

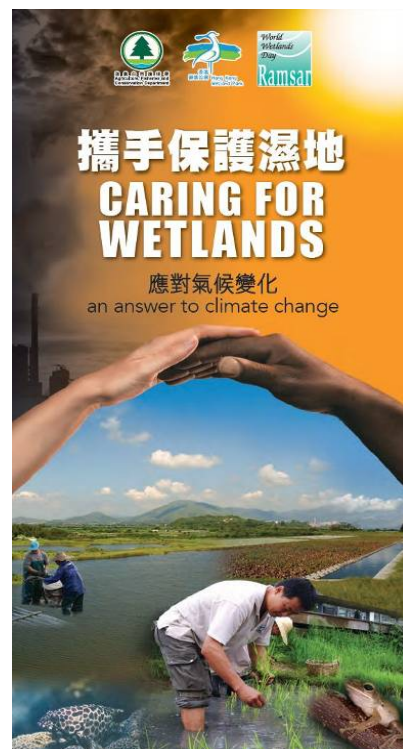


Hong Kong Wetland Park, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

World Wetlands Day 2010 Hong Kong Celebration Programme

1. Hong Kong Wetland Park of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has organised a four-month "World Wetlands Day 2010 Hong Kong Celebration Programme" from October 2009 to February 2010. Over 200 activities was organised, which reached over 7,000 participants.

2. The theme of "World Wetlands Day 2010 Hong Kong Celebration Programme" was "Wetland, Biodiversity, Climate Change". Hong Kong Wetland Park made use of the slogan "Caring for Wetlands – an answer to Climate Change 携手保护湿地·应对气候变化" to organise a series of educational and promotional activities to match with Ramsar Convention's "Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA)" programme to promote the sustainable use of wetland resources.



Hong Kong educational and promotional activities

3. Next to the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, the Hong Kong Wetland Park is one of the important stopover points for migratory waterbirds. Every year, many migratory birds stay in Hong Kong from October to the next March, making it the best period for bird watching. To date, the Park has recorded over 230 bird species, which is about 50% of Hong Kong bird species recorded. 60% of the bird species recorded in HKWP are migrants and 11 species are globally threatened, including Black-faced Spoonbill and Baikal Teal. The Park is also famous for freshwater specialists such as Greater Painted-snipe and Water-pheasant.

4. Birds are regarded as bio-indicator to the environment, and bird records have been widely used to



show the effect of climate change. To encourage more people to observe these beautiful birds and to promote monitoring of the environment as well as relevant impact by climate change, Hong Kong Wetland Park organised the "Bird Watching Festival" to echo with the WWD theme from 17 October 2009 to 28 February 2010.

5. "World Wetlands Day 2010 - Bird Watching Festival" was divided into three major categories, including Public Participation, Environmental Studies and Interactive Wetlands.

Public Participation - Regular Weekend and Public Holiday Activities for public to participate

- Wetland Cultural Festival
- Public Lectures
- Painting for the Guinness World Records™
- Bird Watching Guided Tour
- "Birds and Wetlands Snap Shot" Photo Collection
- Friends of Wetlands - Wetland Stamp for Memories
- "My Delightful Park Experience" Corner
- Photography with the "Wetland Animal Star"
- Black-faced Spoonbill Artwork Collection

Environmental Studies - including bird watching observation, news reporting and competition etc

- "A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Hong Kong"
- "A Glimpse of the Breeding Black-faced Spoonbill" Film Show
- The 10th Inter-school Bird Race
- 2nd "Wetlands in My Eyes" Inter-school News Reporting Contest
- Origami Egret Installation Art
- "Know More About BIRDS" Thematic Exhibition
- "Wetlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change" Exhibition

Interactive Wetlands - Performing group: by using storytelling and acting performances to enhance visitors' knowledge on bird migration and climate change.

