

# BAKO HEALTHY VILLAGE



Bako Healthy Village initiative in early 2003 was to improve and enhance the quality of life of Bako village community through Healthy City Concept based on the Ottawa Charter.

The selection of Bako Village was coincidental, challenge thrown by the Chief Minister of Sarawak to improve the village sanitation during one of his visit there.



Visitors to the village

The traditional Malay fishing village situated about 37 km from Kuching city centre has a population of approximately 1800 inhabiting 355 mainly wooden structure on stilt.

DBKU along with NREB with assistance from a JICA official embarked on the task to formulate plans to tackle problem of solid waste, sewage, hygiene and safety in the kampong which only link to outside world is by river crossing across Bako river. It is hoped that Bako Village can be transform into one of the beautiful and scenic destination for tourist en route Bako National Park.



Cleaning campaign

Village sub committee was reactivate to manage and oversee activity that had been identified. The first cleaning campaign organised in 17<sup>th</sup> August,2003 received overwhelming response from the villagers with approximately 16 tons of waste collected.5 more similar campaign had been organised to clean up the village since then. Cleanliness competition was also organised to allowed continious effort to maintain the kampong clean.



Bin centre

In order to overcome problem of waste disposal in the village, DBKU set up 9 waste collection centres to enable villager to throw their waste. A local contractor was appointed to collect and transport waste from the centre to collection centre across the river twice a week.



Buy back campaign

Beside waste collection,villagers are encourage to separate their waste from recyclable in effort to reduce waste.A buy-back campaign organised in 19<sup>th</sup> June,2004 succeeded in recovery of 6.6 tons of recyclables. Two more campaign organized in 2005 saw 1/2 ton of recyclable collected.

Kampong Bako is famous for the production of shrimp paste commonly known as “Belacan”by the local through cottage industry. There are approximately 24 such food manufacturers and inorder to enhance their competitiveness in the industry, DBKU on 30<sup>th</sup> November,2004,organised talk on food hygiene and usage of permitted additives.

With the assistance of Fire and Rescue Department, a Voluntary Fire Squad was formed comprised of 50 volunteers trained by the department in rescue and extinguishing fire.

Since it inception 3 years ago, the village continue through the dynamic leader,Penghulu Haji Suhali and his committee had transform Kampong Bako into a must visit Kampong where community continue to strive for the betterment of the community.