

NEWS@RIMAU

HOPE FOR MALAYAN TIGERS



Dear Members,

Due to the pandemic, combined with the recent departure of our Executive Assistant Maxwell Russell (who has left to pursue his Master's Degree in the UK), our newsletter is a little late. The good news is we now have this "bumper issue" for you. We hope you will enjoy this and please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you would like to know more about any of the stories featured here.

RIMAU TURNS TWO!!

In September 2020, Rimau turned two years old! Anniversaries are always a time for introspection, and we have been looking back at our accomplishments as well as our setbacks. During the last 24 months, the committee of Rimau has kept very busy with numerous projects focused on our core purpose: to save the endangered Malayan tiger from extinction.

Over these two years, Rimau had been involved in discussions with government, helped spreading awareness on the plight of the Malayan tiger, collaborated with various organisations, raised funds and set up together with Perak State Parks Corporation the Menraq Patrol Unit in Royal Belum.

"If we can teach people about wildlife, they will be touched. Share my wildlife with me. Because humans want to save things that they love." Steve Irwin



From top to bottom: Rimau's interview with Tun Dr Siti Hasmah, the Menraq Patrol Unit in action, Mock Cheque Presentation Ceremony by President - Lara Ariffin to PSPC Head Shah Redza witnessed by HRH Tuanku Zara Salim of Perak

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UPDATE ON MENRAQ & A VISIT TO ROYAL BELUM



Menraq Patrol Unit during the Global Tiger Day Celebration at Kampung Tanhain

This year, in conjunction with Global Tiger Day, Rimau organised a 3-day/2-night visit to the Royal Belum State Park. Over 20 committee members, volunteers and special guests had joined us for the trip. The primary purpose of this was to celebrate the graduation ceremony of 14 Jahai rangers from the Tanhain Village who had completed a two months training program to become official members of Menraq Patrol Unit.

As previously reported, late-2019 saw the launch of Rimau's Menraq Patrol Unit program. A collaboration with Perak State Parks Corporation, this initiative involves recruiting, training and supporting a group of orang asli from the Jahai tribe in Royal Belum to become wildlife patrollers. Menraq means 'people' in the Jahai language and Rimau believes that community support is crucial for successful conservation efforts in the long term.

Along with the monthly salaries paid to the patrollers, an allowance is actually committed to community coffers to cover the cost of their basic needs and essential supplies.



From top right to bottom: A child from the village getting her face painted, the Menraq Patrol Unit at the Global Tiger Day event, the children of Kampung Tanhain taking a photo with the Menraq team after their performance, a view of Kampung Tanhain, the children of Tanhain playing with the tiger plush

In attendance at this 3-day event from 19th – 21st August 2020 were special guests: Encik Mohamed Shah Redza Hussein, the General Manager of Perak State Parks Corporation and Datuk Vinod B. Sekhar and his wife Datin Winy Sekhar of the Sekhar Foundation which had recently made a very sizable donation to RIMAU. RIMAU President Puan Lara Ariffin and Vice President Encik David Hashim were also joined by Puan Ivy Wong Abdullah of Yayasan Hasanah and renowned orang asli artist Encik Shaq Koyok of the Temuan tribe in Selangor.

Among the festivities were:

- Talks on the importance of the Malayan tiger within rainforest ecology by Encik Shah and his assistant Encik Lau Ching Fong
- Tiger-themed performances by Jahai children
- Art workshop conducted by Shaq Koyok
- Screening of a special video message by the Sultan of Perak
- Screening of tiger-related documentaries in the evening
- Visits to camera trap locations within the jungle by Menraq Junior

In their spare time, volunteers also enjoyed kayaking, bamboo rafting and hiking. The celebrations were recorded and will be produced into a short video in due course.



From top right to bottom: Puan Ivy Abdulah from Yayasan Hasanah presenting the Customed Parang from Myparang. The villagers of Kampung Tanhain Lara with Datin Winy, Datuk Vinod, Ms Tara and Mr Farouk Nurish, Encik Fong giving a talk on the importance of the Malayan tiger, the children of Kampung Tanhain,

In conclusion, the Jahai Menraq Patrol Unit of the Tanhain Village has been an essential and successful element in Rimau's battle for the protection of the Malayan tiger. Menraq is one of the first community based patrolling teams in peninsular Malaysia and Rimau applauds their effort tremendously. Rimau will continue to support them as we look into initiating similar programs in other parts of Belum and Perak.

Rimau would also like to use this opportunity to thank Yayasan Hasanah for their generous donation for the event. Their contribution has helped us in securing the food package for the villagers, art material (that includes three language worksheets) and t-shirts for the children, parang for the Menraq rangers and many more items that really make a difference in these orang Asli's lives.

