

Blue Ribbon Ocean Conservation Society

Blue Ribbon Ocean Conservation Society (BROCS) was established in Sanya, China on June 1st, 2007. Themed with ocean environment protection, it is the first national non-profit volunteering civil organization that broadcasts laws and regulations on ocean environmental protection, arouses the general public's ocean protection awareness, establishes concrete measures, organizes volunteer teams and promotes scientific research on ocean protection.

It originates from a story.

Paul was a naughty boy and a headache for both students and teachers. As he was used to being criticized at teachers' office, took it as a routine and was proud of it.

One day, he strode into the office as usual. "What am I going to be criticized for?" He smiled to himself. To his surprise, the teacher was so kind and gentle to him that day, "Paul, you made a great progress in the recent exam. Besides, you performed well in the school sports competition. I realize that you are an important and talented member in our class. I'm sorry for neglecting that in the past. Can you accept my present as my apology and compliment to you?" Paul opened a little box on the desk, where lies an ordinary blue ribbon. The teacher tied the blue ribbon around his wrist and said, "This ribbon means you are very important to me and the whole class and we want to thank you for what you've done! Do you have

anyone who is important to you? If any, just tell him. Ok?”

Wearing the blue ribbon, Paul walked out of the office, with tears on face. From that day, Paul began to change.

As his parents passed away, it is his elder brother Ron who works hard to pay Paul’s tuition and his own in college. One day, Paul walked to the electronic company that Ron worked in, gave him the blue ribbon and said, “Thanks for taking care of me for so many years. Without you, I can’t imagine what would have happened to me. You are very important in my life. This blue ribbon is my thanks to you and you can give it to someone you feel important to you.”

Ron gave that ribbon to his boss Ryan, and added, “Boss, thank you! It is you who gave me a job to support my life, a chance to survive. This blue ribbon is my thanks to you and you can give it to someone who is important to you.”

Ryan went home late that day. When he searched for the key, the blue ribbon was taken out. A strong emotion surged in his mind. He opened the door and walked straight towards his son’s bedroom and whispered to him: “Bobby, I love you so much but I often overlook your feelings. But Daddy must tell you that you are very important to Daddy. This ribbon is my love to you!” The son, amazed, looking at his father, could not believe what he heard. “Daddy, do you know that I thought you are strict and mean. You come home late every night and always yell at me. I thought you don’t love me anymore. I’m still important to you, right?” Both father and son cried; however, it is the tears of happiness and love.

A simple blue ribbon brought us so many touching moments. Dear friends, if you have someone important in your life, just pass this ribbon to him and tell him that he means so much to you, and then your life will be different.

A blue ribbon is a symbol of love. Now this love is passed not only between different people but also between human and nature.

In China, the “Blue Ribbon Ocean Protection Activity” surges like

waves, rolling from people's hearts, to the seashore, to the center of ocean. It proliferates, from people to government agencies, schools, tourist destinations, military camps, communities and countryside.

Nowadays, China has already launched a series of laws and regulations protecting tens of thousands of islands, as if it has placed blue ribbons around the islands, which means gratitude, encouragement, caring and love.

The giving between people will be paid back, so will between people and nature.

Since the 1990s, after a comprehensive investigation of all islands, China has launched three batches of pilots about the islands development, protection and management. As to the inhibited islands, it conducted meaningful exploration and accumulated valuable experience in terms of land reclamation from the sea and the ecological system protection, some of which can provide constructive advice for laws and regulations establishment. The government also pays high attention to the uninhibited islands. A great number of laws and regulations have been established to



Torch-bearers of Beijing Olympic Games were participating charitable Blue Ribbon Ocean Conservation Activity in Sanya Bay to promote green Olympics.

regulate the development, including the Uninhabited Island Protection and Utilization Law issued by National Bureau of Oceanography, the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Headquarters of the General Staff in 2003, as well as tens of rules and documents formulated by the coastal government. In November, 2003, the Environment and Resources Protection Committee of the National People's Congress constituted a leading group to draw up the Island Protection Law of the People's Republic of China and started the work. After repeated researches, discussions and modifications, the Twelfth Session of the Standing Committee of the Eleventh National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China approved the law.

The Island Protection Law establishes the basic system for island planning and ecological protection. It divides islands into three types, inhabited islands, uninhabited islands and islands with special uses. The island protection law at the national and provincial level must be formulated. The island protection plan at the municipal, county and township level can be made by provincial or autonomous governments according to the actual needs. China supports the scientific research, exploitation and utilization of renewable resources and ecological construction; in addition it allocates special funds for protection and ecological remediation of islands. A host of rules came out, for example, the National Islands Protection Plan by the State Council (2012), the Registration Plan of Uninhabited Island Rights (2010), the Island Name Regulation Plan (2010), the Trial Measures for Examination and Approval of the Application for Use of Uninhabited Islands (2011), and the Selection and Protection Measures of the Territorial Sea Base (2012) by SOA.