



**MONASH**  
University



# Citizen Science Reporters

Pascale Allotey, Emma Rhule, Daniel Reidpath  
Maran Perianen, Manj Sandhu  
&

The SEACO Team



# How does SEACO work?

Demographic and health surveillance site established in 2011.

Multi- and interdisciplinary research platform core funded by Monash University, with collaborations with the University of Amsterdam, the WT Sanger, Newcastle, QUB.

Community engagement at the heart of the observatory.


SEACO strives toward a model of shared ownership of the observatory and of the research produced. The ultimate aim is to evolve from investigator-driven questions to joint- and community-directed research priorities.



# The District of Segamat, Johor, Malaysia



# Citizen Science Reporters (CSR)

- A collaboration between SEACO and local NGO, Citizen Journalists Malaysia (CJMy)  CITIZEN JOURNALISTS MALAYSIA  
powered by Malaysiakini
- Workshops teach community members how to film and edit video documentaries using a smart phone.
- Videos explore health issues faced by the community.
- Project aims to:
  - Develop a framework and resources for delivering this kind of project
  - Train 45-60 community member as citizen science reporters.
  - Capacity development
  - Inform SEACO's work

# Orang Asli (Indigenous) home



# CSR process workflow

## Pre-workshop

SEACO staff

- Recruit participants.
- Develop bespoke training materials.

## Workshop

CJMy - Two day workshop

Day 1

- Intro to journalism e.g. ethics.
- Intro to public health.
- How to use the cameras to make a film.
- Participants decide on a topic and do some initial research.

Day 2

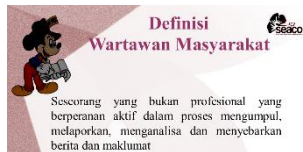
- Filming.
- Editing.
- Using YouTube.

## Post-workshop

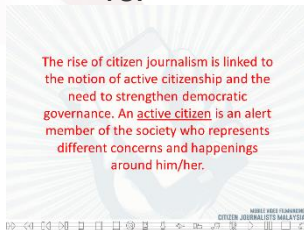
- Participants complete filming
- Upload to YouTube. Participant may choose to alert SEACO/CJMy.
- A selection featured on CJMy and/or SEACO websites .
- Community showcase event.

## Long term

- Community advocacy.
- Come back to ask additional health questions.
- CSR project model implemented in other contexts.



VS.



## Pilot session with SEACO staff

Three training sessions have been delivered

- Children
- Adults
- Orang Asal

Total of 42 participants have completed the sessions.



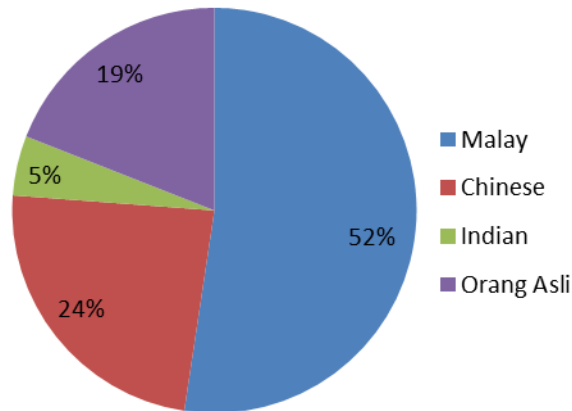
## Malaysia has a diverse ethnic composition but not equal engagement with government services.

When recruiting for the workshop we have tried to ensure a balance across ethnic groups.

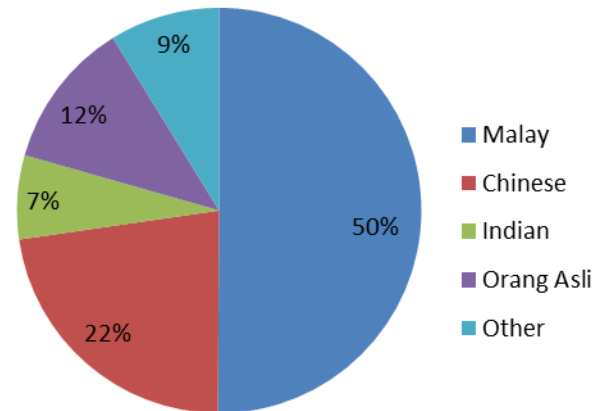
To date, participation has been reflective of population composition.



Ethnicity – Participants



Ethnicity – Malaysian population\*



\* Source: [http://www.indexmundi.com/malaysia/demographics\\_profile.html](http://www.indexmundi.com/malaysia/demographics_profile.html)



18 videos have been submitted.

7 of these were created by the children in groups during their workshop. They are now working on individual documentaries.

Videos mostly concerned with the local environment (7) - built and natural - and non-communicable diseases (8).

Featured topics include:

- 1) Breast Cancer
- 2) Betel addiction
- 3) Living with disability
- 4) Segamat River drying up
- 5) Effect of a power station close to homes



# Evaluation

Continuous evaluation process has informed subsequent training sessions.

## ■ Quantitative indicators:

- Number of attendees
- Number of videos made
- Subject range
- Training materials produced

## ■ Qualitative indicators:

- On the day feedback from participants
- Follow-up comments
- Requests from participants for additional information on health topics

## ■ Impact:

- Shifted focus from 'current events' to documentary style videos

## ■ Impact:

- Changed editing software application
- Nine breast cancer cases diagnosed in Orang Asal community.



**Link to Youtube video of training**

**[https://youtu.be/nd\\_rv3ley0Q](https://youtu.be/nd_rv3ley0Q)**

# Next steps

- Presentation to community of videos produced at public event
- Continued mentoring of participants
- Use information from CSRs and their communities to inform future SEACO research projects



# Production of feature length health promotion documentaries from footage



[www.seaco.asia](http://www.seaco.asia)  
[pascale.allotey@monash.edu](mailto:pascale.allotey@monash.edu)  
[daniel.reidpath@monash.edu](mailto:daniel.reidpath@monash.edu)

**welcome**trust

