



PRESS RELEASE

GEC celebrates 20th anniversary

More than 30 events to take place to celebrate two decades of building partnership for environment.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PETALING JAYA, 3 DECEMBER 2018: Today marks the 20th anniversary of the Global Environment Centre (GEC), a Malaysian non-profit organisation that works on environmental issues of global importance. Officially established on December 3, 1998 in Malaysia; the Centre works locally, regionally and internationally both directly and through many partners including government agencies, international organisations, private sector, civil society organisations and local communities. GEC supports information exchange and capacity building as well as undertakes strategic projects in developing countries. It works in partnership with other like-minded agencies worldwide.

“For the past two decades, we have been investing in empowering and enriching communities and stakeholders on forest and peatland conservation and best management practices, stimulating positive changes for a cleaner rivers and enhanced water resource management and spearheading working groups to transform practices for the oil palm industry.

We will continue to advocate protection, rehabilitation and sustainable use of forests, wetlands and water resources with community involvement for the betterment of our environment”, said Zainudin Ismail, Chairman of GEC, who is also former chairman of the Kuala Lumpur Bar Council.

“Twenty years marks a significant milestone for GEC. We began as a small NGO working solely with local communities and local government, and have since grown to a global NGO working with partners and funders from around the world addressing crucial benefits of environmental protection and sustainability.

During this 20 year period, **we have supported protection and rehabilitation of one of the largest peat swamp forests** in Peninsular Malaysia and helped in the **90% reduction in forest fires incidents and haze in Selangor; rehabilitated more than 100 hectares of degraded mangrove areas** with a total of 250,000 mangrove trees planted at Kuala Selangor and Sabak Bernam in Selangor, Kuala Gula and Lekir Sitiawan in Perak and at Pulau Tanjung Surat in Johor **involving more than 24,000 volunteers**; we are the pioneer and leading NGO on community-based river care in Malaysia. With the “River Care We Care approach” we established the **National River Care Fund** which has provided a total of **RM250,000 in grants and training benefiting more than 40 groups** comprising community groups, education institutions and interest groups in river care activities. We are also the **founding collaborative partner of ASEAN Peatland Management Initiative & ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy** which provides a road map for the management of the 23 million hectare of peatlands in ASEAN and we continue to **provide technical and operational support to all ASEAN Member States**,” said Faizal Parish, Founder and Director of GEC.

He also thanked many key government agencies and corporates including the ASEAN Secretariat, Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Federal Territories, Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change, Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia, Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia, Selangor State Government, State Forestry Departments, Selangor Water Management Authority (LUAS), Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ), HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad, SPARK Foundation, Vale Malaysia Minerals Sdn Bhd, Yayasan Hasanah, Yayasan Sime Darby, and also fellow NGOs, CBOs, local communities, friends of rivers, mangrove, peatland and individuals who have helped GEC to achieve the success that it has today.

To celebrate 20 years of partnership for the environment, GEC will be organising more than 30 events including knowledge – sharing workshops for stakeholders and local communities, media visits and a series of environment events and awareness raising activities for more than 30,000 volunteers and public to participate.

Members of media will have the opportunity to participate in a media platform and visits that will be organised in 2019 to raise awareness and deepen the understanding of the media on the importance of protecting the environment and sustainable development.

GEC has successfully undertaken more than 150 projects in more than 15 countries, covering environmental issues of global importance with a strong focus on river basin, wetlands, forest and biodiversity as well as climate change. Since its establishment, GEC has come long way to become a prominent NGO with internationally recognized expertise in safeguarding and protecting the environment in Malaysia, ASEAN and globally. We take pride in what we have achieved in 20 years and want to showcase this to the world. A calendar of events is available below.

For more information about GEC's 20th Anniversary Celebration, please visit www.gec.org.my or contact Outreach and Partnership Programme at 03-7957 2007 or email at outreach@gec.org.my

END

For media enquiries, please contact:

Adelaine Tan

E-mail: adelaine@gec.org.my

HP no.: 012 239 2983

Shafinaz Shahabudin

E-mail: shafinaz@gec.org.my

HP no.: 012 5135 495

About Global Environment Centre

Global Environment Centre was established in 1998 to work on environmental issues of global importance. The Centre is registered in Malaysia as a non-profit organisation but works regionally and internationally both directly and through many partners. It supports information exchange and capacity building as well as undertakes strategic projects particularly in developing countries. It works in partnership with other like-minded agencies worldwide.

For more information on the Global Environment Centre please visit www.gec.org.my

GEC 20th Anniversary – Calendar of Events Dec 2018-2019

DECEMBER 2018

Capacity Building & Peer Learning Programme For Friends Of Tanjung Surat Mangrove Forest.