- "Wetland and Climate Change" Drama
- The 4th Storytelling Competition - "The Wonder of Bird Migration"

6. The HKWP organised "World Wetlands Day 2010 - Bird Watching Festival" in collaboration with various government departments, NGOs and other organisations, including: Yuen Long District Office, Yuen Long District School Development Section, Education Bureau, Hong Kong Observatory, Ming Pao Daily News, Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union, MTR Corporation, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Division of Ecology and Biodiversity The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Council of Early Childhood Education & Service, Hong Kong Origami Society, Theatre Noir and YOUYUN: Education workshop for teachers on mangrove ecology.



7. Details of the World Wetlands Day 2010 - Bird Watching Festival Programme

7.1 Public Participation

7.1.1 Wetland Cultural Festival

To celebrate "World Wetlands Day 2010", Hong Kong Wetland Park of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department organised the "Wetland Cultural Festival" from 13 February (Saturday) to 28 February (Sunday) 2010, offering visitors an enriched wetland journey with McDull (a famous local cartoon image) during Chinese New Year. Apart from the mini-film "McDull at Wetlands", the Park presented delightful dramas, interactive workshops, and exhibitions on "Wetlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change" as well as "Wetland Art Gallery". Advocating the importance of wetlands while absolutely fun-filled, the festival was for the enjoyment of all ages.



7.1.2 Public Lecture: Climate is Changing, act now!

A public lecture was organised under the theme of "Climate is Changing, Act Now!" on 10 October 2009. Global warming is unequivocal and climate change has been a salient topic of discussion in recent years. In this lecture, the speaker introduced the background of global climate change, climate change in Hong Kong and the projection of future trends. The impacts of climate change and what we can do to mitigate its effects were discussed.



7.1.3 Public Lecture: The Black-faced Spoonbill: A successful story of twenty year's conservation effort

"The Black-faced Spoonbill: A Success Story of Twenty Year's Conservation Effort" was organised on 24 October 2009. The Black-faced Spoonbill was once listed as "Critically Endangered". Through the past twenty years of conservation effort, the presence of this bird species is mostly regarded as an indicator of the quality of coastal habitats in Asia nowadays. In this lecture, the speaker Mr. Simba Chan has introduced the status of the Black-faced Spoonbill, global census and satellite tracking, conservation work in Asia as well as conservation action plans. He also shared the success stories of conservation effort and output related to the bird.

保育黑臉琵鷺20年的成功故事
The Black-faced Spoonbill:
A Successful Story of Twenty Years' Conservation Effort



7.1.4 "Birds and Wetlands" Painting for the Guinness World Records™

Hong Kong Wetland Park has set a new Guinness World Record! On 17 October 2009, a total of 2,041 students and members of the general public gathered at the Wetland Reserve of Hong Kong Wetland Park and created a painting of 959.35-metre long and 1.2-meter width with the theme of "birds and wetlands". On 30 October 2009, it was confirmed by Guinness World Records that the attempt had set a new "longest painting by numbers" world record. The event has attracted a wide range of news reports, which has successfully promoted the theme of World Wetlands Day 2010.



7.1.5 Bird Watching Guided Tour

In November 2009, Hong Kong Wetland Park launched bird watching guided tours. Interpreters and volunteers showed visitors different kinds of wetland environments, including freshwater marshes, stream and mudflat to search for traces of birds. They introduced living habits of birds and their close relationship with wetlands. In addition, Hong Kong Wetland Park installed telescopes at three bird hides (Riverside Hide, Fishpond Hide and Mudflat Hide) in the Wetland Reserve, for ease of visitors to observe various kinds of wetland birds.



