members by writing an account of your activity and submitting it (preferably with photographs) for publication in *Pencinta Alam*? Email your article to: [tapir2005@gmail.com](mailto:tapir2005@gmail.com)

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***Don't Leave Home Without It***  
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### **Computer Recycling Collection Centre**

The MNS Penang, Nature Information Centre (NIC) is a designated recycling collection centre for old computers and computer parts by the Penang City Council. Please send your unwanted computers and parts to the NIC to be sent for recycling by DOE approved recycling establishment. Contact Kanda at 013-4537992 for more information or check out Penang Branch web pages

