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EDITORIAL:

BETTER NORMAL

What do the coronavirus and the climate crisis have in common? You'll be surprised! Yeb Saño, GPSEA Executive Director, answers some of your frequently asked questions during this COVID-19 pandemic.

How has COVID-19 affected the people, economy, and the environment in Southeast Asia?

COVID-19 is affecting people and communities in varying degrees. Not everyone can afford to stay at home, or practice social distancing, or eat decent meals every day. While the measures to curb the outbreak has produced some positive results, like the pause on infinite growth, they have also been detrimental to people and the economy at the margins of society where livelihoods are severely crippled. The pandemic's effect on the environment ranged from the perceived "breathing time" for nature as many industries are also halted, to the proliferation of single-use disposable medical gear. While we now live in a drastically different world, it is still very much the same world where the climate crisis persists and many environmental issues remain serious.

What opportunities have opened up that will impact the campaigns and programs of Greenpeace?

This pandemic is a wakeup call about the serious flaws in the system. We believe the efforts towards addressing social and economic injustice, and ecological decline are crucial. This has opened opportunities for us to campaign for more livable cities, more just and progressive economic models, sustainable agriculture and food systems, as well as inclusive mobility. It has also shown that if the stakes are high, governments can mobilize unprecedented levels of resources and act faster. This is our opportunity to show that the climate crisis is just as critical as this present public health crisis.

What can Greenpeace supporters contribute towards the better normal we all want?

Greenpeace supporters are agents of change. And the lives of all those who believe in the mission of Greenpeace are testament to its success. We salute every act of courage and kindness.

REGION:

OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER

This year, Greenpeace Southeast Asia celebrates its 20th year of making change and creating impact for the people and planet. Our vision remains the same – a green and peaceful future.

Our journey was full of ups and downs but nevertheless, we pressed on because of you. You, and thousands of other courageous supporters who have made our work more meaningful and fulfilling.

As we look forward into the future and build a better normal, we enjoy you to remember the past with us and find inspiration from what we have accomplished together.

BEARING WITNESS



Southeast Asia is a prosperous region with rich biodiversity and natural resources. The region has continually experienced economic growth since the 1980s, driven by the expansion of direct investment from other countries. However, this growth has also brought with it a host of environmental issues including deforestation, air and water pollution, overfishing and plastic pollution.

One of the ways to bear witness to these environmental issues is through the Greenpeace fleet. Rainbow Warrior, Esperanza and the Arctic Sunrise have sailed to Southeast Asia from 2000-2018 to amplify the voice of the people calling for a green and peaceful planet. These ship tours gave opportunity for our supporters, volunteers and partners to know more about our work and the role they play to make lasting change for the environment.

"Who pays the price of environmental destruction?"

Covid-19 has shown all of us the impact of pushing the boundaries when it comes to ecological balance. The impression of this pandemic, however, will last for many years to come for individuals, corporations and our country.

Your voice as a Greenpeace supporter plays a very important role in creating public awareness and aligning government policies that will lead to a sustainable future. Now is the time the planet needs your voice ever more so, and now is the right time to reset our habits and work towards a better normal, so our future generations do not have to pay the price of our actions.

Terima Kasih!

Wrikdev Sarkar
Country Director, Greenpeace Malaysia



1999



CLEAN AIR ACT OF 1999

Along with other environmental organizations, Greenpeace Philippines led the campaign to push for the passage of the Clean Air Act of 1999 which legally bans waste incineration. Two years later, the Philippine Ecological Solid Waste Management Act was approved which mandates the implementation of front-end strategies namely: waste reduction, segregation and recycling to solve the country's waste crisis.

COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT OPERATION HALTED

In 2002, Greenpeace Thailand worked with various community partners in Ban Krut (Bang Saphan District), Bo Nok (Kui Buri District), and Prachuap Khiri Khan province to stop the coal operations in these areas. Through the movement's concerted effort, the Thai government decided to cancel its 1400-megawatt coal-fired power plant projects in Ban Krut and 700-megawatt in Bo Nok.

2002



2003

YES TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Greenpeace Southeast Asia was a trailblazer in promoting renewable energy solutions in Thailand and the Philippines. In 2003, Greenpeace spearheaded several coalition efforts to create a stronger network of like-minded organizations and community groups to stop the rise of coal-fired power plants and push for renewable energy solutions.

