

PMHAZE

Annual Report 2018

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President's Message

Dear Friends,

The year of climate action has been a tumultuous year for our region. Extreme weather events, natural disasters, and forest fires seem to have become our way of life. However not all is doom and gloom. At the regional level, Jokowi's moratorium on palm oil plantations is an important step towards a haze free future. While we have not seen all the fruits of his labour, we now have an important legal angle when we advocate against haze-causing agricultural practices. In the year towards zero waste, my biggest hope is for people in Singapore and the local government to continue inspiring individual action but also urge us to start thinking about how to help NGOs develop capabilities to promote sustainable development in communities around us.

In 2018, we continued to explore ways to collaborate with local partners and the community to inspire positive environmental action. We collaborated with Zero Waste SG, Centre for Responsible Future and Plastic Lite SG on Makan SG, a platform that aims to bring sustainability certification to food & beverage and hospitality establishments in Singapore. While we focus on the adoption of sustainable palm oil, we acknowledge that sustainability requires a holistic and concerted approach. Our fight continues.

Education about peatland communities is important and we have developed a new location for PEEP (People's Expedition to Experience Peat) in Air Hitam, Johor. We will work with Muslim Aid and the county government of Air Hitam to bring participants from Singapore to understand more about the challenges of communities living on Peatlands. Our project team also visited Sungei Tohor to assess the feasibility for a community empowerment programme. We are excited to bring potential solutions for peatland restoration that will protect the community and create a climate resilient outcome. Do stay tuned to our social media spaces.

Since the Association of Banks in Singapore issued their guidelines for responsible financing in 2015, we have been eager to see how our banks will demonstrate leadership in using their financial might for good. The last thing we would want to see is our money being used in a way that accelerates climate change, thereby destroying the future of our loved ones. Look out for our inaugural research on responsible finance and palm oil.

Finally, we are happy to announce that PM Haze has officially achieved charity status as of 2 January 2018.

We will continue to find better and new solutions to Go Haze Free!

Yours sincerely,
Benjamin Tay
President, PM Haze



PM Haze's Vision and Mission

Vision: We envision a world where everyone feels responsible for the clean air we all enjoy

Mission: We empower people with the values, knowledge and means to drive a movement to stop haze.

About PM Haze

PM Haze is a not-for-profit society registered in Singapore with charity status.

Unique Entity Number (UEN): T16SS0125L

Registered address: 8 Kitchener Link, #19-15, Singapore 207226

Governing Board

Name	Designation	Date of Appointment
Benjamin Tay Weiren	President	18 March 2018
Low Ching Chieh	Vice President	18 March 2018
Low Ying Hui	Treasurer	18 March 2018
Yang Yang	Secretary	18 March 2018

Roles and Responsibilities

President

- Chair all General, Governing Board and Advisory Council meetings
- Represent the Society in its dealings with external parties
- Ensure the execution of all resolutions of the General Meetings
- Develop effective and purposeful partnerships for fundraising and advocacy initiatives
- Implement good governance structures and planning strategic direction for the society

Vice President

- Assist the President and deputise for him in his absence
- Talent acquisition and retention for staff members
- Manage communication channels to for volunteer engagement activities
- Implement good governance structures and giving strategic direction for the society



Secretary

- Keep all records, except financial, of the Society and shall be responsible for their correctness
- Keep minutes of all General, Governing Board and Advisory Council meetings
- Keep an up-to-date Register of Members at all times

Treasurer

- Keep all funds and collect and disburse all moneys on behalf of the Society, in accordance with the Governing Board's directions
- Keep an account of all monetary transactions by the Society and be responsible for their correctness
- Ensure all returns and documents pertaining to the accounts and taxation are duly prepared for submission as required by law and within the time prescribed
- Ensure that policies and procedures laid out in the Society's Finance Code of Practice are adhered to

Honorary Auditors

Name	Designation
Ms. Subhadra Kannan Jayaraman	Honorary Auditor
Mr. Tan Kwee Xun	Honorary Auditor

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Must be a member of the charity
- Will be required to audit each year's accounts before it is presented during the AGM



Objectives

People's Movement to Stop Haze, known as PM Haze, is a charity focused on outreach, research and advocacy on the transboundary haze crisis. Our mission is to drive a movement to stop the haze by empowering the community with the knowledge, means and values.

Steering consumption patterns towards sustainable palm oil and paper, as well as assisting Indonesian and Malaysian farmers to create a sustainable livelihood are the two main ways we empower our community.

