

## press release

### **Resorts World Sentosa's Marine Life Fund Supports More Local Projects**

**SINGAPORE, 28 JANUARY 2013** – Resorts World Sentosa today announced the award of its Marine Life Fund (MLF) to two local projects in marine conservation and research. This is the first tranche of funding announced for the 2012 applications, and the MLF committee is reviewing more proposals from the region.

Mr. Biswajit Guha, Director of Conservation and Education at Marine Life Park, Resorts World Sentosa said "The Marine Life Fund was established to promote marine conservation, research and outreach. We are heartened by the quality of proposals that various institutions and independent groups had submitted last year, and were particularly encouraged by the enthusiasm of students and youths in doing their part for marine life. We remain firmly committed to keep this momentum going and inspire even more marine stewards to take a much greater interest in marine conservation within Singapore and the region."

The first project is awarded to Temasek Polytechnic's School of Applied Science. It focuses on species conservation and research, aimed at improving the survival rate of hatchlings and larvae of the mud crab (Genus *Scylla*), better known to Singaporeans as the "Chili Crab", a popular local cuisine. The mud crab is harvested from nature for human consumption. While this species is not currently threatened, unchecked intensive harvesting will eventually put a strain on the species' population.

The research targets to create a system that can be used by local aquaculture farmers, reducing the need to harvest the crabs from nature. The team will also work with conservationists to re-introduce juvenile mud crabs into natural habitats. In addition, the knowledge gained from the research can be adapted for other crab species that are currently being cared for in the Marine Life Park.

Dr. Wee Kok Leong, Manager, Aquaculture Research at the School of Applied Science, Temasek Polytechnic said, "Expanding the sphere of aquaculture research in Singapore will ensure that the aquaculture industry continues to grow from strength to strength. This is a vital component in developing sustainable food sources as part of our nation's focus on food security and food safety. With the expertise available at Marine Life Park, we look forward to working together on the various projects and collaborations."

The second project is awarded to a group of Singaporean teenagers who have come together to form "Youths for the Wild". Their initiative, titled "Indanger: A Splash on the Wild Side of Singapore" aims to champion and raise public awareness on marine conservation through a series of public engagement activities targeted at both adults and children.

The Marine Life Fund was launched in 2008, and has previously supported marine conservation projects in Singapore, the Galapagos Islands and China. The Fund is administered by the Marine Life Park, which opened in November 2012, and is home to more than 100,000 marine animals of over 800 species in more than 60 million litres of water. It has an experienced team of animal experts who collectively

represent over 700 years of experience working in more than 60 reputable zoological facilities around the world.

Applications for the Marine Life Fund will open again in mid-2013; interested parties may apply via our website at <http://www.rwsentosa.com>.

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### **ABOUT MARINE LIFE FUND**

The Marine Life Fund supports marine conservation, education and research in Singapore and the region. It aims to nurture marine stewardship by encouraging and supporting research, conservation and public outreach efforts of children and youths. Administered by the Marine Life Park, the Marine Life Fund supports projects and initiatives that focus on marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity, aimed at creating positive outcomes for the community and environment. Resorts World Sentosa commits S\$1 million to the Marine Life Fund annually and has been supporting marine conservation and research projects within Singapore and Southeast Asia since 2008.

### **ABOUT RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA**

Resorts World Sentosa (RWS), Singapore's first integrated resort is located on the resort island of Sentosa. Spanning 49 hectares, the resort opened in January 2010 and welcomed over 30 million visitors in its first two years of opening. RWS is home to the region's first-and-only Universal Studios theme park, the world's largest oceanarium – Marine Life Park, the Maritime Experiential Museum, a casino, luxurious accommodation in six unique hotels, the Resorts World Convention Centre, celebrity chef restaurants, a world-class spa as well as specialty retail outlets. The resort also offers entertainment including a resident magical spectacular – *Incanto*, and public attractions such as the Crane Dance and the Lake of Dreams. Resorts World Sentosa is wholly owned by Genting Singapore, a company of the Genting Group.

For more information, please visit [www.rwsentosa.com](http://www.rwsentosa.com).

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### **PHOTOS**

1. Please use the following photo captions for visuals. High resolution image can be downloaded from <http://mlp.rwsentosablog.com/media/> (Password: rwsmlp2012)



Dr. Wee Kok Leong and Dr. Mithun Sukumaran conducting marine research in Temasek Polytechnic School of Applied Sciences' aquaculture facility on the mud crab.

**Photo attributable to:** Temasek Polytechnic

