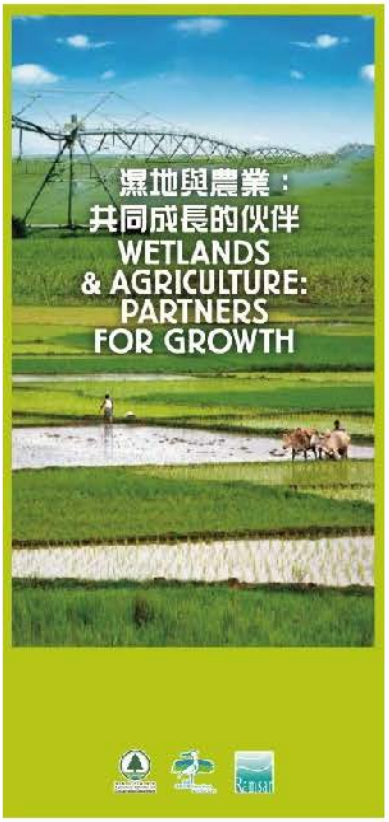
漁農自然護理署
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

香港濕地公園 Hong Kong Wetland Park

Hong Kong Wetland Park
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Hong Kong SAR Government

World Wetlands Day 2014
Hong Kong Celebration Programmes

1. Hong Kong Wetland Park (HKWP) is a world-class conservation, education and tourism facility with a theme on the functions and values of wetlands. With a vision to educate the general public and visitors from all parts of the world on wetland conservation, HKWP has developed a wide range of programmes in accordance with the Ramsar Convention's "Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA)" programme to promote the sustainable use of wetland resources.



2. HKWP celebrates the World Wetlands Day (WWD) every year to deliver wetland conservation messages. The theme of WWD 2014 was "Wetlands and Agriculture: Partners for Growth". To echo with the theme, a series of fun-filled activities were organised since November 2013.

3. Details of the activities organised for the WWD 2014

3.1. Thematic Activities on Migratory Birds

As winter approaches, the ever-changing nature displayed another majestic scene. The migratory birds from the north began their long journey southward, and received our warm greetings. Among the thousands of birds, the Black-faced Spoonbill, Pied Avocet, Daurian Redstart, Grey Heron and Curlew Sandpiper have been selected as the icons of the Bird Watching Festival.

3.2. Public Lectures

Speakers were invited to share their experiences on bird watching and photography as well as bird drawing in the following two public lectures:

I. The Kaleidoscopic World of Birds: Overseas Bird Watching
II. The Resplendent Colours of Feathers: Drawing the Beauty of Birds

3.3. Bird Watching Guided Tours

Situated next to the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, HKWP attracts numerous winter birds migrated from the north. As an important habitat for birds and hotspot for bird watching, the Park has cumulatively recorded 246 bird species. From November 2013, regular bird watching guided tours were organised for visitors every day. Visitors followed interpreters and volunteers for a journey of bird watching at the bird hides of the Park. Thousands of visitors participated in the tours; they were satisfied with the tours and gave positive feedbacks.

3.4. Thematic Interpretation Sessions on Birds

HKWP organised thematic interpretation sessions for visitors who are eager to learn more about migratory birds. Our speakers presented informative facts about these birds, including their flyways and interesting habits.

3.5. DIY Workshops

For those who have an artistic mind, DIY workshops were organised to allow visitors to learn about conservation messages by expressing their creativity. These workshops aimed to raise visitors' interest and enrich their knowledge of birds. Details are as follows:

<u>Badge and Origami Workshops</u>

In the joyful workshops, children learnt about the features of birds with their creative painting. The origami and badge stations served over thousands of family visitors during the thematic period.

Bird Kaleidoscope Making Classes

In this workshop, visitors handcrafted their unique kaleidoscopes with creativity. They could bring home their work and get the conservation message across to others.

Chinese Ink-Painting Workshops

Visitors created different styles of birds by using colourful ink and simple sketching. They could also learn the features and ecology of migratory birds through painting and interpretation session. Adults or children alike created their own ink-painting with fun.