Know More - Birds:

Dates : November 2009 to March 2010 (Every Saturday, Sunday and public holiday)

Time : 10:30, 14:30 (duration around 1.5 to 2 hours)

Bird Watching Guided Tour

Dates : November 2009 to March 2010 (Every Wednesday and Friday, except public holiday)

Time : 14:30 (duration around 1 hour) (duration around 1.5 to 2 hours)

7.1.6 "Birds and Wetlands" Snap Shot - Photo Collection Activity

From October 2009 to February 2010, Hong Kong Wetland Park organised "Birds and Wetlands" Snap Shot - Photo Collection Activity to encourage visitors observe the beauty of environment. The activity was well received by the public, we have now collected more than 2500 photos by the visitors and have chosen 300 outstanding pictures for the exhibition of "Birds and Wetlands" Art Gallery at the Viewing Gallery, 1/F, Hong Kong Wetland Park.



7.1.7 Friend of Wetlands --- Wetland Stamp for Memories

Stamp collectors could collect a variety of stamps from Hong Kong Wetland Park and bring good memories back home. Visitors can collect a blank certificate and then visit different places of the exhibition galleries and wetland reserve to collect "memories stamps" with different species of plants and animals. Once completed the collection of five memory stamps, they would become a "Friend of Wetlands" with the stamped certificate.



7.1.8 My Delightful Park Experience

From 17 October 2009 till 28 February 2010, visitors could share their thoughts or happy moments by writing down and drawing on a postcard, tie up to the collection panel in the Atrium, to share with everyone their delightful park experience.



7.1.9 Photography with the "Wetland Animal Star"

Wetland Animal Stars Mr. Black-faced Spoonbill and Ms. Crocodile Pui Pui greeted and took pictures with visitors every Sunday and public holiday of November of 2009 and February 2010 respectively.



7.1.10 Black-faced Spoonbill Artwork Collection

The exhibition displayed photos, drawings and artwork by public and students, to depict their elegance and interesting habits, and to deliver the message of wetland conservations, by using wasted materials between 20 January and 28 February 2010. 60 outstanding works has been chosen for display.



7.2 Environmental Studies

7.2.1 A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Hong Kong

To encourage using birds as one of the environmental indicators in ecological monitoring, Hong Kong Wetland Park supported Hong Kong Bird Watching Society to produce 1,000 complimentary copies of "A Photographic Guide of Birds of Hong Kong" for free distribution to secondary schools to promote bird-watching or to establish bird watching clubs.



The book is in 800 pages, 230cm(l) x 170cm(w), full-coloured. It serves as a useful reference for the public to identify local bird species and recognise their unique traits while watching birds in the wild.

7.2.2 "A Glimpse of the Breeding Spoonbill" Film Show

Black-faced Spoonbill is one of the precious endangered species, their population is around 2,000 individuals. The known breeding sites include small remote islands at the northeast of Changshan Qundao in Liaoning province, westward islands between North and South Korean Peninsula, and eastern coastal area of far east Vladivostok Bay of Russia. Every year, Black-faced Spoonbill will winter in Hong Kong, and Hong Kong Wetland Park is one of the most easiest places to look for them. We created a 10-minute film "A Glimpse of the Breeding Black-faced Spoonbill" for visitors to witness some precious moments, allowing them to understand the mating, incubation and feeding process of the bird. The film was shown in Theatre of the Hong Kong Wetland Park. It was also produced in DVD for educational propose.



7.2.3 The 10th Inter-School Bird Race

The 10th Inter-school Bird Race aimed to arouse students' interest in wetland bird identification as well as monitoring the changes in environment through recording species. The race route covered different wetland habitats. Entries were required to design their own 4-hours race route for recording the highest number of bird species.

The bird race of 2009 attracted a total of 200 participants who formed 49 teams from 30 secondary schools. We hope the schools will keep on encouraging students to observe birds and the environment, as well as enjoy watching the nature.



7.2.4 The 2nd "Wetlands in My Eyes" Inter-school News Reporting Contest

The news reporting contest was organised between October till December 2009. It was co-organised by Hong Kong Wetland Park, Hong Kong Observatory, Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union, Ming Pao Daily News and life.mingpao.com. The competition encouraged students to learn about the effects of climate change on biodiversity and wetlands. Students were required to prepare a news report through collation and analysis of information collected by various methods such as surveys, observation of plants,



animals and different habitats, interviews, or collection of information related to climate change. The competition received 40 pieces of news reports, works of winning entries were published in Ming Pao Daily News and for exhibition.