Policies

Funding Sources

PM Haze is financially supported by the Singapore Institute of International Affairs and donations from its members.

Memberships

PM Haze is open to the public for participation in its activities that furthers our cause. Talks, workshops, and community events are also conducted for the public for the purpose of raising awareness and advocacy on the root causes of transboundary haze.

We operate a by-invitation-only membership structure where we involve people from Singapore that are passionate about solving the transboundary haze and can contribute their capacities and capabilities towards our cause.



2018 Year in Review

Staffing

As of 31 December 2018, there was one person under a contract for services who managed outreach and engagement for the Society. In addition, our volunteer board comprised of 4 members who took care of both governance duties as well as actively carried out duties with regards to the Society's programmes and activities.

We would also like to recognise the contributions of key staff members who were with us in our journey.

Since its inception in 2013, Tan Yi Han, one of PM Haze's founding members, was instrumental in putting together the team that brought PM Haze to its current establishment. In 2017, he managed our youth empowerment programme, the BLUE Leadership Programme, as well as other research and outreach activities. Zhang Wen joined PM Haze in 2015 as its first Executive Director, overseeing the organisation and taking the lead for outreach and campaign activities. Aurelie Charneau led the UNESCO research paper work and coordinated the development of ground solutions in 2017.

This year, we had the opportunity to have Nor Lastrina Hamid and Thomas Naldi onboard to manage ground projects and develop new business outreach opportunities respectively. Pey Peixun was with us since 2017, assisting Aurelie with the UNESCO research paper. In 2018, she managed outreach and engagement opportunities for PM Haze. She also helped to close the administrative gaps in terms of developing key reports as well as to explore new fundraising opportunities.

We would like to thank all staff members that were part of the team for their hard work and efforts. We look forward to further opportunities to work with diverse individuals to advocate against transboundary haze.



Programmes and Activities

Talks and Workshops

We managed to reach a variety of different audiences in conducting our talks in 2018. We also reached out to corporations, schools and universities. As 2018 was the Year of Climate Action, the events and talks we were invited to increased dramatically and the Society was able to share its message with new audiences. We also worked together with 3 other environmental non-profits in Singapore to develop an outreach programme, Makan SG, that targeted food and beverage establishments that are thinking about going sustainable.



Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Organisation(s) involved
3 Mar 2018	Edible Festival @ Edible Green Park	Lab DNA Malaysia
8 Mar 2018	Talk at NUS Communications and New media Students, 4th year	NUS
13 Mar 2018	Guest lecture for International Perspectives on EHS	Newcastle University
17 Mar 2018	Talk at GCNS youth forum	GCNS
23 Mar 2018	Beyond COP 21 Symposium @Tanglin Trust Panel Discussion	Target 4 Green
28 Mar 2018	"Haze it's complicated" Movie Screening panel discussion	NTU Asian School of the Environment Club's
29 Mar 2018	Seminar at NTU for conservation psychology class	NTU
6 Apr 2018	Talk at NUS Random Blends 2018	NUS

Date	Event	Organisation(s) involved
13 Apr 2018	Seminar at NUS Geography Department	NUS
14 Apr 2018	Action for Sustainability Symposium 2018	NUS RVRC
14 Apr 2018	Guest Speaker for Core Module	SUSS
21 Apr 2018	'how-to' workshops at Service conference 2018	Canadian International School
21 May 2018	talk at Bedok View Sec	Bedok View Secondary
21 May 2018	talk at Sentosa	Sentosa Development Corporation
2 Jun 2018	Love Life Carnival	Ground-Up Initiative (GUI)
3 Jun 2018	talk at Sustainable Singapore Gallery launch event	MEWR
3 Jun 2018	MakanSG launch talks at Sustainable Singapore Gallery launch event	MEWR
8 Jun 2018	Sharing at Schneider Electronics	Schneider Electronics
23 Jun 2018	Workshop at The Good Event #1	The Good Place
23 Jun 2018	Workshop at The Good Event #2	The Good Place
28 Jun 2018	Business Productivity and Sustainable session for Sentosa Island Partners	Sentosa Development Corporation
1 Jul 2018	ZARCH x Brack talk	Brack
26 Jul 2018	Talk at Anderson Sec School	Anderson Sec School
24 Aug 2018	Geographers@Work	MOE
8 Sep 2018	Rise for Climate	350.org
14 Sep 2018	Talk at Masters for Environmental Management NUS	NUS
22 Sep 2018	CAPT Student Symposium 2018	College of Alice and Peter Tan
30 Nov 2018	Roundtable on Sustainable Peatland Governance	NUS
8-10 Nov 2018	UNESCO's MOST Academy: Bioethics and Sustainability Science in Action to Stop Haze Pollution, Riau Province-Indonesia	UNESCO
12-15 Nov 2018	RSPO Roundtable Conference on Sustainable Palm Oil	RSPO
13 Dec 2018	Resource Politics and the Public Sphere In Southeast Asia: Deliberation, Accountability and Alternatives	Chulalongkorn University

