



**Hong Kong Wetland Park,
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Hong Kong SAR Government**

**World Wetlands Day 2013
Hong Kong Celebration Programmes**

1. 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 conservation, HKWP has developed a wide range of programmes in accordance with the Ramsar Convention's "Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA)" programme to promote the sustainable use of wetland resources.



2. HKWP celebrates the World Wetlands Day (WWD) every year to deliver wetland conservation messages. The theme of WWD 2013 was "Wetlands and Water Management" with the slogan "Wetlands Take Care of Water". To echo with the theme, a series of fun-filled activities were organised since November 2012.

3. Details of the activities organised for the WWD 2013

3.1. Thematic Activities on Long-legged Birds

To promote the conservation of birds, the elegant long-legged birds became the icon of the series of events. As winter approaches, the ever-changing nature displayed another majestic scene. The migratory birds from the north began their long journey southward, and received our warm greetings. Among



the thousands of birds, some waterbirds including spoonbills, herons, egrets, avocets, stilts and curlews have amazing long legs. They are dependent on wetlands where they wade in water to look for food. For the first time, the Park has invited renowned local artist Ah Chung to share his profound love of nature with visitors by demonstrating his painting skills that can portray real life through seemingly effortless brush strokes.



3.2. Thematic Lectures

Situated next to the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, HKWP attracts numerous winter birds migrated from the north. As an important habitat for birds and hot spot for bird watching, the Park has cumulatively recorded 241 bird species. Two thematic public lectures were organised to tell stories of birds by experts:



- I. Long-legged Waterbirds in Inner Deep Bay
- II. Caring about Birds at Hong Kong Wetland Park

3.3. Bird Watching Guided Tours

From November 2012, 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. Thousands of visitors participated in the tours; they were satisfied with the tours and gave positive feedbacks.



3.4. Interpretation Sessions

HKWP organised thematic interpretation sessions for visitors who eager to learn more about the long-legged waterbirds. Our speakers presented informative facts about these birds, including their foraging habits and courtship rituals.



3.5. 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 birds. Details are as follows:

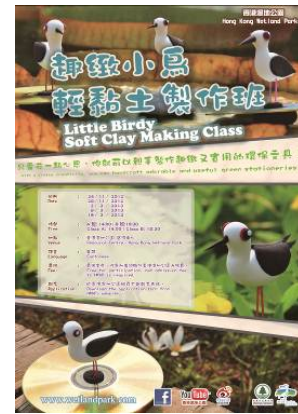
Origami and Badge Stations:

In the joyful workshop, children learnt about the features of birds with their creative painting. The origami and badge stations served over thousands of family visitors during the thematic period.



“Little Birdy” Soft Clay Making Classes:

Visitors made use of soft clay to handcraft their lovely Black-winged Stilt stationeries and bring them home for conveying conservation messages across to others. About 250 participants attended the art making classes.



Bird Paper Cutting Art workshop:

Following the instructions of the paper cutting master, participants were able to make papercut of long-legged birds and share the message of wetland conservation to others.



3.6. Happy Bird Playgroup

Through participating in this parent-child playgroup, parents and children created invaluable memories through singing and dancing. In addition, children learnt about the stories of long-legged waterbirds in a fun-filled way.



3.7. Thematic Exhibition

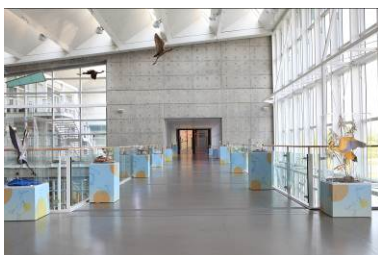
Thematic Exhibition on Birds

The renowned artist, Ah Chung, gets his inspiration from nature and shows his love for nature in his artworks. This exhibition revealed the living habits of the beautiful waterbirds, and showcased some of Ah Chung's soul-touching masterpieces.



Origami Bird Exhibition

Hong Kong Wetland Park and Hong Kong Origami Society jointly organised the Origami Bird Exhibition. The array of folded designs on display gave visitors an understanding of the exquisite origami art and the wonders of birds.



3.8. "I am a Bird Photographer" Photo Collection and Exhibition

The "I am a Bird Photographer" photo collection and exhibition activity was organised in the park. Visitors may redeem a souvenir by submitting photographs of birds at the Visitor Centre. Outstanding entries were exhibited in the park.



3.9. Wetland Classroom

Several sessions of "Wetland Classroom" were organised to provide opportunities for bird-watching beginners to learn more about birds. Participants took this class as their first step to explore the nature, and the relationships between wetlands and birds.



3.10. The 7th Storytelling Competition

Hong Kong Wetland Park and the Hong Kong Council of Early Childhood Education & Services (HKCECES) co-organised "The 7th Storytelling Competition". Primary and kindergarten students acted as vivid wetland plants and animals to promote wetland conservation. A total of 24 teams took part in the competition enthusiastically and prepared amusing scripts, lovely costumes and stunning props for the event. The performances received thunderous applause from the audiences.



3.10 The 13th Inter-school Bird Race

Hong Kong Wetland Park and Hong Kong Bird Watching Society co-organised the 13th Inter-school Bird Race. About 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, mudflats and woodland to identify and take record of bird species.



3.11 World Wetlands Day 2013 Hong Kong Celebration Ceremony

As a highlight of the WWD celebrations, the Park organised the "World Wetlands Day 2013 Hong Kong Celebration Ceremony" on 2 February 2013. In the ceremony, prizes were awarded to the winners of competitions and volunteers who provided great support to the Park in the past year.



3.12 "World Wetlands Day 2013" Short Film

With a comprehensive natural water filtering system and water monitoring programme, the Hong Kong Wetland Park takes care of water for wildlife. Through different varieties of education programmes, visitors could learn while enjoying the fascinating scenery of the park. A 4-minute film was produced to share the achievements of the Park, as well as the importance of wetlands in water management. The film is viewable at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxRakvkU4Og>

3.13 "World Wetlands Day 2013" Pamphlet

HKWP produced the Hong Kong version WWD pamphlet to raise awareness of the interdependence of wetlands and water.

4 More information for the activities celebrating WWD2013 can be found on http://www.wetlandpark.com/en/education/Bird_Watching_festival_2012.asp