

SEMENYIH RIVER POLLUTION MONITORING (WATER QUALITY)

Location: Semenyih, Selangor

Applicant: Pertubuhan Gagasan Prihatin Semenyih

Project Period: March 2017 – August 2017

Objectives:

The project aims;

1. To increase awareness among local community about the importance of conserving rivers for future generations;
2. To implement capacity building activities to protect Semenyih River from pollutions and illegal activities; and
3. To monitor Semenyih River from encroachment and illegal activities.

Achievements:

1. Established a monitoring group to monitor Semenyih River on monthly basis;
2. Organised bi-weekly water quality testing at Semenyih River;
3. Local community gains knowledge in conducting water quality testing using basic parameters; and
4. Established networking with the mainstream media to report on events such as river pollutions and illegal activities.

Background:

Semenyih River Pollution Monitoring is conducted as a continuation of Pertubuhan Gagasan Prihatin Semenyih's (GPS) clean-water-crisis related works started 3 years ago. Clean water crisis in Selangor are mainly caused by river pollutions causing not enough clean water supply for millions of users. Disruption of clean water supply has affected local communities to have access on clean water and resulted in water rationing. Hence, this project aims to increase awareness about the importance clean river.

In effort of keeping Semenyih River clean, GPS has to be supported by relevant partners since GPS does not have expertise in keeping the river clean. Hence, GPS has partnered with Global Environment Centre (GEC) to tap into its environmental expertise as well as to receive fund through National River Care Fund on conducting the activities. This partnership and fund allows

GPS to further enhance their efforts in raising awareness among local communities, taking proper steps of combating river pollution and monitoring the quality of Semenyih River.

Stakeholders:

- Local communities in the areas of Selangor, especially Semenyih.
- SPAN

Sharing experience:

1. Awareness, capacity building and community empowerment

- Raising awareness and building capacity are two important elements to create sense of ownership and responsibility among local community to conserve and protect the environment. These two elements will empower the local community to take the necessary action. In the case of GPS, RIVER Ranger training was given to equip them the necessary knowledge and skills such as river auditing to monitor water quality and river health of Semenyih River and pollution mapping to identify pollution source. As the result, GPS is actively monitoring health of the river.

2. Smart partnership

- Collaborations and partnerships with stakeholders and NGOs are important because their participation and support have the potential to influence outcomes. GPS has shown that they are able to complement government agency i.e. SPAN preventing river pollution.

3. Media engagement

- The project has empowered the community to establish networking and work closely with media to effectively notify the responsible agencies to take actions immediately. As the result, the community efforts have been highlighted several times on print and broadcast media. For instance, GPS received good media coverage on its effort in preventing the river pollution by identifying sewerage leakage at a retention pond that flows into Semenyih River. The issue was rectified immediately a day after.