

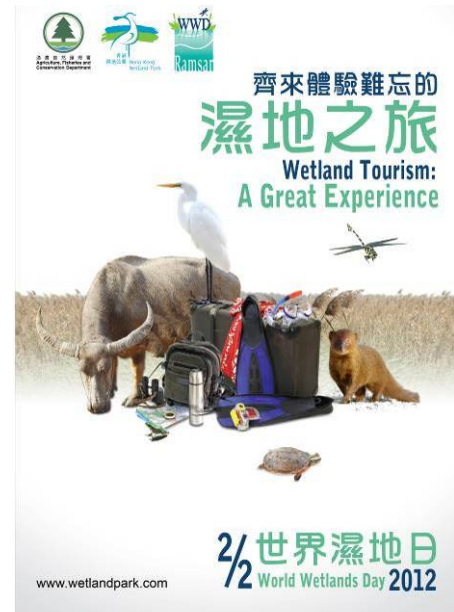


Hong Kong Wetland Park, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

World Wetlands Day 2012 Hong Kong Celebration Programmes

1. The Hong Kong Wetland Park (HKWP) is a world-class conservation, education and tourism facility with a theme on the functions and values of wetlands. With a vision to educate general public and visitors from all parts of the world on wetland education, HKWP has developed a wide range of education programmes in accordance with the Ramsar Convention's "Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA)" programme to promote the sustainable use of wetland resources.

2. The Park celebrates the World Wetlands Day (WWD) every year to deliver wetland conservation messages. The theme of WWD 2012 was "Wetland Tourism" with the slogan "Wetland Tourism: A Great Experience". To echo with the theme, a series of fun-filled activities were organised from November 2011 to March 2012.



3. Details of the activities organised for the WWD 2012

3.1. Thematic Activities on Ducks

To promote the conservation of birds, the adorable migratory ducks became the icon of the series of events. Every year, large flocks of ducks inhabit at the Hong Kong Wetland Park. The Park introduced to visitor the ecology of various commonly seen species. To enrich visitors' experiences, the comic character "Ah Lei" was appointed as the ambassador to bring the public to know more about the lovely ducks in a fun-filled way.



3.2. Thematic Lectures

Situated next to the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, numerous winter birds migrate from the North to rest and roost in the Park every year. As an important habitat for birds and hot spot for bird watching, the Park has cumulatively recorded 238 bird species. Three thematic public lectures were organised to give an introduction of migratory birds in Hong Kong:



- I. Popular Science Lecture at Hong Kong Science Museum: Migratory Birds of Hong Kong Wetland Park
- II. Thematic Lecture at Hong Kong Central Library: Bird Migration
- III. Public Lecture Series at HKWP: Bird Migration

A total of 193 participants attended the thematic lectures.

3.3. Bird Watching Guided Tours

From November 2011, regular bird watching guided tours were organised for visitors every day. Visitors were able to follow interpreters and volunteers for a journey of bird watching at the Bird Hides of the Park. More than 1,900 visitors participated in the tours. They were satisfied with the tours and gave positive feedbacks.



3.4. DIY Workshops

For those who have an artistic mind, DIY workshops were organised to allow visitors learn about conservation messages by expressing creativity. These workshops aimed to raise visitors' interest and enrich their knowledge of ducks. Details are as follows:

Origami and Badge Stations:

In the joyful workshop, children learnt about the features of ducks with their creative painting. The origami and Badge Stations served over 10,000 visitors during the thematic period.



DIY Key Chain Making Classes:

Visitors made use of clay to handcraft their lovely duck key chains and bring them home for conveying conservation messages to others. Over 190 participants attended the art making classes.



3.5. *My Favourite Duck Poll*

Visitors were invited to vote for their favorite duck species among the selected duck stars. The species getting most votes for each poll period were shortlisted and prizes were given to winners as encouragement. As at February 2012, over 4,000 visitors participated in the poll and Eurasian Wigeon received the highest number of votes.



3.6. *Thematic Exhibitions*

Exhibition on "Migratory Birds and Wetlands" at Hong Kong Science Museum

The Park collaborated with the Hong Kong Science Museum in organising the exhibition titled "Migratory Birds and Wetlands". The exhibition explored with visitors the secrets of bird migration, and introduced the diversity of birds in wetlands.



Roving Exhibition on "Bird Migration" at Public Libraries

A roving exhibition on "Bird Migration" was organised at several public libraries in Hong Kong. The exhibition was to tie-in with a book display titled "Wetland and Migratory Birds" during the respective exhibition period.



Go Ducks watching with "Ah Lei"

The exhibition introduced five common duck species at the Park, including Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Eurasian Teal, Northern Shoveler and Garganey. With the lead of the ambassador Ah Lei, visitors explored the cool facts about ducks including their habits and behavior.



3.7. *Duck Photos Collection*

A "Duck Photos Collection" was organised to encourage visitors to observe the beauty of ducks. The activity was well received by the public, and exquisite entries were selected for exhibition at the Park.



3.8. Wetland Classroom

Several sessions of “Wetland Classroom” were organised to provide opportunities for bird-watching beginners to learn more about birds. Nearly 80 participants took this class as their initial step to explore the nature, and the relationships between wetlands and birds.



3.9. The 6th Storytelling Competition - “My Joyful Journey in Wetlands”

Hong Kong Wetland Park and the Hong Kong Council of Early Childhood Education & Services (HKCECES) co-organised “The 6th Storytelling Competition” with the theme "My Joyful Journey in Wetlands". Primary and kindergarten students acted as vivid wetland plants and animals to promote wetland tourism and conservation. A total of 26 teams took part in the competition enthusiastically and prepared interesting scripts, lovely costumes and stunning plots for the event. The performances received thunderous applause from the audiences.



3.10 The 12th Inter-school Bird Race

Hong Kong Wetland Park and Hong Kong Bird Watching Society co-organised the 12th Inter-school Bird Race. A total of 200 participants in 40 teams joined the race. The event aimed to develop students’ skills in bird identification and ecological surveys. The Park provided lectures, practical trainings and field trips for participating students prior to the Bird Race. During the 5-hour race, participants visited different wetland habitats at the Park and its surrounding area, including fishponds, tidal ponds, riverside, mangroves, mudflat and woodland to identify and record bird species.



3.11 World Wetlands Day 2012 Hong Kong Celebration Ceremony

As a highlight of the WWD celebrations, the Park organised the "World Wetlands Day 2012 Hong Kong Celebration Ceremony" on 28 January 2012. In the ceremony, prizes were awarded to the winners of "Bird Watching Festival 2011/12" activities and volunteers who provided great support to the Park for the past year.



3.12 "World Wetlands Day 2012" Film Show

The vibrant wetlands at Hong Kong Wetland Park amazed over 3 million visitors over the years. Many visitors were impressed by their wonderful journey in the Park. A 4-minute film was produced to share visitors' great experience at the Park. The film is viewable at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CvAOzERmcv8>



4 More information for the Bird Watching Festival celebrating WWD2012 can be found in http://www.wetlandpark.com/en/education/bwf11_12.asp