

press release

Resorts World Sentosa's S.E.A. Aquarium and Dolphin Island Granted AZA Accreditation

SINGAPORE, 26 SEPTEMBER 2014 – The Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) today announced that the Southeast Asia Aquarium (S.E.A. Aquarium) and Dolphin Island at Singapore's Resorts World Sentosa were granted accreditation by AZA's independent Accreditation Commission.

"By meeting the highest standards, S.E.A. Aquarium and Dolphin Island are ranked among the best zoos and aquariums in the world," said AZA President and CEO Jim Maddy. "When people visit these attractions at Resorts World Sentosa, they can be assured that they are supporting a facility that is a leader in the care and conservation of wildlife."

John Hallenbeck, Senior Vice President of Attractions at Resorts World Sentosa added, "At both S.E.A. Aquarium and Dolphin Island, marine education, conservation and research, as well as the well-being of our animals have always been our utmost priority. We are delighted to be one of the few facilities outside of the United States to receive the accreditation from AZA, and we look forward to inspire more visitors to do their part for our oceans."

To be accredited, S.E.A. Aquarium and Dolphin Island underwent thorough reviews to ensure that the facilities have and will continue to meet rising standards, including animal care, veterinary programmes, conservation, education, and safety. AZA requires zoos and aquariums to successfully complete this rigorous accreditation process every five years in order to be members of the Association.

The accreditation process includes a detailed application and a meticulous on-site inspection by a team of trained zoo and aquarium professionals. The inspecting team observes all aspects of the institutions' operation, including animal care; keeper training; safety for visitors, staff and animals; educational programs; conservation efforts; veterinary programs; financial stability; risk management; visitor services; and other areas. Finally, top officials are interviewed at a formal hearing of AZA's independent Accreditation Commission, after which accreditation is granted, tabled, or denied.

The S.E.A Aquarium opened in late-2012 and has welcomed more than 3 million visitors in its first year of operations. It was also recently awarded one of the Top 10 Aquariums in Asia by TripAdvisor's Travellers' Choice Awards 2014, and has rolled out a series of special programming to enhance visitors' experience including a family-friendly Halloween themed month for October. Dolphin Island will also be celebrating its first anniversary since it launched its interaction programmes in September last year where guests can get up-close and personal with Indo-pacific bottlenose dolphins and learn more under the guidance of experienced marine mammal trainers.

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ABOUT AZA

Founded in 1924, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of zoos and aquariums in the areas of conservation, animal welfare, education, science, and recreation. AZA is the accrediting body for the top zoos and aquariums in the United States and six other countries. Look for the AZA accreditation logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things. The AZA is a leader in saving species and your link to helping animals all over the world. To learn more, visit www.aza.org.

ABOUT RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA

Resorts World Sentosa (RWS), Asia's ultimate destination resort, is located on Singapore's resort island of Sentosa. Spanning 49 hectares, the resort opened in January 2010 and welcomed over 45 million visitors in its first three years of opening. RWS is home to two mega attractions - the region's first-and-only Universal Studios theme park and the Marine Life Park, which comprises the S.E.A. Aquarium (one of the world's largest aquariums) and Adventure Cove Waterpark. Other attractions include a Maritime Experiential Museum, an award-winning destination spa, a casino, six unique hotels, the Resorts World Convention Centre, celebrity chef restaurants, and specialty retail outlets. The resort also offers world-class entertainment, from original resident productions to concerts and public shows such as the Crane Dance and the Lake of Dreams. RWS was named "Best Integrated Resort" in 2011, 2012 and 2013 at the TTG Travel Awards, which recognizes the best of Asia-Pacific's travel industry. RWS is wholly owned by Genting Singapore, a company of the Genting Group.

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MEDIA CONTACTS

Resorts World Sentosa

Clement Ng

clement.xjng@rwsentosa.com

Tel: +65 6577 9761

Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA)

Rob Vernon

rvernon@aza.org

Tel: +1 (301) 244 3352

NOTE TO EDITORS

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Dolphin Island at Resorts World Sentosa is one of the largest inland marine mammal facilities in the world. It provides a range of interaction programmes for guests to get up-close and learn about the adorable Indo-pacific bottlenose dolphins. Its animal husbandry and veterinary care teams have more than 400 years of experience between them.



Marine education, conservation and research are the key pillars of the S.E.A. Aquarium. As one of the world's largest aquariums, it has recently launched theme months aimed at raising awareness on different marine species and their conservation. Coming up in October 2014, the aquarium will feature a month-long *SEAA Wonders: Spooky Seas* programming, lining up a series of fun-filled Halloween activities for the family.