



Environmental awareness

The strong competitive nature that exists amongst resort owners and dive operators on Mabul Island was set aside during Mabul Marine Week, a week focused on protecting the marine environment.

This week, which started on July 19, is an up-scaled version of Mabul Marine Day, an event celebrated over the past 10 years which is the brain-child of Sipadan Water Village Resort.

This year, 10 resorts and dive operators, local government units, and WWF-Malaysia, led by the District Office of Semporna, worked together to plan and implement the event, which involves the local community on Mabul Island, a community that numbers over 2000.

During his opening speech, District Officer of Semporna, Encik A.M. Ibnu A.K. Baba, said he is proud to see tourism players based on Mabul jumping on board to make this event a success. This shows that changes are happening on Mabul Island in terms of the attitudes of businesses towards taking care of the environment in a collabora-

tive way. He continued by saying that last year, only two operators – Sipadan Water Village Resort and Borneo Divers Mabul Resort, were involved.

Nina Ho, WWF-Malaysia's Marine Biologist based in Semporna, said, "Since 2004 when the Malaysian government ordered all on-site dive and resort operators on Sipadan Island to vacate the island, Mabul Island has become the focus site for setting up operations."

She added that this move, alongside the growing local population, has increased the pressure on Mabul and its surrounding reefs, famous for its small, rare and unusual creatures.

The first three days of Mabul Marine Week highlighted the true spirit of team work when beach and underwater clean-ups, coral transplanting, environmental education targeting school children, and cultural dance performances, were jointly organized and carried out. An exhibition by WWF-Malaysia was also held, emphasizing issues threatening the marine environ-

ment. Issues such as unsustainable development, destructive fishing and irresponsible diving behaviours which, unless addressed is detrimental to everyone on the island.

Throughout the rest of the week, tourism operators on the island continued their own events, which included conservation talks by scientists, clean-ups and coral transplanting. These operators have contributed generously by providing human resources, facilities such as boats to ferry rubbish collected to mainland Semporna and financial support which went towards t-shirts food and beverages for the week-long event.

WWF-Malaysia applauds tourism operators, government officials and everyone else for being actively involved in Mabul Marine Week. The District Office has been instrumental in this event, as shown through the strong support by the District Officer. WWF-Malaysia believes that caring for the environment is a year-round endeavor and Mabul Marine Week highlights the need for constant vigilance.



WHERE TO STAY

Winner Hotel
Phone: 60 088 243222
Fax: 60 088 217345

Hotel Deleton
Phone: 60 088 252222
Fax: 60 088 267999

Best Western Kinabalu Daya Hotel
Phone: 60 088 240000
Fax: 60 088 263909

Berjaya Palace Hotel
Phone: 60 088 211911
Fax: 60 088 211600

Hotel Shangri-La
Phone: 60 088 212800
Fax: 60 088 212078

Likas Square Business Suites
Phone: 60 088 252233
Fax: 60 088 251122

Tang Dynasty Hotel
Phone: 60 088 263389 / 251155
Fax: 60 088 263989 / 265566

Beverly Hotel
Phone: 60 088 258998
Fax: 60 088 258778

Promenade Hotel
Phone: 60 088 265555
Fax: 60 088 246666 / 253980

Hyatt Regency Kinabalu
Phone: 60 088 221234
Fax: 60 088 225972

Le Meridien Kota Kinabalu
Phone: 60 088 322222
Fax: 60 088 322223

Nexus Resort Karambunai
Phone: 6 088 411222 / 411030
Fax: 6 088 411020 / 412028

Shangri-La Tanjung Aru Resort
Phone: 60 088 225800 / 41800 / 293306 (Reserv)
Fax: 60 088 244871 / 217155

Sutera Harbour Resort - Magellan Sutera
Phone: 6 088 318 888
Fax: 6 088 317 777

Sutera Harbour Resort - Pacific Sutera
Phone: 6 088 318888
Fax: 6 088 317777

Imperial International Hotel Kota Kinabalu
Phone: 6 088 522888 / 447200
Fax: 6 088 522999 / 442300
Email: www.imperialkk.com

Radius International Waterfront Kota Kinabalu
Phone: 6 088 525969 / 447200
Fax: 6 088 525967
Email: www.radius-waterfrontkk.com