

## press release

### Dolphin Island shows off new bundle of joy

*40 students on learning programme meet female dolphin calf for the first time  
Dolphin conservation project to launch in April*

**SINGAPORE, 15 APRIL 2015** – Cheers and squeals of delight abound at Resorts World Sentosa’s Dolphin Island (海豚园) today as 40 students from Kranji Primary School (格致小学) became the first official visitors of the attraction’s latest addition – a four-month old female dolphin calf.

The calf was born to Tian Tang (天堂) on 17 December 2014, and both mother and female calf are doing well under the close monitoring and care by our veterinary staff and marine mammal team. The calf has also been slowly introduced to other dolphins and our trainers.

“We’re very happy for Tian Tang and her calf and we will continue to provide the best care and attention to them. This is a very exciting event for Dolphin Island as we usher in the fifth anniversary celebrations of Resorts World Sentosa. It is made even more meaningful having our next generation of marine stewards as the calf’s first visitors,” said Mr Adrian Penny, Director of Operations (营运总监) at S.E.A. Aquarium and Dolphin Island.

He added, “We are glad to see the positive development and growth of the dolphin calf, and the birth reflects the healthy social and behavioural setting for our dolphin population.”

The students today were participants of *Dolphin Matters* (海豚百科) – a one-hour learning journey in which students learn more about dolphins’ behavior and reproduction, as well as environmental effects on these mammals. The primary five and six students were also taught how behavioural and structural adaptations serve to enhance dolphins’ survival. The session also included a meet-and-greet with the Indo-pacific bottlenose dolphins at Dolphin Island.

“The students got a pleasant surprise when they saw the calf swimming in the lagoon,” said Mdm Rufaidah Bte Ismail, HOD of Science at Kranji Primary School. She added, “They are really happy to be the first ones seeing the calf and it has helped make classroom learning come to life for them.”

From now until 30 June 2015, participants of all dolphin interaction programmes will get to suggest names for the calf, on top of having a chance to catch a glimpse of it. More details of the naming contest are available on-site.

#### **Conservation Project Update**

Dolphin Island also announced that the first phase of its *Save the Irrawaddy Dolphin* project ( “拯救伊河海豚” 计划) would commence in late-April this year. The week-long rapid population assessment (动物种群快速评估) will be conducted at Thailand’s Songkhla Lake (宋卡湖) where

little is known about the number of Irrawaddy dolphins left. The population is being severely compromised from environmental degradation and lake vessel encroachment.

Dolphin Island will deploy a two-man team led by Chief Veterinarian, Dr Alfonso Lopez, D.V.M. (圣淘沙名胜世界海洋生物园主任兽医阿方索·洛佩兹医生), providing technical, logistical and administrative expertise for this extensive assessment conducted through aerial and boat surveys. They will work alongside researchers from Chulalongkorn University Thailand led by investigator Dr Nantarika Chansue, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (泰国国立朱拉隆功大学兽医系副教授南达莉卡医生), as well as officials from Thailand's Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (海洋和沿海资源部).

To keep everyone abreast of the latest progress of the project, the team will be publishing updates at [www.dolphinisland.rwsentosablog.com](http://www.dolphinisland.rwsentosablog.com). The report on initial findings is expected to be released in the third quarter of 2015.

Dr Lopez stated: "The main sightings of Irrawaddy dolphins at Songkhla Lake occur at the northern, deepest part of Songkhla Lake and the best season of the year to perform this rapid assessment is around April. The teams at Dolphin Island and Chulalongkorn University have been working to engage all stakeholders and we are excited to kick start this collaboration to develop a long-term rescue action plan for these endangered animals."

Mr Robin Friday, CEO of Ocean Embassy and Wildlife International Network, who is also an advisor on this project, added that, "This marks the first marine mammal field research project for the research team at Dolphin Island. I am confident that such research initiatives will continue to be accomplished in partnership with scientific counterparts in Southeast Asia, contributing their collective expertise in furthering conservation and sustainability of marine mammals within the region."

Dolphin Island is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), ranking among the best zoos and aquariums in the world.

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#### ABOUT RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA



Resorts World Sentosa (RWS), Asia's ultimate destination resort, is located on Singapore's resort island of Sentosa. 2015 marks the resort's fifth anniversary, and RWS will celebrate with a line-up of new offerings and special promotions. Spanning 49 hectares, RWS is home to key attractions including the region's first-and-only Universal Studios theme park, S.E.A. Aquarium (one of the world's largest aquariums), Adventure Cove Waterpark and Dolphin Island. 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 has been named "Best Integrated Resort" since 2011 for four consecutive years at the TTG Travel Awards which recognises the best of Asia-Pacific's travel industry.

RWS 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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## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

### **Resorts World Sentosa**

Lee Sin Yee / Clement Ng

Tel: +65 6577 9769/ +65 6577 9761

Mobile: +65 9626 3597/ +65 9815 4490

Email: [sinyee.lee@rwsentosa.com](mailto:sinyee.lee@rwsentosa.com) / [clement.xjng@rwsentosa.com](mailto:clement.xjng@rwsentosa.com)

### **Note to Editors**

1. High resolution photos can be downloaded from: <http://dicalf.rwsentosa.media>.
2. All photos are to be attributed to: *Dolphin Island, Resorts World Sentosa*



*Students from Kranji Primary School were the first official visitors of the dolphin calf, as part of the Dolphin Matters education programme.*



*The female dolphin calf bonding with her mother, Tiang Tang.*



*The dolphin calf swimming alongside her mother, Tian Tang.*



*The female dolphin calf is now close to four months old. Both mother and calf are doing well, and are continuously being monitored.*

