

14/04/1997

Club makes record collection of old newspapers for recycling

IPOH, Sun. - More than 50 tonnes of old newspapers - the largest in the country so far - have been collected for recycling by the Leo Club of Ipoh with the co-operation of 28 schools in Perak.

"We have been granted the largest old newspaper collection drive in Malaysia endorsed by the Malaysia Book of Records," club organising chairman Kong Kok Hoong said at the launch of the environmental project, the "Garden Dream", at Indera Mulia Stadium today.

The project, supported by the Lions District 308B, was launched by State Urban Development, Local Government and Consumer Affairs committee chairman Chang Ko Youn.

The large number of newspapers was stacked up in front of the Indera Mulia Stadium this morning during the launch.

Kong said the project was aimed at collecting old newspapers from students of each school for recycling purposes and all the funds would be refunded to the participating schools for landscaping purposes.

The participating secondary schools were Anderson, Sam Tet, Methodist ACS, Shen Jai, Seri Kledang, Menglembu, Main Convent, Ave Maria, Perak Girls, Raja Perempuan, Raja Chulan, Politeknik, STAR, Yuk Choy, Yuk Choy High School, Poi Lam, Poi Lam High School, Sri Putera, Sri Intan, Yuk Kwan, St Bernadette's Convent, Sultan Idris Shah, Pei Yuan, Methodist ACS (Kampar), Pasir Putih, Syed Abdul Ghani, Hamid Khan and Batu Gajah.

"Besides that, we also hope to create awareness to the citizens on the importance of environmental issues," Kong said.

"With this project, we also hope to create team work and leadership skill among the students when they are collecting the old newspapers," he added.

Later, speaking at the launching of the project, Chang urged social clubs, schools, non-governmental organisations and others to help the State Government plant 300,000 plants by the year 2000.

"Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib wants the state to plant 300,000 trees by the year 2000 and we hope to achieve the target with their co-operation," he said.

Chang, who is also the State Tree Planting Committee chairman, invited a representative of the Lions Club to sit as a committee member at its next meeting on April 22.

Earlier, District 308B environment chairman Datuk Foo Wan Kien said the club would play its part to assist Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's vision to make the whole country a garden nation a reality.

He said the club has planted a thousand trees two months ago in the country and it would continue with spearheading this programme.

"We have also in mind to create camps around the country so that our youths can be trained for horticulture by professionals," he said.

"However, my concern is that there is lack of co-ordination to carry out the tree planting project."

"On one hand, we were encouraged to plant trees and on the other the law prohibit us to have open-burning.

"Now new laws have been implemented on waste collection in terms of weight whereby we have to pay to get rid of our garden waste which will eventually discourage tree planting.

"I urge the Government to consider waiving the charges of the disposal of garden waste in order to green our environment," he added.

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