2008

RENEWABLE ENERGY BILL

After consistent public pressure, the Renewable Energy Bill was signed into law in 2008. It was a remarkable win for Greenpeace Philippines as the law was seen to accelerate the development and utilization of renewable energy sources in the country such as wind and solar power ensuring energy security and help combat the grave impacts of climate change.



2009



FOOD FOR LIFE

In 2008, hundreds of Greenpeace supporters, volunteers and farmers planted organic rice in a bid to create the first ever art on a rice field in Thailand. The 1.6 hectare rice field in Ratchaburi province is grown into a beautiful artwork to show an image of farmers wearing straw hats and using sickles to harvest rice. The rice art, which celebrates Thailand's rich rice heritage is meant to remind the government to protect the region's most important food crop from the threats of genetic engineering.

2011

FOREST PROTECTION

President Yudhoyono committed to protecting Indonesia's forests by announcing a moratorium to prohibit the conversion of natural forests and peatlands for palm oil, pulpwood and logging concessions. This aimed to reduce gas emissions from deforestation.



2016



STOP THE HAZE

300,000 names. That's the number of people who signed the petition by Greenpeace Malaysia demanding Industrial Oxygen Inc (IOI) to stop its abusive forest activities that contributed to the increase in air pollution due to haze in the region. Greenpeace volunteers and representatives from other environmental groups delivered the petition but the company refused to accept it. The sign reads "Haze Starts Here".

END TO COAL

Vietnam cancelled the plan to build 70 massive coal-fired power plants in 2016, after their Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dun announced that he would end all new construction of these dirty energy sources. This victory was a result of the tireless efforts of the Environmental Network and Climate Change Working Group which Greenpeace is part of.

2017

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE FISHING

In 2017, the Thai Union Group Public Company Limited, a leading tuna cannery, committed to practice sustainable fishing by eliminating illegal fishing activities and improving the lives of thousands of their workers on sea. This pledge was a result of Greenpeace's campaign against the company's harmful environmental practices which were also linked to human rights and labor abuses.



OUR FOREST, OUR HOME

In 2017, after struggling for almost a decade to defend their forests, the people of Kampung Manggroholo and Sira, West Papua, Indonesia have managed to obtain a permit to manage their village forest.

2019

CLIMATE JUSTICE

In December 2019, after 4 years of investigation and public hearings, the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHR) declared that the world's biggest polluting companies can be held responsible for human rights violations and threats arising from climate impacts. This is the first time ever that a human rights body has stated that fossil fuel companies can be found legally and morally liable for harms linked to climate change.



BAN ON PLASTIC WASTE

A report was published by Greenpeace Southeast Asia in 2019 pushing ASEAN leaders to declare an immediate ban on all imports of plastic wastes from US, Canada and Europe to the region. To amplify the urgency of the issue, a direct action was held during the 34th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok, Thailand.

PROTECT PARADISE

In 2019, Greenpeace activists from Indonesia climbed the iconic Dirgantara statue in Jakarta and unfurled a banner that reads "Fight the Forest Destroyer". This was aimed to challenge the Indonesian President Joko Widodo to address the massive forest destruction that happened under his watch and other environmental issues affecting the country.



LOCAL ARTICLE:

CALLING FOR A #BETTERNORMAL, A BETTER MALAYSIA!

While most of us stayed at home during the Movement Control Order (MCO), keeping each other safe from spreading the Coronavirus, several strikes to stop the climate change continued online.

We may have a long road ahead on our way to recovery, and in a moment when fighting effectively for a safe and just society and the planet may seem impossible, we have to keep going as we trek our way back to normality, or as we call it, a Better Normal.

Now we're in the middle of another historic global moment, one whose magnitude we're still processing. But the fight against the climate crisis still isn't going anywhere and staying home right now, if you're able, and helping reduce the spread of COVID-19 is all of our priority right now. To protect our family, our friends, and do our best to relieve a strained medical system and to support communities that are most affected by the pandemic.

Here are ways you can help yourself, your family, and together make our country a better one, post this pandemic. Every step we take to bring awareness on issues relating to climate, counts.



— | Online climate strikes became an important way to demonstrate the need for climate action, despite the lockdown. Pictured is Greenpeace Malaysia volunteer Muhammad Nabil bin Rozali holding up his own handmade sign (Who else if not us) in solidarity.