3.6. Thematic Exhibitions

Thematic Exhibition – "Corridor of Migratory Birds"

The exhibition introduced the travelling stories of migratory birds following the rhythm of seasons. This thematic exhibition, "Corridor of Migratory Birds", showed how migratory birds travel between breeding grounds and wintering sites according to the cues of position of the sun, star patterns and the Earth's geomagnetic field.

Special Exhibition on Bird Paintings

The artist, Ms. Wendy Yu, is passionate about watching and drawing birds. This exhibition showcased a number of drawings by Ms. Yu, leading visitors to appreciate the natural beauty of birds from an artistic perspective, so as to bring out the message of respecting life and protecting the nature.

3.7. Wildlife Documentary: "Earthflight – Asia & Australia"

To extend the theme of migratory birds into our Visitor Centre in this festive season, we presented the BBC documentary "Earthflight - Asia & Australia" in our Theatre. In the documentary, the shooting team used fascinating filming techniques, in the bird's-eye view of two continents, Asia and Australia, to create the experience of flying with birds as they encounter natural barriers.

3.8. Photo Collection and Exhibition

The "In Search of Birds" photo collection and exhibition activity was organised in the park. Visitors may redeem a souvenir by submitting photographs of birds at the Visitor Centre. Outstanding entries were exhibited in the park.

3.9. Bird Migration Orienteering

Every year, flocks of Black-faced Spoonbill travel from the north to the south for wintering. The orienteering game allowed participants to join the flock and experience the quests of the migratory birds.

3.10. Wetland Classroom

Several sessions of "Wetland Classroom" were organised to provide opportunities for bird-watching beginners to learn more about bird watching, including skills in bird identification, field guides and use of equipment. Participants took this class as their first step to explore the nature, and the relationships between wetlands and birds.

3.11. Experiencing Waterbird Survey

To encourage visitors to take part in biodiversity conservation and to enhance their understanding of bird monitoring, Hong Kong Wetland Park will launch a new workshop "Experiencing Waterbird Survey" in 2014. Participants will become our waterbird surveyors to collect the data of waterbirds found in Hong Kong Wetland Park, helping us to enrich the ecological database of the Park.

3.12. The 8th Storytelling Competition

Hong Kong Wetland Park and the Hong Kong Council of Early Childhood Education & Services (HKCECES) co-organised "The 8th Storytelling Competition". Primary and kindergarten students acted as vivid wetland plants and animals to promote wetland conservation. A total of 23 teams took part in the competition enthusiastically and prepared amusing scripts, lovely costumes and stunning props for the event. The performances received thunderous applause from the audiences.

3.10 The 14th Inter-school Bird Race

Hong Kong Wetland Park and Hong Kong Bird Watching Society co-organised the 14th Inter-school Bird Race. About 200 participants in 40 teams joined the race. The event aimed to develop students' skills in bird identification and ecological surveys. The Park provided lectures, practical trainings and field trips for participating students prior to the Bird Race. During the 5-hour race, participants visited different wetland habitats at the Park and its surrounding area, including fishponds, tidal ponds, riverside, mangroves, mudflats and woodland to identify and take record of bird species.

3.11 World Wetlands Day 2014 Hong Kong Celebration Ceremony

As a highlight of the WWD celebrations, the Park organised the "World Wetlands Day 2014 Hong Kong Celebration Ceremony" on 25 January 2014. In the ceremony, prizes were awarded to the winners of competitions and volunteers who provided great support to the Park in the past year.

3.12 "World Wetlands Day 2014" Short film

Through different varieties of education programmes, visitors could learn while enjoying the fascinating scenery of the park. A 4-minute film was produced to share not only the support and participation from the visitors of the Park, but also from the society, for wetland conservation and education. The film is viewable at:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xnkA6uwvAI&list=UUvhj-zG_IqOtchr26CjoLhQ&feature=c4-overview

3.13"World Wetlands Day 2014" Pamphlet

HKWP produced the Hong Kong version WWD pamphlet to raise awareness of the interdependence of wetlands and water. The pamphlet can be downloaded at:
http://www.wetlandpark.gov.hk/en/download/pamphlets_wwd2014.asp

4 More information for the activities celebrating WWD 2014 can be found on http://www.wetlandpark.gov.hk/en/education/Bird_Watching_festival_2013.asp