



## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR 1 JUNE 2016 – 31 MAY 2017**

The Board of Trustees held a total of four meetings during the year on 19 August 2016, 29 November 2016, 14 March 2017 and 13 June 2017. A joint meeting with the Council will be held on 22 July 2017.

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

As at the start of the year, the Board consisted of nine voting members drawn from academia, professionals and corporate leaders. Mr Lim Aun Tiah, Dr Hj Rahimatsah Amat and Haji Md Adnan Wan Ismail stepped down from the Board in September 2016. The Board thanked them for their contributions to the Society.

At the AGM, Tan Sri Dr Salleh Mohd Nor and Ms Ho Yuet Mee were elected to the Board. Mr Ngian Siew Siong was appointed to the Board by the Council on 21 November 2016.

Ar. John Koh was re-elected as BOT Chair and Dato' Ghazali was re-appointed as Vice Chair at the first BOT meeting.

### **REVIEW OF THE FINANCES OF MNS**

The Society's total revenue for the year showed an increase of 1% from RM5 million for the previous financial year to RM5.06 million for the current financial year, whilst total expenditure for the year amounted to RM5.05 million against RM4.6 million for the previous year, an increase of 10.4%, resulting in an operating approximate surplus of RM10 thousand as compared to the surplus of RM421 thousand for the previous year. This operating surplus was achieved mainly on account of the 3-year award received in April 2015.

Donations of RM91 thousand were received during the year and RM287 thousand was set aside in the Sustainability Fund.

The Board of Trustees is concerned over the increasing expenditure and the urgent need to manage costs more efficiently and procure more funding.

### **ACTIONS TAKEN BY BOT**

Following the meeting held on 19 August 2016 at MNS Nature Education Centre (NEC) at FRIM where all park managers presented their sustainability plans, the Centre Focus Group was set up consisting of 2 BOT members, 2 Council Members and the Executive Director. Their brief is to improve the financial sustainability of Kuala Selangor Nature Park, Nature Education Centre at FRIM and other centres.

Other members on the Board have introduced MNS education staff to international and private high schools in Kuala Lumpur; an initiative that aims to create awareness of MNS in the students and engaging them for ongoing programmes.

Recently, discussions have taken place to progress the Urban Community Forest project to the next level with the involvement of Badan Warisan Malaysia in the conservation of the heritage buildings and the natural environment of Federal Hill.

## **FINANCIAL RESERVES**

As at the end of the financial year on 31 May 2017, reserves remained at RM1.3 million. 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. 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund of RM 316,838; and
3. Property Fund of RM 629,254.

The Property Fund remains depleted from the original balance of RM946,441 arising from the deficit suffered in the 2014/2015 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 maintain its recommendation 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 for the Society.
- Efforts must be intensified to recruit alumni MNS members as volunteers in any public events and members' activities particularly at branch level.
- Marketing and Partnership must be activated to increase Corporate Sponsorship.
- A comprehensive Fund Raising strategy be initiated by a focus group comprising representation from Council and BOT.
- Staff assigned responsibilities to facilitate the achievement of the MNS Strategic Plan and MNS objectives.
- Realistic Budgeting and Financial Management must be part and parcel of the Management role.
- Regular news coverage and communication via social media to reflect ongoing Environmental Issues is a must to enhance MNS branding.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Board appreciates the final publication of the report of the Merdeka funded project '*Waterbirds and Wetland Habitats Survey of the Sarawak Coast: Identifying and assessing wetlands of conservation significance along Sarawak Coast*' and looks forward to the publication in the Malaysian Naturalist of the remaining four Merdeka project reports.

Moving forward the Board advocate that the Society embraces technology by digitising all records to safeguard MNS intellectual assets, and to continue using e-media for the two main publications, Malaysian Naturalist and Malayan Nature Journal to ensure a wider reach and increase MNS membership

It is with the above in mind, that I extend my grateful thanks to fellow Trustees, Management and staff for their support and contributions to MNS.

Ar. John Koh

Chairman, MNS Board of Trustees