DINNER TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Use this moment of social distancing to engage your close ones in a conversation on the climate crisis (whether it is online, or at the actual dinner table). Spend time understanding what people are thinking, what issues matter to them, in their neighbourhood, community, or city, and what are the potential remedies.

(Here's a tip: Open with "what three old habits you wish to shed from before the pandemic that you think will make you a more responsible individual for the environment?" or "what do you wish to see as a change for a better normal in days to come post this pandemic and how do you think as an individual, you can help?")

BUILD BRIDGES

Put your research skills to work! Find out which local advocacy groups in your city or state are active in the fight for the climate, including water rights, land use, climate justice, or any other topic that's important to you. Learn more about their campaigns, their causes, and see how you start sharing the word now to start building bridges now for future collaboration!

GET INFORMED

If you have the time or are looking for an activity the whole family can participate in, make that reading list of climate books you've always meant to. Or catch up on some environmental documentaries. Get inspired by these stories and discuss them.

PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE FORUMS ABOUT THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Engage in conversations around the climate emergency. There are many free webinars where you can listen to the experts' opinions. Share these webinars with your friends or, even better, open a discussion about what you have learned.

GET SOCIAL

- Post a picture or video of yourself on social media with a placard and your creative message about the environmental changes you want for the climate as we recover from the Covid-19 crisis.
- Create unique Instagram filters or a template for your story, which will help to make your campaign visible and others can share on their accounts too.
- Start a Twitter storm! Make people aware of the environmental problem that is occurring, the more tweets there are, the better it will be! If you know users with a large number of followers, you can ask them to spread the word about your campaign.
- Use Tik Tok and new digital trends to approach a serious and technical problem in a friendlier language (be creative!).
- Use these channels to share news, videos, and your ideas about the climate crisis and its impact. Make sure you always check that the information is accurate and post from trusted organisations and news outlets. Get your friends and followers involved in the discussion!

BE AWARE OF YOUR CONSUMPTION HABITS

What we eat is important to reconsider. Ask yourself about your meat consumption and try to reduce it, so you can contribute to the fight against climate emergency. 14.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions come directly from livestock. Also, you can take this time to battle plastic pollution. Start by checking how many single-use plastics you consume currently and if they're necessary. They're not! Find a way to reuse the plastic you already have.



— | A climate striker opposite Dataran Merdeka holding up a hilarious but poignant sign saying 'Hoi, Mother Earth is not a rubbish bin' during the Global September Climate Strikes on 21 Sept, 2019, in which Greenpeace Malaysia took part in to support local climate youth activists in the heart of Kuala Lumpur.

Use these ideas as a starting point for creative thinking to move forward. In a world of quarantines and disruption of offline life, let's continue to make our demands impactful and innovative as possible. And don't forget, solidarity is a powerful thing. Together we can overcome anything.



A drone shot of the Kuala Langat (North) Forest Reserve, a picture of green we hope to preserve, and the home to a diverse range of life from plants and animals to Orang Asli communities.

DEGAZETTEMET OF KUALA LANGAT FOREST RESERVE

Kuala Langat (North) Forest Reserve is a prime example of a peat swamp forest, a haven for a colourful variety of living beings.

Yet on the 5th of Feb, the Selangor Forestry Department gave notice of converting this wondrous green lung from its status as a forest reserve into a mixed commercial development. We got in line to save it from being degazetted as the animals, lush greenery and surrounding communities including the Orang Asli needed all the help they could get. Initially, a small group of us set out to raise awareness on the issue with few folks within the area. But later in mid-February, Greenpeace team went to nearby villages, namely Kampung Sri Cheeding, Bandar Saujana Putra, Kampung Jenjarom, Teluk Panglima Garang, and several other places within the Kuala Langat district and managed to gather more people to object to the upcoming commercial development, and gather as many residents and others to send out an objection letter to the Selangor Forestry Department.

On 4th March, after 2 steady weeks of collecting objection letters from the public, we handed more than 300 of them to the Selangor Forestry Department to the degazettement of Kuala Langat (North) Forest Reserve in hope to put a stop to removing this lush piece of forest from its status.