In addition, Hong Kong Wetland Park co-organised with Hong Kong Observatory from October to December 2009 to publish a series of 8 articles on the theme of Climate Change.

7.2.5 Inter-school Bird Watching Network

Hong Kong Wetland Park of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, and Division of Ecology and Biodiversity of The University of Hong Kong jointly organised the "Inter-school Bird-watching Network" in the academic year 2009/10.

The aim of the "Inter-school Bird-watching Network" ('the Programme') was to promote bird-watching among schools and to encourage establishment of bird-watching clubs. The organisers held bird-watching training sessions on topics including bird identification at different habitats (urban area, wetland, woodland, open area), Bird Race and workshops. In addition, students could also apply knowledge gained from the programme by conducting field surveys or participating in project-based studies. Participating schools would also earn learning credits by taking part in the activities to redeem teaching aids and equipment such as guidebooks and binoculars as rewards.



7.2.6 Origami Egretty Installation Art

HKWP co-organised with Hong Kong Origami Society to develop a display on "Origami Egretty Installation Art" from 17 October 2009 till 28 February 2010 to enhance public understanding of egrets and herons through incorporating wetlands and arts.



7.2.7 Thematic Exhibition: Know More About Birds

From October 2009, the star of Bird Watching Festival, "Pei Pei", would explore these mysteries with visitor at the "Know More About BIRDS" thematic exhibition at Hong Kong Wetland Park.



7.2.8 Exhibition: Wetlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change

Hong Kong Wetland Park has set up "Wetlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change" exhibition panels, for visitors to become aware of the cause of climate change, and its effect on wetland ecosystem and biodiversity. Visitors would broaden their understanding of the threats that wetlands face and learn the importance of protection of wetlands. The exhibition panels would be available for loan to schools after the exhibition period. To download the education material, click here:



Panels: http://www.wetlandpark.com/wwd2010/downloads/wwd_panel.pdf

Pamphlet: http://www.wetlandpark.com/wwd2010/downloads/wwd_pamphlet.pdf

7.3 Interactive Wetlands

7.3.1 The 4th Storytelling Competition – “The Wonder of Bird Migration”

In the Storytelling Competition, primary and kindergarten students transformed into wetland plants and animals! More than cute Little Egret Sisters' and eye-catching Fiddler Crab Brothers' stunning performance, the students managed to tell an interesting wetland story to the audience and judges through acting, singing, and lecturing. The competition was taken place on 16 January 2010 (Saturday).



7.3.2 Wetland and Climate Change Drama

Two drama presented by Hong Kong Wetland Park on October 2009 and February 2010, both to address on the relationship between wetlands and climate change.

- **"Upstream – Downstream: River of Time"**
- 17 Oct 2009 and 6 Feb 2010
- **"Family Adventure Lost in the Wetlands"**
- 14 to 20 February 2010



7.3.3 World Wetlands Day 2010 Hong Kong Celebration Ceremony

Hong Kong Wetland Park successfully organised "World Wetlands Day 2010 Hong Kong Celebration Ceremony" on 6 February 2010, to promote the theme of "World Wetlands Day 2010" and to present prizes to competition winners and volunteers, and to encourage everyone to keep up with their efforts on wetlands conservation.

On that day, there were also choir performances by students, the 4th Storytelling Competition Winners Presentation - "The Wonder of Bird Migration" presented by the kindergarten students and drama: Wetland and Climate Change Drama - 'Upstream, Downstream: River of Time'.



8. Updated news and pictures of "World Wetlands Day 2010 - Bird Watching Festival" can be found in www.wetlandpark.com/wwd2010