Roadshow Booths

We increased our roadshow activities this year. Setting up booths at roadshows throughout the year allowed us to engage new audiences in different spaces. A total of 11 roadshows was carried out.



Calendar of Events

Roadshow Date	Status	Event Name	Organisation
17 Mar 2018	Done	The Fun Odeyssa	Our Singapore Reefs
19 & 20 Mar 2018	Done	NTU Greenfest	NTU EarthLink
24 Mar 2018	Done	Bishan Earth Hour Event	Bishan CC
5 & 6- pr 2018	Done	NUS Random Blends 2018	NUS
29 Apr 2018	Done	Income Eco Run	YNTUC
18 May 2018	Done	Climate Action Exhibition	SIIA
2 & 3 Jun 2018	Done	Launch of Sustainable Singapore Gallery	MEWR
21 Jul 2018	Done	Wake Up Your Idea	UNFRAMED
4 & 5 Aug 2018	Done	NYC SHINE Festival	NYC
3 & 4 Nov 2018	Done	Green is the New Black	Green is the New Black
6 Dec 2018	Done	Wework Sustainability Fair	Wework

Community Events

This year we conducted 2 events involving the community and our volunteers in various forms. We tried to reach out to different audiences and partnered with 2 co-working spaces that reached out to a creative audience and a co-working space that focuses on innovation and community building to increase our reach beyond our traditional audiences.



Calendar of Events

Date	Status	Event Name	Organisation
30 Jun 2018	Done	Haze Huddle	PM Haze
16 Oct 2018	Done	Connecting the Dots	PM Haze/ Wework

Regional Outreach

PM Haze was involved in several regional events this year, from a UNESCO Academy in Indonesia (where we wrote a research paper for last year), an edible festival in Malaysia, and Thailand's Chulalongkorn University. We were glad to have shared our civil society and ground up experiences with the rest of Southeast Asia.

We were also approached by the Korean Environment Institute and Korea Institute for International and Economic Policy to share our experiences and thoughts about transboundary air pollution.



Review of activities

Our Outreach strategy for 2018 focused on raising awareness on haze and its origins as well as its link to the forestry sector, through talks, roadshows and social media. We also increased partnerships with other organisations to leverage on each other's spheres of influence. Through the events we attended, we have observed that there is a general awareness about haze and palm oil issues, but the link between them is not well known. Furthermore, the call to action for the consumer is not well-known, with many consumers believing that boycotting is the right way, without knowing that there is a sustainable alternative.

Social Media

Review

Global Reach: 134,000

Engagements: 4,500

Facebook and newsletters remain as our main medium to communicate with our online supporters. We have evaluated and acknowledge that while other social media systems tools are significant, we would like to focus our limited resources on one platform. In addition, the content that we generate does not necessarily speak to the 'language' of other social media platforms (i.e. Instagram, Twitter, etc..).

Our current strategy includes sharing the latest haze news, root causes and its impacts, as well as interesting articles on palm oil and the forestry industry. We continuously introduce interesting new businesses to support if they have sustainable practices including using RSPO certified palm oil. We also showcase our physical activities on social media and utilise social media to draw more participants for events.



Ground Project Development

Background:

Peat forests are large carbon sinks that cover much of Indonesia's forests. Canals are dug by companies or farmers to drain peatlands in order for the land to become arable for farming. These drained peatlands are the source of intense fires during the dry season as the fires can last inside the thick layers of peat for weeks and months, creating a harsh and pollutive smog.

The common approach to the restoration of drained peatlands or prevention of fires on peatlands is through building canal blocks that help to maintain the water table of the peatland. Many canal blocks have been built since the haze of 2015 for fire management purposes. However, having built these canal blocks as well as surveyed them after 3 years, PM Haze and our partners have found that canal blocks disintegrate quickly when not maintained. The effort and resources placed into building canal blocks are misspent if there is no community or company to maintain the canal blocks.

