



INTOUCH® Project Smile Volume #5

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INTOUCH WITH THE FUTURE

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IN THIS ISSUE

by Craig Kannan

Project Smile is one of Kossan International Sdn Bhd's (KISB) initiatives to develop, sustain, and perceive a good relationship between our internal and external community.

Project Smile was initiated in 2013 and it continues making beneficial contributions to society today.

The aim of Project Smile is to develop future leaders that can confront the world effectively and efficiently. Nevertheless, society at large and the greater good are still a priority.

KISB believes that for the company to be sustained in the long term, it must create value for its own staff, shareholders and also for society. Through

Project Smile, KISB takes a step towards the outside world and contributes to those in need.

1.0 Sun, Sea and Smiles

The Kossan team invests its time in preserving one of the world's most valued resource

Page 2

2.0 What can we do to save our oceans?

A few tips to help you get started on preserving our beautiful ocean

Page 3

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With The Future



Sun, Sea and Smiles

71% of our beloved planet is covered by water and the oceans hold about 95.6% of that water. With the abundance of life that flourishes in our oceans, it only makes sense that we conserve our most valued resource.

Located off the coast of Terengganu, Pulau Tenggol is a well-kept secret paradise teeming with lush marine wildlife.

The core objective of this visit is to create awareness on marine conservation. Tenggol was selected due to its low frequency of visitors and well-kept natural state. It is a good platform in preparing the island for the future.

The launching ceremony kicked the project into gear with the planting of signages by the Kossan Management team. The signages are intended for any future visitors to the island to serve as a reminder on their responsibility towards marine conservation.

The first signage consist of information about marine life at the island and how we can help to protect it. Two additional signages focused on the 'don't's' while at the beach and ocean.

With the project underway, the group participated in Discovery Scuba Diving and snorkeling activities. The activities further reminded the group why conservation is needed to protect the fragile but beautiful eco system that lives beneath the waves.

The group ended the day with a beach cleaning exercise that proved there is rubbish being washed ashore from the ocean. These particles will be mistaken as food by fish and turtles.

The responsibility for conservation of marine life should be the obligation of everyone. The work done on Pulau Tenggol will function as an educational guide on the importance of preserving our marine environment not just for us, but for many generations to come.

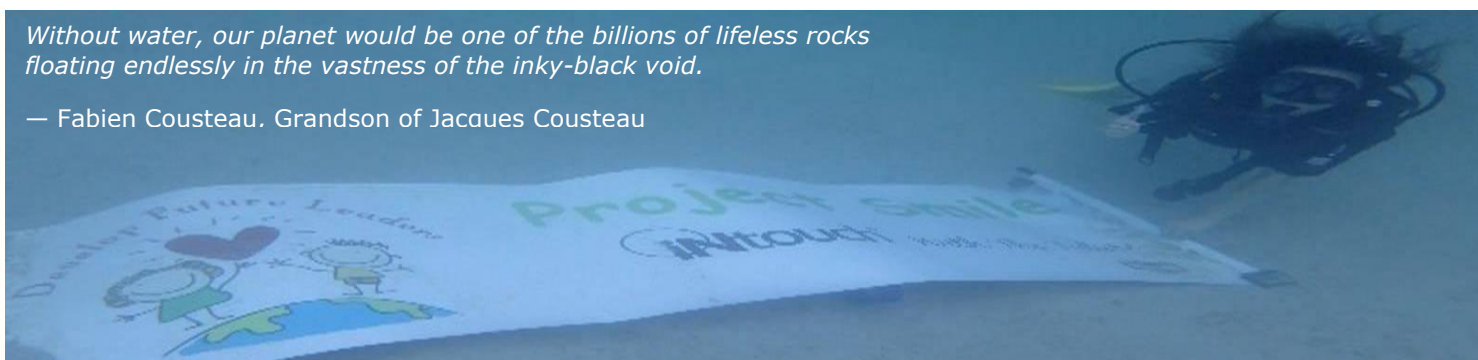
As the saying goes, one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.

We hope to return to Pulau Tenggol one day to see how our efforts have taken shape.



Without water, our planet would be one of the billions of lifeless rocks floating endlessly in the vastness of the inky-black void.

— Fabien Cousteau. Grandson of Jacques Cousteau





What can we do to save our oceans?



1. Mind Your Carbon Footprint and Reduce Energy Consumption

Reduce the effects of climate change on the ocean by leaving the car at home when you can and being conscious of your energy use at home and work. A few things you can do to get started today: Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs, take the stairs, and bundle up or use a fan to avoid oversetting your thermostat.

2. Make Safe, Sustainable Seafood Choices

Global fish populations are rapidly being depleted due to demand, loss of habitat, and unsustainable fishing practices. When shopping or dining out, help reduce the demand for overexploited species by choosing seafood that is both healthful and sustainable.

3. Use Fewer Plastic Products

Plastics that end up as ocean debris contribute to habitat destruction and entangle and kill tens of thousands of marine animals each year. To limit your impact, carry a reusable water bottle, store food in nondisposable containers, bring your own cloth tote or other reusable bag when shopping, and recycle whenever possible.

4. Help Take Care of the Beach

Whether you enjoy diving, surfing, or relaxing on the beach, always clean up after yourself. Explore and appreciate the ocean without interfering with wildlife or removing rocks and coral. Go even further by encouraging others to respect the marine environment or by participating in local beach clean-ups.

5. Don't Purchase Items That Exploit Marine Life

Certain products contribute to the harming of fragile coral reefs and marine populations. Avoid purchasing items such as coral jewellery, tortoiseshell hair accessories (made from hawksbill turtles), and shark products.



6. Be an Ocean-Friendly Pet Owner

Read pet food labels and consider seafood sustainability when choosing a diet for your pet. Never flush cat litter, which can contain pathogens harmful to marine life. Avoid stocking your aquarium with wild-caught saltwater fish, and never release any aquarium fish into the ocean or other bodies of water, a practice that can introduce non-native species harmful to the existing ecosystem.

7. Support Organizations Working to Protect the Ocean

Many institutes and organizations are fighting to protect ocean habitats and marine wildlife. Find a national organization and consider giving financial support or volunteering for hands-on work or advocacy. If you live near the coast, join up with a local branch or group and get involved in projects close to home.

8. Influence Change in Your Community

Research the ocean policies of public officials before you vote or contact your local representatives to let them know you support marine conservation projects. Consider patronizing restaurants and grocery stores that offer only sustainable seafood, and speak up about your concerns if you spot a threatened species on the menu or at the seafood counter.

9. Travel the Ocean Responsibly

Practice responsible boating, kayaking, and other recreational activities on the water. Never throw anything overboard, and be aware of marine life in the waters around you. If you're set on taking a cruise for your next vacation, do some research to find the most eco-friendly option.

10. Educate Yourself About Oceans and Marine Life

All life on Earth is connected to the ocean and its inhabitants. The more you learn about the issues facing this vital system, the more you'll want to help ensure its health—then share that knowledge to educate and inspire others.

Small acts when multiplied by millions of people can transform the world

— ProjectAware.Org

