

New exhibition uses plastic trash to build awareness of ocean health

Bangkok, 22 April 2015- In celebration of Earth Day today, Greenpeace Southeast Asia launched a new exhibition of photographs and installation art. Entitled *Art for the Ocean*, the show will raise public awareness of the threats facing our oceans right now and why we need to work together to protect it.

A collection of more than 20 photographs will highlight the beauty of our oceans and the many problems it faces. Illegal and unsustainable fishing practices, climate change, and water pollution have a terrible impact on our ocean health and adversely affect our marine ecosystem.

Ocean campaigner for Greenpeace Southeast Asia, Anchalee Pipattanawattanakul said:

“Human life depends on healthy oceans. Yet activities like overfishing, destructive fishing practices, and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing seriously threaten healthy ocean ecosystems.

“Greenpeace is working with local fishing communities, the public and other organizations to save our oceans. We call on the government to tackle these threats by taking concrete steps to stop overfishing and create a plan to conserve and restore marine ecosystems. Thailand’s recent warning from the European Union on illegal fishing shows just how crucial it is to take immediate action [1].”

Installation works by renowned Lao artist, Aligna [2] will also be featured. They depict a scene of flowers and fish, and is made from household and ocean garbage.

Aligna said:

“I want to show that, if we do nothing to stop this awful and avoidable problem, one day all our marine life will be contaminated. All the fish swimming in the ocean today rely on us to stop their homes being destroyed. I hope my work inspires people to work together and make the ocean as beautiful as it once was.”

Art for the Ocean will show every day from 22-28 April 2015 at HOF ART Residency Bangkok from 10am-7pm. Visitors are also invited to join an interactive trash flower workshop during 4-7pm. The event is free of charge.

The exhibition is a part of the Greenpeace *I Love My Ocean* project. The project aims to build awareness among consumers of problems in the ocean and encourage support of sustainable seafood and fisheries. To find out more about *I Love My Ocean*, visit:

www.greenpeace.or.th/oceans

Notes:

[1] On 21 April 2015, European Union issued a 'yellow card' to Thailand as a possible non-cooperating country on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. It has been assessed that Thailand is not doing enough to help curb illegal fishing practices. Thai government is given six months to implement a corrective tailor-made action plan.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4806_en.htm

[2] Mr. Aligna is French-based Lao artist. His practice includes sculpture, painting and music. He is best known for creating astonishing artworks from garbage such as plastic bottles, aluminium cans, tins, and clothes hangers. His installation works have been exhibited in Italy, France and Mexico to highlight the importance of reusing and recycling. In his debut Bangkok exhibition Aligna will focus on the health of our oceans as one of the most critical environmental issues facing Southeast Asia today.

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