

ARTIFICIAL REEF TO HELP PRESERVE MARINE LIFE ECO- SYSTEM



The programme began with loading off and embedding of the first artificial reef at the Tioman Island Marine Park on March 9, 2013 with the next 12 units fixed on April 18, 2013

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Tiomán Island is known as one of the world's 10 most beautiful islands and has a diversity of marine life including colourful reef. The island is an attraction, drawing local and foreign tourists who want to bask in the natural wonders it offers.

However, rapid tourism development, global warming and other environment issues had caused some of the marine life to gradually diminish. Its seabed is seeing lesser and lesser aqua life while the reefs are dying.

In a move to help preserve and enrich the marine life, Artificial Reef Project (ARP) crew from

the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering led by Professor Dato' Dr. Haji Rosli Abu Bakar designed artificial reefs made from concrete and steel.

The artificial reefs are made based on the design-and-build concept.

Professor Dato' Dr. Haji Rosli said to date, UMP researchers had designed and fabricated 15 units of the artificial reefs that would serve as wave breakers and in the process, help to protect the marine life in Tioman Island.

"Each unit is formed from three pieces of concrete-steel plates and weighs about 200 kg. It has a unique design – the shape of a solid triangle. The design-and-build concept also reduces manufacturing and transportation costs.