

IT'S a mission towards net-zero emissions and plastic neutrality. And certainly, Nestlé (Malaysia) takes this journey very seriously. Its annual nationwide beach and underwater clean-up initiative is one of the platforms used to raise awareness among its employees as well as the public on the critical issue of marine pollution and to encourage responsible management of post-consumer packaging waste.

This year's initiative, held in conjunction with World Clean Up Day, is driven by the collective effort of over 400 Nestlé Cares volunteers. The result? The recovery of two tonnes of waste from six beach locations and two underwater sites across the nation.

The waste collected will be sent to specialised ocean-bound recyclers for its separating, recycling, or safe disposal, thus ensuring that nothing ends up in landfills. Since its launch in 2019, the initiative has successfully diverted a total of 14 tonnes of waste from polluting landfills and oceans.

The plastic collected through these activities is just the tip of the iceberg of Nestlé's extensive waste collection efforts. Its main programme, Project SAVE, focuses on plastic neutrality through five voluntary Extended Producer Responsibility initiatives — namely Kita Recycle targeting rural areas, Klang River Plastic Collection Programme, CARETon Project, Strata Recycling Programme and Door-to-Door Collection & Recycling Programme.

In 2023, these programmes will result in the collection of 12,000 tonnes of waste by year end and nearly 20,000 tonnes of waste since the launch in 2020, with approximately two-thirds of this volume being plastics.

UNITING FOR A CAUSE

"Nestlé Malaysia's annual beach and underwater clean-ups are a great platform for civic engagement and environmental awareness among our employees," says Nestlé (Malaysia) Bhd chief executive officer Juan Aranols in his opening speech.

Adding, he elaborates: "Advancing our actions to fight against plastic pollution and spearhead plastic neutrality go in parallel with continued virgin plastic reduction content in our products, and our efforts to promote responsible waste management

Stop marine pollution!

Nestlé (Malaysia) Berhad continues to champion environmental sustainability with its annual nationwide beach and underwater clean-up initiative, writes Intan Maizura Ahmad Kamal

in Malaysia through the collection, separation and recycling of materials." He goes on to add just how heartening it is to see Nestlé Cares volunteers once again coming together across the nation. "We are honoured by the involvement of representatives from the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, as well as from the of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Ministry," continues Aranols.

Collective action, he believes, is key to overcoming environmental challenges and spearheading meaningful changes towards a more sustainable Malaysia. Expression earnest, Aranols says: "We hope this initiative will inspire more action from the public. We invite Malaysians to join us in taking better care of our planet, namely the oceans by ensuring the responsible disposals of waste."

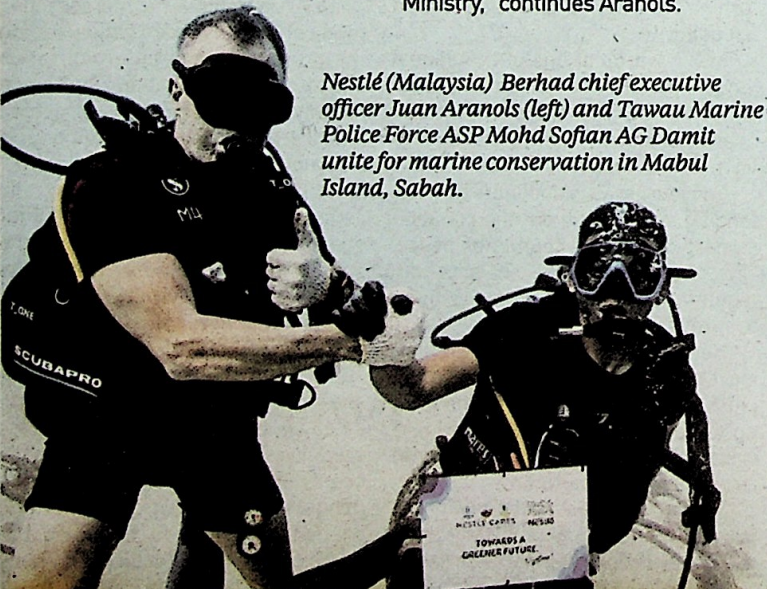
The beach clean-up locations include Pantai Kelanang, Selangor; Pantai Saujana, Negri Sembilan; Teluk Ketapang, Terengganu; Pantai Teluk Bayu, Penang; Pantai Batu Layar, Johor and Pantai Pasir Panjang, Sarawak.

Taking a step beyond the shore, the company undertook an underwater clean-up and coral-planting in two locations, namely Mabul Island, Sabah, and Perhentian Island, Terengganu, as part of its efforts to protect the country's marine ecosystem and restore precious coral reefs.

The team also made a return visit to check on the corals, which they had planted in Mabul Island last year, which incidentally coincided with the company's momentous 110th anniversary.

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Nestlé Cares volunteers carrying out underwater clean-up and reef conservation activities in Mabul Island, Sabah and Perhentian Island, Terengganu.



Nestlé (Malaysia) Berhad chief executive officer Juan Aranols (left) and Tawau Marine Police Force ASP Mohd Sofian AG Damit unite for marine conservation in Mabul Island, Sabah.



Nestlé Cares volunteers in a triumphant pose after their conservation activities in Mabul Island, Sabah and Perhentian Island, Terengganu.



Volunteers making a positive impact.



Beach clean-up across six locations.