



PRESS STATEMENT

PETRA – UNDP TEAMS UP WITH SCHOOLS TO CONSERVE TERENGGANU'S MANGROVES

SETIU, TERENGGANU, 17 November 2007 - Petra Perdana Berhad ("PETRA") and the United Nations Development Programme ("UNDP") organized a mangrove replanting initiative with local residents and children from two schools at their Mangrove Regeneration Community Service Project ("Community Project") site at Pengkalan Gelap today.

Aimed at increasing awareness about the importance of mangrove ecosystems, sixty children from Sekolah Kebangsaan Kuala Setiu and Sekolah Kebangsaan Kampung Fikri gained first-hand experience in replanting some 1000 saplings of the *Rhizophora apiculata* and *Rhizophora mucronata* species.

The event is part of a series of activities under the second phase of the Community Project, and includes a substantive environmental awareness and education component to increase participation of key stakeholders in protecting the state's mangroves. Following the 2004 tsunami tragedy, protection and rehabilitation of mangrove ecosystems is a major environmental policy area of the federal government.

"Today's event is yet another milestone where we would like to inculcate the values of environmental sustainability amongst the younger generation.

"The mangrove regeneration community project is an important effort to revive the mangrove forest and provide economic activities for the community. Whilst activities of mangrove regeneration efforts are undertaken, involving the younger generation especially school children, is a critical component in ensuring long-term success," Tengku Dato' Ibrahim Petra, Executive Chairman & CEO, Petra Perdana Berhad said.

Encouraged by the positive response by the schools, PETRA will also be contributing a token sum towards Sekolah Kebangsaan Kuala Setiu and Sekolah Kebangsaan Kampung Fikri in hope that the schools will initiate a "*Kelab Alam Sekitar*". The *Kelab* can organise site visits and undertake activities at the project site to cultivate interest amongst the students on the benefits of the mangrove ecosystem and most importantly environment awareness.



Meanwhile, the community's representative for the project, Abd. Manaf Ahmad, who oversees the replanting activities and progress of the community project, said that this opportunity for the school children to come together and replant mangroves will give them greater insight on the project and instill a sense of ownership towards the community project.

"UNDP is encouraged by the progress made and the energy and commitment of all project partners. As we move towards handing over the management of the project to the Terengganu Riverine and Coastal Agency in June next year, we want to increase the involvement of local communities in protecting this vital resource," said Dr. Richard Leete, UNDP Resident Representative for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.

The project is a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project led by PETRA, with the support of UNDP, the Terengganu State Government, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu ("UMT") the Local District Office and resident committees.

Launched in April 2006 by the Menteri Besar of Terengganu, Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh, it is the first mangrove regeneration community project of its kind for the Terengganu State Government and involves the stewardship and participation of the residents of Kg. Fikri, Kg. Saujana and Kg. Gong Batu.

To date, activities that have been undertaken include, replanting exercises, setting up of a nursery, fencing of the area designated for replanting, submission of proposal for the gazettement of the site and infrastructure development (i.e information kiosk and boardwalk). Plans in the pipeline include further mangrove replanting exercises, youth environmental education and expansion of the mangrove acreage.

Ends



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