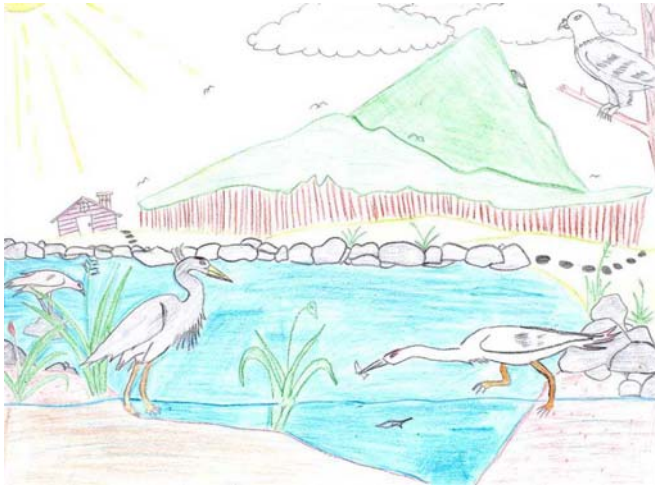


A Report on

Caring for Wetlands – an answer to climate change: World Wetlands Day 2010

By: Yalap P. Yalap



1st Place Drawing Contest by Spencer Remoket,
8th Grade, Ngchesar Elementary School.

The World Wetlands Day is celebrated worldwide every year on February 2nd. This date marks the adoption of the Ramsar Convention. It is the United Nation's convention on Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands with international importance. Palau is a party to the Ramsar Convention since 2003 with other 158 contracting parties. The official Ramsar site in Palau is the Ngardok Nature Reserve. The National Focal Point for Palau to Ramsar is the Bureau of Agriculture. The theme for this year is

Caring for Wetlands – an answer to climate change. This year, the Palau World Wetlands Day Committee members

are the Bureau of Agriculture, Palau Conservation Society, Ngardok Nature Reserve, Melekeok State Government, PCAA and PCC-CRE. The observations for this year's World Wetlands Day were celebrated on February 5th.

The Palau celebrations included speeches about importance of wetlands by Paramount Chief Reklai B. Ngirmang and Fred Sengebau, Director, Bureau of Agriculture. There were essay and drawing contests among 7th grade students from elementary schools of Ngchesar, Melekeok and Ngiwal. At the end of the ceremony, the students witnessed two native trees planting called Chelangel (*Pouteria obovata*) by the Reklai and Director Sengebau. The tree planting symbolized the encouragement of the students as future leaders of Palau to be more environmentally conscious. So why plant Chelangel trees? The leaves are used medicinally for women's hot bath, the fruits are food for Belochel (Micronesian Pigeon), and other forest birds.

The World Wetlands Day celebrations are to promote public awareness of wetland values and benefits to communities. This year's theme is in union with the United Nation's declaration of this year as the International Year of Biodiversity. Wetlands fall under ecosystems diversity. People all over the world are working to raise awareness and safeguard biodiversity.

In the essay contest category, please below read the 1st Place Winner's essay in Palauan language by Mr. Meruai Ngotel, 8th Grade student from Ngchesar Elementary School. Second Place went to Arantxa Obechou Andres and third place went to Ki-chea Liep. Both girls are 7th grade from Melekeok Elementary School. The 2nd place of the drawing contest went to Mr. Klipper

Ngoriakl, 7th grade of Ngchesar Elementary School and 3rd place went to Mr. Tkel Rechucher, 7th grade of Ngiwal Elementary School. Congratulations to all winners!

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Wetland - answer to climate change

Ak mo omukhel er tia el babilngkek me a kmo oker el kmo, "Ngera delomeklochel e mekera tengesukid el kokeringii a kleldetel a beluulechari?" A delomeklochel a basio el nga er ngii a mesei me a dochel me a omrekongel er ngii. Tia el basio a blil e dirnek el luket a bek el bedengel a meklou me a mekekerei el charm. Ng dirnek el blil a betok el kakeraus el dellamel. Aika el dellamel a dirnek el lousbech a kakeraus el charm el ngar tia el basio. A rechad mete dirnek el kma el ousbech er tia el basio, te ousbech a dellamel me a charm el mengai er tia el basio el mo kall maleshub, eng klekedellel a klalo el lorvul. A delomeklochel a dirnek el sebechel el nga er ngii a rolet a ralm el nga era ika el basio el kmai el meklou a ututelel. A kot, a ralm a omekngar a dellamel meng di ngar el diak el mad. Tia el ralm a dirnek el omngim, a charm er tia el basio, meng diak el mad e dirnek el diak lorael el kuk mo era ta era basio. Se el mo me ngulebengel, a kelkettel tia el basio me a ralm el ngar er ngii. Tia el kelekolt a sebechel el kokeringii a klou el kleald era beluu. Ng dirnek tia el kelkettel a delomeklochel a sebechel el kursii a

techellel a kleald meng. tuobed mem
diak el mekeald a beluuteched. Tiakid
a uldashek me kulengit me dekaitngosay
lotutii a theme er kid el kimo.
"Delomeklochel - ngosukid el mtebechuli?
a blekardel a eangod me a eolt
me a kledelel a belund.
Kora kmal mesulang.

The Palau 2010 World Wetlands Day Committee consists of the Bureau of Agriculture, Palau Conservation Society, Palau Community College – CRE, Palau Community Action Agency, Melekeok State Government and Ngardok Nature Reserve. The committee decided, planned, organized and implemented the activities below:

1. Kashgar Rengulbai, Chairman, Ngardok Nature Reserve, was guest on the PCS Weekly Radio Talk Show on January 28, 2010 talking about the World Wetlands and the importance of Ngardok Nature Reserve.
2. Soft Opening of the Visitor's Center of the Ngardok Nature Reserve. The center is 90% complete.
3. Essay Contest for 7th and 8th grade students from Ngiwal Elementary School, Melekeok Elementary School and Ngchesar Elementary School.
4. Drawing Contest for 7th and 8th grade students from Ngiwal Elementary School, Melekeok Elementary School and Ngchesar Elementary School.
5. Native Treen Planting by Paramount Chief Reklai B. Ngirmang and Director Fred Sengebau.
6. Guided Nature Trail Hike of Ngardok Nature Reserve.
7. Article to 3 local newspapers.

The Palau 2010 World Wetlands Day Committee on behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism would like that thank the following donors for their cash and in-kind donations towards prizes of the contests and the celebration day. They were Morita Corporation; Honorable Noah Idechong, Speaker of the House of Delegates; Honorable Secilil Eldebechel, Member, House of Delegates; Western Caroline Trading Company and Taiwan Technical Mission.

Pictures.....

Paramount Chief Reklai Ngirmang gets helping hand from grandson planting native tree seedling called chelangel, *Pouteria obovata*



Group picture of 7th & 8th grade students from 3 Ngiwal, Melekeok & Ngchesar Elementary Schools

