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### **Resorts World® Sentosa partners ESPN STAR Sports to bring Asia's Biggest Mixed Martial Arts Championship to Singapore**

**World's Top Fighters battle for international glory within custom-designed Martial Combat Cage™**

**SINGAPORE, 11 May 2010** – Singapore's first integrated resort, Resorts World® Sentosa (RWS) has partnered with ESPN STAR Sports (ESS), Asia's top sports content provider, to present Asia's biggest Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Championship.

An event that is set to boost Singapore's credentials as the ultimate sporting city, Resorts World® Sentosa Martial Combat™ will gather some of the world's top professional contenders in an adrenaline-pumping series of twelve events comprising 60 action-packed fights from May to October 2010.

Taking centre stage at the resort's Compass Ballroom is the Martial Combat Cage™, a custom-designed cage where fighters will battle for international glory. Measuring 9.8 meters in diameter, the Martial Combat Cage™ - the first of its kind in Singapore – is specially reinforced to manage the sheer force and power of the fights.

Kicking off with the first fights on 12-13 May 2010, fighters trained in the various fields of martial arts including muay thai, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, boxing and wrestling will battle for the coveted right to be named Asia's champion.

Headlining the May 12 fight card will be former World Kickboxing Champion, Muay Thai Kings World Cup Champion, and one of the most respected fighters in Asia - Ole "Iron Fist" Laursen. "Iron Fist" will wage battle against the Brazilian sensation Eduardo "The Educator" Pachu.

Also confirmed is 11-year fight veteran and Brazilian Ju Jitsu Mundial World Champion Leandro Issa. Issa currently calls Singapore home and is training out of the prestigious Evolve Mixed Martial Arts under the legendary instructor and Mundials BJJ Black Belt World Champion Rafael "Gordinho" Lima. Issa will face China's top-ranked MMA fighter Yun Jiang Long.

The May 13 main event and SuperFight Championship will showcase Singapore's very own MMA sensation – Mitch "The Dragon" Chilson. "The Dragon" brings a string of 16 international wins and has earned a reputation as a talented fight tactician. He will be facing Taiwanese undisputed and reigning three-year Sanda Champion (since 2008) Zhang Jing Xong.

The only MMA event officially recognized and sanctioned by two of the world's leading governing bodies in the martial arts scene, the Asian Mixed Martial Arts Federation (AMMAF) and the World Martial Arts Federation of Singapore, the series will receive an unprecedented amount of television coverage with over 200 hours broadcast to over 300 million viewers in 24 countries across Asia. Created by ESPN STAR Sports in conjunction with Resorts World™ Sentosa, ESPN STAR Sports' Events Management Group has experience in managing and promoting more than 1,000 high-profile

sporting events around Asia, such as the KIA X Games Asia, KL World 5s, 9 Ball Tour, the FEI Endurance Race, the Standard Chartered FIH Men's Junior World Cup & Aviva Ironman 2009.

Said Mr Adam Zecha, Executive Vice President, Head of Sales, SE Asia, ESPN STAR Sports, "We are delighted to join hands with Resorts World™ Sentosa in a 3-year partnership to create stage and broadcast Asia's biggest mixed martial arts event right here in Singapore. The inaugural MARTIAL COMBAT is a great sports entertainment initiative which has the potential of becoming a signature sporting event in Asia. As Asia's top sports content provider, ESPN STAR Sports constantly strives to broaden the horizons and the reach of sports around the world and we are confident of delivering a world-class production that will help strengthen the popularity of Mixed Martial Arts in Asia."

Ms Andrea Teo, Vice President of Entertainment at RWS said: "We are confident that Resorts World Sentosa Martial Combat will help boost Singapore's status on the sporting map of the world. With its grit and glamour, the competition will get sports enthusiasts' adrenalin pumping, and reiterates the diversity of entertainment options at Resorts World Sentosa. This is in line with our promise to deliver entertainment choices for all tastes and ages."

