



REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR 1st JUNE 2015 – 31st MAY 2016

The Board of Trustees held a total of three meetings during the year on 19 November 2015, 23 January 2016 and 12 May 2016 with the fourth scheduled for 19 August 2016.

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

As at the start of the year, the Board consisted of seven voting members drawn from academia, professionals and corporate leaders. Two additional corporate professionals, namely Christopher Boyd and Dennis Koh, joined the Board to bring it up to full strength. East Malaysia was represented by Dr Hj Rahimatsah Amat and Prof. Datin Seri Panglima Dr. Ann Anton. At the first meeting, Ar. John Koh was re-elected as BOT Chair and Dato' Ghazali was appointed as Vice Chair.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCES OF MNS

The Society's total revenue for the year showed an increase of 16% from RM4.3 million for the previous financial year to RM5 million for the current financial year. Whilst total expenditure for the year amounted to RM4.6 million against RM5 million for the previous year, a decrease of 8%, resulting in an operating surplus of RM421 thousand as compared to the deficit of RM732 thousand for the previous year. This operating surplus was achieved mainly on account of an award received in conjunction with the grantor's anniversary celebration, in recognition of the exemplary conservation works carried out by the Society over the years as an NGO.

The net proceeds raised during the MNS 75th anniversary events in 2015 and on the occasion of the 2016 Fund Raising dinner amounted to RM63,024.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY BOT

During the first BOT meeting, the Hon. Secretary was requested to organise a Fund Raising Brainstorming Session for members of the Council, Board of Trustees and HQ staff. This and the second BOT meeting were both held at Kuala Selangor Nature Park, over the weekend of 23th/24 January 2016, allowing Board Members to learn more about the park and its management as well as creating an opportunity for BOT members to interact with Council Office Bearers and key staff. At their third meeting, the Board requested that all park managers present their sustainability and marketing plans for the next year and these will be presented at the fourth meeting to be held on 19 August 2016 at MNS Nature Education Centre at FRIM.

FINANCIAL RESERVES

As at the end of the financial year on 31 May 2016, reserves stood at RM1.3 million as against RM925 thousand the previous year. The BOT deems this level of reserves as unsatisfactory.

The above reserves include the following, the utilisation of which requires the approval of the Board:-

1. Merdeka Fund of RM 272,443;

2. 70th Anniversary Fund of RM 316,838; and
3. Property Fund of RM 535,705.

The Council has approved the repayment of RM 200,000 from the surplus achieved in the current financial year to the Property Fund which had been depleted from the original balance of RM946,441 to RM 335,705 as at 1 June 2015 arising from the deficit suffered in the previous financial year. The Council will endeavour to achieve surpluses in the forthcoming years to reinstate the Property Fund to its original sum.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The Board of Trustees strongly recommends the following actions are taken to continue to improve the financial status of the Society.

- Project sustainability in the Conservation and Environmental Education divisions must be monitored and reviewed against relevant staff overheads and other expenditure.
- All classes of Membership, including School Nature Camps (KPA) and KPA for Youth, should be proactively promoted to increase support.
- Marketing and Partnership must be activated to increase Corporate Sponsorship.
- A comprehensive Fund Raising programme be initiated with Council and staff assigned responsibilities to facilitate the achievement of the MNS Strategic Plan and MNS objectives.
- Realistic Budgeting and Financial Management must be instituted without further delay.
- Regular news coverage and communicative social media presence is a must to enhance MNS branding.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Board thanks the Council for launching the inaugural Tapir Award for outstanding service to MNS. These were awarded during the Fund Raising dinner at the Concorde Hotel on 11 March 2016. Congratulations Tan Sri Dr Salleh Mohd Nor and Vincent Chow, Johor Branch Chairman, recipients of these inaugural iconic awards.

To promote a more intensive use of the resources of MNS's parks and centres, an outreach programme to international schools, Scouts and Guides is being explored. Similarly, a Fund Raising Federal Hill Run in collaboration with Hash House Harriers is being planned to garner support for the Urban Community Forest project which aims to conserve Federal Hill as a green lung for Kuala Lumpur as well as the historical aspects including the MNS HQ building. The success of these initiatives will depend on the Council members, staff and more importantly, Branch members acting as volunteers.

It is with this in mind, that I extend my grateful thanks to fellow Trustees, Management and staff for their support and contributions to MNS as we move forward.

Ar. John Koh

Chairman, MNS Board of Trustees