



Norhazira with a Trash Hero Ipoh volunteer during one of their weekly clean-ups.

Green heroes take charge of clean-ups

Volunteers seek to inspire change while providing solutions to avoid single-use plastics

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IMAGINE a world without rubbish. While others dream about it, Norhazira Jalik and five of her friends are taking charge, getting their hands dirty and organising clean-up projects in a bid to turn the dream into reality.

It was one of the reasons the 34-year-old businesswoman and her friends set up Trash Hero Ipoh (THI), a local chapter of the global movement known as Trash Hero World, early this year.

With THI, Norhazira said they would hold weekly clean-ups in various locations around Perak such as Teluk Batik and Ulu Chepor.

"Our main mission is to reduce current and future rubbish by inspiring long-term behaviour change in both individuals and institutions while providing solutions to avoid single-use plastics.

"For us, cleaning up is easy. The difficult part is educating people.

"We are trying to change people's perspective and push the idea that sometimes a small change can have a big impact on the future," she told *StarMetro*.

The movement was founded in Thailand and is currently active in over 50 locations globally.

Norhazira said the decision to set up THI

came about after she joined the Cherating chapter last year.

"I was working there and had tried to clean up nearby beaches for four years.

"They approached me last year and asked me to be part of the team," she said, adding that she returned to Ipoh early this year.

"It has not been easy to start THI but I am lucky to have a committed team."

Norhazira said THI was offered to collaborate with EcoBrick Malaysia to build the first-ever classroom made from eco-bricks in Perak.

"It is still being planned, with SJKT Menglembu agreeing to play host for the project," she said.

Eco-bricks are plastic bottles packed with used plastics and turned into reusable "building blocks".

These are widely used nationwide to make furniture, garden spaces and buildings.

"We are also glad that People of Remarkable Talent (Port) has agreed to be the drop-off centre for those keen to donate their eco-bricks or single-use-plastics for the project," she said.

Norhazira added that there were no requirements or fees to be a part of THI. All volunteers need to do is show up and collect rubbish in certain places.

For details, check out THI's Facebook and Instagram pages.



Trash Hero Ipoh holds weekly clean-ups in various locations around Perak.