CAMPAIGN UPDATE:

LENDING OUR VOICES TO THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH ACTIONS

THE RECYCLING MYTH 2.0

The investigations by Greenpeace Malaysia were carried out one year after the release of the 'The Recycling Myth' report, in July / August 2019. The Greenpeace investigative team returned to a few unregulated dumpsites in Malaysia where there was physical evidence of discarded plastic waste and other scrap materials. Some of these dumpsites are still active, whilst the others have been shut down. The dumpsites were, however, selected because of the deplorable manner in which those particular dumpsites had been filled before being abandoned.

The report released this year is a result of months of in-depth investigations in 2019, along with lab analysis of water and soil sampling collected during the time. It outlines several chemicals present in the form of plastic waste residue (shredded and burnt plastic) in four areas. Namely unregulated dumpsites and plastic recycling facilities at Pulau Indah, Sri Cheeding, and Kapar in Selangor state; as well as Sungai Muda in the state of Kedah. Some of these chemicals had even leaked into a fish pond!

In **The Recycling Myth 2.0**, we wanted to show with well-researched studies that in addition to the physical or visual problem of plastic pollution, there are chemicals that come with the plastic.

Evidence of several plastic-related chemicals, heavy metals, and metalloids were found at the sites affected by the imported plastic waste trade.

A case study done by International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) on chicken eggs in Indonesia has also shown that once mobilised, plastic can affect our food supply, thereby affecting our health.

But, it doesn't end with sending back the waste to countries of origin. We need to demand governments internationally to safeguard not only our environment, but also our health.

¹ Water and soil samples from Malaysian plastic dumpsites are being examined by a team of experts at the Exeter Laboratory (the Greenpeace Research Laboratory) led by Manfred Santen.

² Plastic bales at the plastic recycling factory in Klang, Malaysia.



Greenpeace Belgium projected a hologram demonstration in Brussels in front of the EU Council building. This virtual march asks European decision makers to "Bail out people not corporations, we won't stay quiet! Change the system: invest in people and planet, not polluters"

TECHNOLOGY IS OUR ALLY

In the midst of the COVID-19 protective measures in Brussels that limited mass gatherings and public protests, Greenpeace Belgium led the first-ever Hologram March in front of the European Union Council Building while adhering to lockdown protocol. We demanded the Council for a full system change – a concrete and unified action that will address all levels of crises, whether caused by a virus, inequality, the climate disaster, or biodiversity loss.

GLOBAL VICTORIES:

OUR FIGHT IS NOT OVER

Countries and major cities around the world were placed under lockdown due to COVID-19, greatly affecting Greenpeace's work as a global campaigning organization. We used the first weeks of the pandemic to pause and think of new ways to move forward. Eventually, we adapted and overcame. **We did not let this pandemic stop us from doing what needs to be done.**

Along with other organisations and activists around the world, Greenpeace continues to firmly stand for justice and environmental protection in the midst of the pandemic. In increasingly creative and innovative ways, we continue to turn the global crisis into a great opportunity.



Greenpeace activists from Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Germany climb Equinor's oil rig the north of Norway with a banner that reads "Ban New Oil."



TEXT MESSAGING IS NOT DEAD

Since on-the-street actions are impossible in Norway, Greenpeace grabbed the chance to utilize publicly available records to reach out to oil major Equinor's 40,000 shareholders before their Annual General Meeting. Through text messaging, the team asked the recipients to support the proposal to stop Equinor's oil prospecting in vulnerable areas. The text also included a link to an article on Greenpeace's webpage explaining why we've sent in our proposal, why it's important, and how to actually support the proposal. This resulted in online conversations with the Equinor shareholders on our own platform.

MASS ACTIONS TAKE OVER THE INTERNET

In April, thousands of people around the globe including Greenpeace supporters held a day of digital action for the planet. Despite being locked down in their homes, Fridays For Future activists maximised the internet and social media platforms to continue the demand for climate action under the hashtag #DigitalStrike. The message is clear: climate change cannot be quarantined and needs immediate attention and action.

These victories prove that we can still create positive change despite being in isolation. Now, more than ever, the planet still needs us. The enemies of the planet are busy plotting on how to go about their business as usual and at this point, going back to normal would be the real crisis. We need to work together to claim justice and create a greener future. May these victories inspire us to work together towards creating a better normal.

The youth continues its fight for a better planet online, moving Fridays for Future online with the hashtag #digitalstrike.