**Resorts World™ Sentosa MARTIAL COMBAT 2010**

12 & 13 May at 8pm

Resorts World Convention Centre™, Compass Ballroom

Tickets: \*S\$50 \*S\$80 \*S\$100 \*S\$120 \*S\$300

(\*Prices exclude \$3 Sistic booking fee)

For more information and announcement of upcoming fight cards, please visit [www.rwmartialcombat.com](http://www.rwmartialcombat.com) or call 6577 8888 for enquiries. Tickets can be booked through SISTIC at 6348 5555 or [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg).

**About Mixed Martial Arts (MMA)**

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) combines the best fighting systems in the various fields of martial arts including muay thai, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, boxing and wrestling. As a spectator sport, it blends the mystique of martial arts, the adrenaline of prize fighting, and the excitement of sports.

MMA is already of the world's fastest growing sports and has dominated the North American pay-per-view scene. Its unique combination of a full-contact combat sport, which also allows a wide variety of fighting techniques, has led to a mass following amongst different types of martial arts enthusiasts.

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## **About Resorts World Sentosa**

Resorts World Sentosa, one of the world's most extensive and expensive integrated resorts at S\$6.59 billion, was built in a record time of under three years. Resorts World Sentosa has soft opened its four hotels on 20 January 2010, its shopping and dining strip, FestiveWalk on 30 January 2010, Singapore's first casino on 14 February 2010, together with the Resorts World Convention Centre, which includes its Compass Ballroom, 26 function rooms and 1,600-seat Festive Grand theatre and Southeast Asia's first and only Universal Studios Singapore on 18 March 2010. Supporting the attractions are a 3,500-lot carpark facility, restaurants, retail stores, entertainment and public attractions that include Emmy-award winner Jeremy Railton's Lake of Dreams and Chamber of Treasures.

Resorts World Sentosa will open the world's largest Marine Life Park, its Maritime Xperiential Museum, a destination spa and two remaining hotels with a total of 500 rooms in phase two development.

## **About ESPN STAR Sports**

ESPN STAR Sports is a 50:50 joint venture between two of the world's leading cable and satellite broadcasters. As Asia's definitive and complete sports broadcaster and content provider, ESPN STAR Sports combines the strengths and resources of its ultimate parent companies – Walt Disney (ESPN, Inc.) and News Corporation Limited (STAR) – to deliver a diverse array of international and regional sports to viewers via its encrypted pay tv services.

ESPN STAR Sports showcases an unparalleled variety of premier live sports from around the globe 24 hours a day to a cumulative reach of more than 300 million viewers in Asia. ESPN STAR Sports has 19 networks covering 24 countries, each localised to deliver differentiated world-class premier sports programming to Asian viewers. This includes ESPN SEA, ESPN China, ESPN Hong Kong, ESPN India, ESPN Malaysia, ESPN Philippines, ESPN SEA 2, ESPN Taiwan, MBC-ESPN (Korea), STAR Sports Asia, STAR Sports Hong Kong, STAR Sports India, STAR Sports Malaysia, STAR Sports SEA, STAR Sports SEA 2, STAR Sports Taiwan, STAR Cricket, ESPNEWS and ESPN HD.

On the ground, the ESPN STAR Sports Event Management Group manages and promotes premier sporting events around Asia. ESPN STAR Sports aims to reach consumers at any time, any place and through all new media platforms, both internet and mobile. The multi-lingual, online platforms, espnstar.com, espnstar.com.cn and espnstar.com.tw interact with millions of users providing them with in-depth sports news, results and competitions. Developed for the sports fan that is constantly on the move, mobileESPN enables the serious sports fan to follow their favourite sports more closely than ever before with a combination of specially produced video news clips, in-depth news coverage and analysis.

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Resorts World® Sentosa Martial Combat™ - Asia's Biggest Mixed Martial Arts Fighting Championship will showcase some of the most celebrated Asian fighters and many ranked fighters from around the world as they battle it out at Compass Ballroom in Resorts World™ Sentosa, Singapore's first integrated resort.



Be prepared for adrenaline-pumping fights and non-stop action within the Martial Combat Cage™ at Compass Ballroom, Resorts World Sentosa Convention Centre™ with professional fighters contending for the championship belt.