

NEWS CLIPPING

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Educating officers on river rehabilitation

SUBANG JAYA: GAB Foundation (GABF), Global Environment Centre (GEC) and Irrigation and Drainage Department of Malaysia (JPS) conducted a workshop for JPS officials recently.

It was part of the Urban River Rehabilitation Handbook initiative.

Launched by JPS director-general Datuk Ahmad Husaini Sulaiman, the workshop aimed to give JPS officials firsthand knowledge of using the handbook to their advantage, with a key focus on community engagement.

Entitled "A Handbook on Urban River Management Through Local Community Participation", it was launched in April.

It highlights key learning and best practices developed during the three-year urban river rehabilitation project spearheaded by GABF and

GEC. The river rehabilitation project is a key initiative under the foundation's W.A.T.E.R Project (Working Actively Through Education & Rehabilitation) which aims to engage and empower stakeholders to make the choice to conserve water sources.

To date, the W.A.T.E.R Project has received support and recognition from government agencies, including the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry, JPS Selangor, Lembaga Urus Air Selangor and the Petaling Jaya City Council.

Seventy representatives of GABF, GEC and JPS state representatives attended the full-day workshop at Holiday Villa Subang.

The highlights included an introduction of the W.A.T.E.R Project and achievements of the Sungei Way Rehabilitation Project by GABF man-

agement committee director Renuka Indraraja.

GEC river care programme coordinator Dr K. Kalithasan, presented a comprehensive explanation of how the handbook can be used as a guide for community involvement and why it is crucial for the people to be a part of the project.

"The main source of drinking water comes from our rivers.

"All of us have a role to play in protecting and conserving it," said Husaini.

"I'm pleased that GABF has taken the lead in involving the local community in its river rehabilitation efforts, as this is in line with JPS

Malaysia's *One State One River* programme.

"Its target is to restore selected rivers in each state with the full participation of stakeholders," he added.

Renuka said community

participation was a key factor in ensuring the success of the Foundation's Sungei Way Rehabilitation Project.

"The success of the project is the culmination of hard work, support and collaboration from the various stakeholders.

"Now the three-year project is complete.

We would like to share our learning and experiences with JPS officials and to help them adopt and adapt some of the best practices in their respective river rehabilitation projects," she also added.

To help JPS officials get the most out of the workshop, a field excursion was organised for participants to visit the Sungei Way river site, Desa Mentari's composting area and the River Care Education Centre.



Dr K. Kalithasan explaining how a water quality test kit works to JPS officials at the River Care Education Centre.



JPS officials on a field excursion to the Sungai Wav river site.



Datuk Ahmad Husaini Sulaiman launching the workshop at Holiday Villa Subang.



Sungei Way community leader Mohd Zaini Abdullah Thani showing how used cooking oil can be turned into soaps and candles. It is part of the W.A.T.E.R Project initiative.



JPS officials reading the handbook on 'Urban River Management Through Local Community Participation'.



Sungei Way assistant community leader Zainal Abidin explaining the composting process to JPS state representatives.