DONOR ENGAGEMENT:

TURTLE CONSERVATION AND MANGROVE PLANTING ACTIVITY IN TELUK SENANGIN

In February, Greenpeace volunteers had the opportunity of visiting the mangrove preservation efforts in Manjung, Perak. Co-organised with Persatuan Aktivis Sahabat Alam (KUASA), our volunteers learned how only 2% of forests in Malaysia are mangrove forests. Mangroves have the ability to trap at least 4 times more carbon than rainforests while it also has the capacity to protect coastlines, and people living along them, and act as natural barriers against big ocean waves. They halt salt waters from intruding back into the rivers and are also known for being an important breeding ground for small marine lives. So much to learn about these magnificent forests, yet very few know about them. Hence why after learning a great deal about the benefits of the mangrove trees to the ecosystem, we took the time to plant some of these lifesaving tree saplings along the coastline to help with their efforts.

Apart from the Mangrove site, conservation was a big part of the environmentally educational trip to Perak. So then we visited the nearby Pusat Konservasi Dan Penerangan Penyu Segari in Teluk Senangin. Learning about how we can better preserve our natural environment and the habitats of animals living in them. And turtles are definitely among those little creatures we hope to protect, releasing baby sea turtles back into their natural habitat after they've hatched safely.



Learning about the miraculous traits of mangrove forests is one thing, but having the chance to contribute to its preservation and growth is something special. Greenpeace volunteers along with KUASA set out to help plant saplings to repopulate the coastal area of Manjung, Perak.



Releasing the tiny turtle tots back to the vast ocean where they belong. A picture of one of the many turtles released during Greenpeace Malaysia's conservation trip in Teluk Senangin, Perak.



The detrimental effects of plastics, whilst known, is not taken as seriously as it should be. On land, at least the devastating effects of plastic consumption are more visible. As we don't have direct sight of the ocean and its myriad of wildlife, the dangerous and heart-breaking effects that plastic has on the wildlife of the ocean cannot be seen and as consequence is perhaps taken less seriously. Today's generation is far more vocal regarding environmental issues and is hungry for education on the same. Having more campaigns that engage the public such as volunteering to clean beaches or turtle hatching would be a great method to spread awareness and instil a protective instinct towards nature. "Mother Nature: From Broken to Breathing Easy"

Shivani Sothirachagan
Green Ambassador, Greenpeace Malaysia

GREEN TIPS:

5Rs: AVOIDING PLASTIC POLLUTION AFTER COVID-19

Behavioural change guided by the 5Rs principle can reduce plastic pollution. We must have informed decisions and check for alternatives before buying products. By making mindful choices and using natural products, we can minimize overall waste generation.



REDUCE

Refusing single-use plastic is considered as the most effective way to reduce plastic pollution. For example, when availing food delivery services, tell the provider not to put the food in single-use plastic containers and utensils. Also, refuse vanity products with micro-beads, a type of micro-plastic for body scrubbing; use natural-ingredients for your body, instead.

REUSE

Pollution can be reduced by using an item repeatedly until they reach their maximum lifetime value. Don't throw paper bags from shopping, use them again. You can also add value to normal items by upcycling. Use colorful markers or threads to put patterns on old shirts or stitch together old paper printouts to make a notepad.

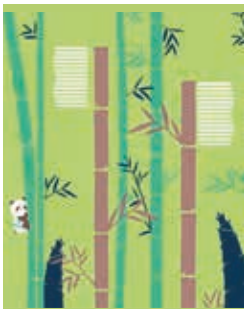


REFILL

More refilling stations are popping up, making everyday essentials more accessible to people. Aside from water, products like shampoo, liquid soaps, detergents, and others are now being sold by the gram/liter. One just needs to bring his/her container to be filled at the store.

RETURN

Some manufacturers take back their packaging to be sterilized, refilled, and recirculated in the market. As consumers, we can choose to buy products in glass bottle packaging to lower waste generation. Find manufacturers or stores in your area that take back used packaging.



REPLACE

Replacement is the use of alternatives for single-use plastic and other disposable materials. Have you tried bamboo toothbrush instead of the regular plastic one? Using products made from natural materials gives us the assurance that they will decompose naturally and not be part of the trash.

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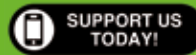
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