Last year, in May 2017, through the recommendation of our local partner WALHI, which is the Indonesian chapter for the United Kingdom's Friends of the Earth, we supported the building of a wooden canal-block in Sungai Tohor by bringing our volunteers down on our annual PEEP trip to build it. We were partially funded through a crowd-funding effort to build the canal block. We were put in touch with EKA, Ekonomi Kreatif Andalan, a 16-man co-op formed the end of 2017. Cik Manan is leading them to work on green economic initiatives for the villagers. They consist of community grassroot leaders and membership fees are used to fund agricultural initiatives to improve livelihood in the area.



Project Location: Sungai Tohor, Tebing Tinggi, Indonesia



Sungai Tohor is on the island of Tebing Tinggi, Riau Province, Indonesia. Tebing Tinggi is entirely covered in peat. Since 2007, the peat has been drained by two companies for plantations of sago palm and pulpwood. The local community was impacted as the drainage of peatland affected their sago crops. In 2014, massive fires started on one of the concessions and ravaged the island. The community invited president Jokowi to visit the island and he was impressed by their peat management plan. In 2016, the government revoked the license of one of the two concessions and gave the land back to the local community to manage it sustainably.

Fires have razed the area before and canal blocks were built as a prevention technique. Of the four locations we have visited, there are no conservation forests. The location is the land of the villagers who are included in the village forest area. This location is community land that they wanted to manage to become a sago plantation. Now they hope that the location can become a location for conservation-based ecotourism. However, the community is also aware that mangrove forests and peat forests are a buffer zone for their lives from abrasion of seawater and water supply for their sago farming. To obtain data on the composition of forest for peatlands in this place, it is necessary to analyze the vegetation that composes primary and secondary forests.

Other NGOs as well as government agencies have projects in the area but have not succeeded as only short-term measures have been implemented. For example, many canal blocks are in a state of disrepair, and the community are not inclined to build new ones due to limited resources. Furthermore, canal blocks are generally a short-term measure to resolve the water table drainage caused by irresponsible digging of canals to drain peatland. They can only be temporary as they do not manage to rehabilitate an entire forest, but



merely maintain status quo and prevent further damage. NGOs that go to Sungei Tohor to build canal blocks will leave after building multiple ones, without involving the villagers as stakeholders. We were also informed by the villagers that research projects have been carried out but they did not know the results of any research or projects done.

Hence, the villagers feel very disengaged with other NGOs' projects and it is our priority to encourage and involve them as stakeholders in our future project and build their capacities as a community. We believe that for a scalable project across multiple villages, we have to invest in the villages as stakeholders so that they can continue restoring the forests with minimum help from external parties after the initial phase.

Project Activities and Timeline:

We have proposed to our funders a multi-pronged approach to peatland restoration in Sungei Tohor. The three main activities are:

1. Establishing a nursery for native vegetation

In order to establish a nursery for native vegetation, our team on the ground has to analyse the vegetation of the peatland as well as map the forest area. After identifying the relevant species, we intend to proceed with building a tree nursery at an optimal location for growing saplings, before replanting them in the peatland. For the first year, we are looking at planting 6,000 saplings.

2. Repair of existing canal blocks

We have identified several canal blocks that are no longer functional. Instead of building new ones, the team will concentrate on repairing these canal blocks. At this stage, we have not determined which canal block to repair after our recce trip, and we can only decide after examining the quality and situation of each canal block, as well as if the location is a useful one. The feasibility of repair is a part of the plan.

3. Educating and preparing the village community (Capacity Building)

In order to empower the community to maintain and protect the peatland forests, they will be involved in building and creating the nursery, as well as the re-planting of saplings. We will also conduct workshops/ classes on the re-vegetation process as well as the reasons for revegetation for the community.



Impacts:

Through this project, our greatest impact will be to equip the villagers of Sungei Tohor with the know-how, incentives and reasoning to continue protecting and rehabilitating their peatland forests. We will keep working with EKA, the co-op that is interested in environmental economic initiatives to provide education for the villagers. We will also publicise the project in the local newspaper before we start, to inform all interested villagers and stakeholders.

As part of this project, a definite impact would be carbon emission reduction from replanting the forest and rehabilitating degraded peat soil. We are currently looking at possible emission reduction calculations so as to accurately find out the impact of reforestation. PM Haze intends to explore more carbon forestry avenues in order to allow for credible impact assessment.