When & Where: 18 Dec – 22 Dec, 2018; Kuala Gula and Lekir Setiawan, Perak ; Kampung Datuk Hormat, Selangor.

Sharing and learning session with Friends of Klang River Basin (by invitation only).

When & Where: 16 Dec 2018; River Open Classroom, Urban Community Forest Centre at MNS.

Bukit Kiara River Walk (by invitation only)

When & Where: 22 Dec; Bukit Kiara, KL.

JANUARY 2019

Mangrove Tree Planting with Friends of Tanjung Surat Mangrove Forest (event open to public).

When & Where: date to be confirmed; Pulau Tanjung Surat, Johor.

FEBRUARY 2019

GEC 20th Anniversary Sharing – Learning Workshop (by invitation only).

When & Where: date and exact location to be confirmed; Klang Valley (

Celebration of World Wetlands Day 2019 (event open to public).

When & Where: February/March (date to be confirmed); Raja Musa Forest Reserve, Selangor.

Mangrove Tree Planting with Friends of Tanjung Surat Mangrove Forest (by invitation only).

When & Where: date to be confirmed; Pulau Tanjung Surat, Johor.

River Walk & Launching of Bukit Kiara Sg Penchala Open Classroom : River Walk Guidebook

When & Where: date to be confirmed; Bukit Kiara, KL.

MARCH 2019

River Walk at Klang River (event open to public).

When & Where: date to be confirmed; Masjid Jamek, Kuala Lumpur.

RIVER Ranger 2.0 training workshop in conjunction with World Water Day 2019 celebration (by invitation only).

When & Where: date to be confirmed; Klang Valley (exact location to be confirmed).

Mangrove Tree Planting with Friends of Tanjung Surat Mangrove Forest (by invitation only).

When & Where: date to be confirmed; Pulau Tanjung Surat, Johor.

Tree planting at North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest in conjunction with International Day for Forests 2019 (event open to public).

When & Where: date to be confirmed; Raja Musa Forest Reserve, Selangor.

APRIL 2019

Tree planting at North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest in conjunction with Earth Day 2019 (event open to public).

When & Where: date to be confirmed; Raja Musa Forest Reserve, Selangor.

MAY 2019

Community Empowerment and Knowledge Workshop (by invitation only).

When & Where: date to be confirmed; venue to be confirmed.

JUNE 2019

Tree planting at North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest in conjunction with World Environment Day 2019 (event open to public).

When & Where: date to be confirmed; Raja Musa Forest Reserve, Selangor.

Media visit - National River Care Fund

When & Where: date to be confirmed; venue to be confirmed.

River Walk at Klang River (event open to public).

When & Where: date to be confirmed; Masjid Jamek, Kuala Lumpur.

JULY 2019

Tree planting at North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest in conjunction with World Population Day 2019 (event open to public).

When & Where: date to be confirmed; Raja Musa Forest Reserve, Selangor.

Celebration of International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem 2019 (event open to public).

When & Where: date to be confirmed; venue to be confirmed.

AUGUST 2019

Tree planting at North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest in conjunction with Merdeka Day Celebration 2019 (event open to public).

When & Where: date to be confirmed; Raja Musa Forest Reserve, Selangor.

Media visit to Selected GEC Project

When & Where: date to be confirmed.

SEPTEMBER 2019

Celebration of International Coastal Clean-Up Day 2019 (event open to public).

When & Where: date to be confirmed; Raja Musa Forest Reserve, Selangor & Lekir Setiawan, Perak.

Alien Fish Fishing Competition in conjunction with World Rivers Day 2019 Celebration (event open to public).

When & Where: date to be confirmed; KL (exact location to be confirmed).

NRCF – Asiana Chic Book Launching. Venue: Taman Tugu, KL (event open to public).

When & Where: 29 Sept 2018 ; Taman Tugu, KL.

River Walk at Klang River (event open to public).

When & Where: date to be confirmed; Masjid Jamek, Kuala Lumpur.

FLOOD Ranger training: Community flood proofing and climate adaptation for local communities (by event invitation only).

When & Where: date to be confirmed; venue to be confirmed.

Peat Forest Ranger Camp 2019 for schools.

When & Where: date to be confirmed; venue to be confirmed.

OCTOBER 2019

Tree planting at North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest in conjunction with International Day of Climate Action 2019 (event open to public).

When & Where: date to be confirmed; Raja Musa Forest Reserve, Selangor.

NOVEMBER 2019

Tree planting at Selangor Peat Swamp Forest in conjunction with Universal Children's Day 2019 (event open to public).

When & Where: date to be confirmed; Raja Musa Forest Reserve, Selangor.