



Rotary Centennial Institute for Wetland Conservation (District 3450 Area 5)

扶輪百周年濕地研究院 (三四五零區第五分域)

Jointly organized by the five Rotary Clubs in District 3450 Area 5 and WWF Hong Kong, RCIWC is a charitable organization that aims to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands through a variety of programmes for the Hong Kong public

Website: <http://www.rotary3450.org/area5/index.html>

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Introduction

Founded in 2005, the Rotary Centennial Institute for Wetland Conservation (RCIWC) is a charitable organization that aims to provide public awareness programme on wetland environmental issue for the Hong Kong public. It is a joint project of five Rotary Clubs in District 3450 Area 5 and WWF Hong Kong. The five Rotary Clubs are:

- (i) Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island West
- (ii) Rotary Club of Hong Kong Northwest
- (iii) Rotary Club of The Peak
- (iv) Rotary Club of City Northwest Hong Kong
- (v) Rotary Club of Mid-Level

By providing training courses and outreach programmes, it intends to raise the awareness of professionals engaged in the built environment, students, and other stakeholders in the community on the importance of wetland, their conservation and management.

The establishment of the institute was originally a Rotary Centennial Project which helped WWF Hong Kong to renovate the Peter Scott Field Studies Centre at Mai Po Nature Reserve. The centre provides a base for the community wetland education and public awareness programmes organized at the Mai Po. This project was carried out jointly by 5 Rotary Clubs in District 3450, Hong Kong SAR. After this project, the 5 Rotary Clubs and WWF Hong Kong formed a committee to organize different programmes for the RCIWC.

Project Logo

The Black-faced Spoonbill was chosen as the symbol of the RCIWC project. The Black-faced Spoonbill is an endangered species of waterbird that has a world population of around 1600. Each winter, some 20% of the population spends the winter in the internationally important wetlands of Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay. This bird is well loved by children and the public. One of our Rotarians, PP Millie Chun produced a beautiful graphic design of the bird announcing the 100th birthday of Rotary International.



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Our Partner, WWF Hong Kong

The partner of the RCIWC is WWF Hong Kong, a member of the WWF International network. Established in 1961, WWF operates in more than 100 countries with 5 million supporters around the world. WWF mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- conserving the world's biological diversity
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption

Since 1981, WWF in Hong Kong has worked to ensure a better environment for the present and future generations in Hong Kong through the implementation of a wide range of focused conservation and environmental education programmes in Hong Kong and Mainland China.

Projects

RCIWC has organized a variety of programme since 2005:

Publications

RCIWC has published a booklet on Mai Po Nature Reserve which highlights its values and the threats that it faces, and the roles of the WWF Hong Kong in promoting conservation and education about wetland conservation. This booklet aims to draw attention to the conservation of Mai Po and is an important reference for those who wants to know more about the Reserve.



*"Get to know Mai Po"
Booklet*

Collaboration with Hong Kong Institute of Engineers (HKIE)



Field visit to a stream

From 2005, the Institute became a course provider for Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE). The collaboration is of great significance since Hong Kong is a rapidly developing city with many infrastructure projects taking place. As engineers play an active and important role in these projects, the RCIWC aims to enhance engineers' awareness and understanding towards conservation issues then hopefully, conservation concepts can be brought into future development projects to minimize their impacts on the environment.

Two courses were organized for members of the HKIE in 2006, "Workshop on Stream Conservation" and "Review of the construction of the railway viaduct in Long Valley", and were able to arouse the engineers' interest in the conservation issue around these topics.



*Engineers joining the
HKIE seminar*

Seminars and field trips

RCIWC has organized a variety of seminar, eco-tour and field trip for the public to raise their awareness on conservation issue.

In 2006, a public seminar on "State of Hong Kong's Environment" discussed the issue of bird flu and the conservation of Hong Kong's marine and terrestrial habitats respectively. In 2007, a public seminar on "Effect of the reduction in the coverage of the Frontier Closed Area" will be held to discuss how the opening up of FCA area will affect the environment and the community.



Public seminar at CityU



Eco-tour at Zhaoqing

Eco-tours were organised to Guangdong for members of the Rotary Clubs to introduce the conservation work being carried out in Zhaoqing District and the socio-economic development of Gaolan and Jiangxi Villages. This is because the Pheasant-tailed Jacana, a rare type of waterbird, breeds in the unique Prickly-leaves lily fields of these two villages which is under threat from changing agricultural practices. With greater understanding of wetland issues in China, it is hoped that the Rotary Club can provide more support for wetland conservation in China.



Pheasant-tailed Jacana

A field trip to the Lok Ma Chau Mitigation Area was organized for engineers, green groups and the public to introduce the management of this area which was set aside to mitigate for the loss of wetlands due the construction work associated with the Lok Ma Chau Spur (railway) line.



Field visit to Lok Ma Chau

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Prickly-leaves lily fields



Fishponds at Lok Ma Chau