Finally, by restoring degraded peatland, we will be helping with fire prevention and contribute to a Haze Free ASEAN. Water table management of degraded peatland is extremely essential, and we will also do this by identifying the canal blocks that need to be repaired, and then carrying out the repairs over the span of the project.

Review

Our project team visited Sungei Tohor twice this year to assess the feasibility for a community empowerment programme. We are excited to bring potential solutions for peatland restoration that will protect the community and create a climate resilient outcome for Sungei Tohor and the region it occupies. We will provide further updates once we have firm plans.



Research

Review

Responsible Finance

Since the Association of Banks in Singapore issued their guidelines for responsible financing in 2015, we have been eager to see how our banks will demonstrate leadership in using their financial might for good. The last thing we would want to see is our money being used in a way that accelerates climate change, thereby destroying the future of our loved ones. We are currently working on our inaugural research on responsible finance and palm oil and will unveil it soon.

Financials

Transactions

The Charity has total funds of \$18,120.32 for the year ended 31 December 2018. Largest expenditure is staff salary totalling to \$72,594.19, followed by office and administrative expenses totalling to \$1,937.00. Largest income is from Singapore Institute of International Affairs totalling \$31,336.00, followed by voluntary income from membership subscriptions totalling \$1,287.00.

Review and Changes

It is noted that there is a net loss of income of \$44,277.32 at the year ended 31 December 2018. This was due to an unexpected reduction in income from core activities (ground projects) which the Board had actively mitigated. Expenditure in ground projects was reduced accordingly with minimal impact on outreach core activities and its corresponding income.

The Constitution of the Charity has been amended with approval from Commissioner of Charities and Registrar of Societies in January 2018. The Charity will no longer be required to pay income taxes starting from the date of approval on 2 January 2018.

Plans and Commitments

The Charity and its Board is committed to maintain a healthy cash flow for its core activities by monitoring its income closely and taking the appropriate measures to ensure that the Charity remains solvent. Such measures include and are not limited to alternative sources of institutional funding, income streams from donations, crowdfunding and educational trips.

Expenditure will be limited to staff salaries and project costs for ground projects and outreach activities. Greater prudence in hiring of staff, contractors and purchase of expendables will be taken.



Future steps

Outreach

We plan to continue raising awareness on haze and its origins as well as its link to the forestry sector, through talks, roadshows and social media. We also will continue to maintain current partnerships and explore new partnerships to increase our capabilities to advocate against transboundary haze. In the next year we also plan to focus our efforts on raising awareness on the need to restore and protect peatland areas in Indonesia.

Educating people about peatland communities is an important step and we have developed a new location for PEEP (People's Expedition to Experience Peat) in Air Hitam, just a stone's throw away from Singapore. We will work with Muslim Aid and the County government of Air Hitam to bring participants from Singapore to understand more about the challenges of communities living on Peatlands. Our trip will be targeted at working professionals who want to understand more about the challenges of the sustainability journey. We completed a recce trip this year and look forward to bringing you the full trip in the first half of 2019.



Social Media

We want to leverage on existing content to further develop our social media presence on Facebook. Apart from sharing news, we want to increase our coverage of physical events where we engage key staff and volunteers. We also plan to develop a social media plan that is lean and focused on specific call to actions that may be fundraising, sharing of educational content or updating on community activities.

Ground Projects

We are currently exploring possibilities with existing and potential institutions to fund and develop a community empowerment programme that will include three main activities:

1. Establishing a nursery for native vegetation

In order to establish a nursery for native vegetation, our team on the ground must analyse the vegetation of the peatland as well as map the forest area. After identifying the relevant species, we intend to proceed with building a tree nursery at an optimal location for growing saplings, before replanting them in the peatland.

2. Repairing existing canal blocks

We have identified several canal blocks that are no longer functional. Instead of building new ones, the team will assess the viability of repairing these canal blocks based on the quality and situation of each canal block. We also intend to develop a methodology of determining optimal locations of canal blocks.

3. Educating and preparing the village community (Capacity Building)

In order to empower the community to maintain and protect the peatland forests, they will be involved in building and creating the nursery, as well as the re-planting of saplings. We will also conduct workshops/ classes on the re-vegetation process as well as the benefits of re-vegetation for the community.

Research

We are looking at possibilities for our responsible finance paper to be published in a peer reviewed journal. This will add to the credibility of our research as we want to eventually use the content to raise awareness on how financial institutions can play a part to prevent haze.