More photos from Global Tiger Day Celebration at Kampung Tanhain:



From top right to bottom: Encik Shah from PSPC presenting the Parang to the Menraq Patrol Unit, the customised Parang ordered specially for the Menraq Team, one of the Menraq patroller holding the said parang, the children of Kampung Tanhain the art workshop



From top right to bottom left: The food packs giving away ceremony, the children wearing Rimau's t-shirts, the presentation of the certificates to the Menraq Patrol Unit members, Wayang Pacak, Some of Rimau team by the lake, Rimau team swimming , Encik Shah giving Rimau team a short tour of Royal Belum, Rimau team pictured during a hike to visit Sungai Koi

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SPECIAL VIDEO MESSAGE BY HRH SULTAN NAZRIN SHAH



HRH Sultan Nazrin Shah

In conjunction with Global Tiger Day 2020 and the graduation ceremony, the Sultan of Perak, HRH Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah issued a special four minutes video message to congratulate the Menraq Patrol Unit for the good work being done to protect our endangered Malayan tigers. He also applauded how the program simultaneously benefit the local Orang Asli of the Royal Belum State Park. To watch this video, please visit Rimau's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/708646449477216/videos/355424692142218>

SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On the evening of 3rd September 2020, Rimau held its second AGM in a virtual format over ZOOM. The meeting commenced promptly at 8:00pm and concluded at 9:30pm. In attendance were the President, Deputy President, Secretary, Deputy Treasurer and four committee members. During the AGM, the minutes of the Formation Meeting were confirmed, a detailed address of Rimau's activities since its founding were given by the president, new members were elected to the Committee, and some amendments to streamline the operations of the society were debated and made.

In respect of the new committee for the 2020-2022 two-year period, we are pleased to announce the new line-up as follows:

President:	<u>Lara Ariffin</u>
Deputy President:	<u>David M. Hashim</u>
Secretary:	<u>Ai Mee Lee</u>
Treasurer:	<u>Chacko Vadaketh</u>
Deputy Treasurer:	<u>Amira Afendi</u>
Committee Members:	<u>Susanne Hashim</u> <u>Emina Ashman Shah</u> <u>Harun Rahman</u> <u>Patrick Russell</u>

This is also to announce the departure of Lina Teoh, Nini Hamid and Anis Majida from the committee. We would like to thank them for their contribution to Rimau for over the last two years.

DONATION BY SEKHAR FOUNDATION

Rimau is pleased to announce that it has received a sizable donation from the Sekhar Foundation. This donation, was formalised on 27th July 2020 in a small ceremony held at the home of Datuk Vinod B. Sekhar and Datin Winy, who together established the Sekhar Foundation. The ceremony was attended by Rimau president Lara Ariffin and Vice President David Mizan Hashim, and culminated with the presentation of a symbol of appreciation to Datuk and Datin Sekhar. This gift was in the form of a pencil drawing of a Malayan tiger mother and cub, drawn by renowned Malaysian artist (and Rimau Honorary Member) Sharon Kow. Ms. Kow had earlier this year donated this work of art to Rimau to raise funds for the organisation. Rimau would like to shout-out a big thank you to the Sekhars and to Ms. Kow for their thoughtful generosity!



From top to bottom: formalisation of the donation, Malayan tiger Mother and Cub pencil colour drawing by Ms Sharon Kow

RIMAU IS HASANAH SPECIAL GRANT'S RECIPIENT!

Rimau is pleased to announce that it is a one of Yayasan Hasanah's recipients for Hasanah Special Grant. Yayasan Hasanah, in partnership with Ministry of Finance Malaysia, created this grant as part of the Economic Stimulus 2020 to support special programs that improve the quality of life of the targeted groups including vulnerable communities like the Orang Asli in the time of the pandemic. This grant will help Rimau to equip, deploy and upskill our Menraq patrollers for the period of six months (November 2020 - April 2021).

Yayasan Hasanah is an independent grant making foundation created by Khazanah Nasional, with the aim of creating greater impact that complements Khazanah's efforts of developing Malaysia into a globally competitive nation. Rimau thank Yayasan Hasanah for its continuous support and for believing in Rimau's mission in protecting the tiger and its habitat.

Please stay tuned for more updates regarding this exciting development in Rimau!



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TO OUR MEMBERS

MEMBERS UPDATE

We are pleased to confirm recent additions to the Rimau Honorary Membership. Because many of our honorary members prefer to remain anonymous, we are unable to divulge their particular names.

TIGERS IN THE NEWS

In early September, at Malaysia's 77th National Land Council Meeting, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said that there are currently around 130 to 140 Malayan tigers left in the country. He then urged state governments to take proactive measures in order to protect the tiger and its habitat.

Note - the final numbers from the ongoing National Tiger Survey will only be announced at the end of 2020.

With the pandemic still very much in effect, we hope that this newsletter finds everyone safe and in good health. The MCO has affected our ability to proceed with some of our planned projects such as the screening of 'Malaysia's Last Tigers' and the launch of the Tiger Parade art sculpture which are now targeted for 2021.

“The Malayan tiger is one of Malaysia's natural treasures that is very precious. It is embodied in our national emblem, symbolising courage and determination of the people. It is upsetting to know that the animal is now the victim of wildlife poaching”

HRH Sultan Nazrin Shah

