

press release

S.E.A. Aquarium Marks Milestone with Launch of New Institute to Boost Marine Conservation

- *New S.E.A. Aquarium Society conservation institute aims to bring together like-minded individuals and organisations to protect the ocean*
- *James Cook University and Zero Waste SG amongst the first partners to embark on conservation initiatives*
- *Visitors to enjoy month-long educational activities in celebration of World Oceans Day*



S.E.A. Aquarium at Resorts World Sentosa achieved a significant milestone on World Oceans Day, with the launch of a new conservation institute called S.E.A. Aquarium Society which announced its partnership with two organisations. (FROM LEFT) Mr Eugene Tay, Executive Director of Zero Waste SG; Professor Ken Greenwood, Dean of Research & Professor of Psychology, James Cook University Singapore; Ms Michelle Choo, Assistant Vice President of Attractions at Resorts World Sentosa; Mr Terry Garcia, Advisor to S.E.A. Aquarium Society and former Chief Science and Exploration Officer of National Geographic Society. PHOTO CREDITS: RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA.



SINGAPORE, 8 June 2017 – S.E.A. Aquarium at Resorts World Sentosa (RWS) achieved a significant milestone on World Oceans Day today, with the launch of a new conservation institute that will take greater strides in supporting conservation research, education and public engagement efforts. Called the S.E.A. Aquarium Society, the institute will bring together a community of like-minded people and organisations collaborating with S.E.A. Aquarium to protect the marine environment.

The newly-established S.E.A. Aquarium Society will support researchers and scientists dedicated to increasing understanding of the ocean. It will also lead and support local initiatives and campaigns that will impact and improve ocean health.

Individuals, organisations and interest groups passionate about protecting the ocean are welcome to be part of the society. It is open to people from all walks of life, including partners such as government agencies, corporates, non-profit groups, academic and research institutions; as well as supporters such as youth ambassadors, volunteers and marine enthusiasts.

S.E.A. Aquarium Society will embark on its long-term ‘Healthy Ocean, Healthy Us’ initiative which aims to highlight how ocean health is fundamentally linked to human health. It will focus on tackling priority issues such as ocean plastic pollution, sustainable seafood and climate action for the ocean in Southeast Asia and Australasia over the next five years.

Mr Jason Horkin, Senior Vice President of Attractions at Resorts World Sentosa, said: “With the launch of S.E.A. Aquarium Society, we hope to pool resources together and boost marine conservation efforts in Singapore and the region with a renewed focus on initiatives that can improve the health, sustainability and productivity of the ocean. Protecting marine life cannot be achieved by one group alone. We invite all like-minded individuals and organisations that share the same cause to be part of the society and be involved in protecting the marine environment and educating everyone on the importance of safeguarding the health of our ocean.”

Following its launch, S.E.A. Aquarium Society signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with James Cook University (JCU) Singapore which stands as a world leader in environmental sciences*. The MoU will see the two organisations collaborate on research projects, student and public engagement programmes, as well as groom the next generation of marine scientists through internships. The partnership will tap on the university’s strengths in business, environmental and marine science.

Professor Ken Greenwood, Dean of Research & Professor of Psychology, James Cook University (JCU) Singapore, said: “James Cook University is committed to creating a brighter future for life in the tropics world-wide through graduates and discoveries that make a difference. Our university is ranked number one in the world for marine biology and number two in the world for biodiversity conservation research*,



and we look forward to linking our expertise with that of S.E.A. Aquarium Society in research that will boost marine conservation efforts in Singapore and the region."

S.E.A. Aquarium Society also provided a cash funding of S\$54,000 to Zero Waste SG, a non-profit and non-governmental organisation dedicated to helping Singapore eliminate the concept of waste. The contribution will support a new nationwide BYO (Bring Your Own) Schools Programme which engages students on plastic disposables and marine litter through talks and interactive booths, and encourages them to bring their own reusables and reduce plastic disposables via a reward system. The year-long programme targets to reduce the total number of plastic disposables by 20,000 items. This collaborative project between S.E.A. Aquarium Society and Zero Waste SG commences July 2017 and will involve 4,000 students from 20 primary schools in Singapore.

Mr Eugene Tay, Executive Director of Zero Waste SG, said: "We are pleased to partner S.E.A. Aquarium Society to spread the message on reducing plastic disposables in schools and encourage students to BYO. Marine litter is mostly made up of plastics, and poses harm to marine animals through ingestion or entanglement. Reducing plastic disposables is a key driving force in marine conservation. The funding and support from S.E.A. Aquarium Society will enable us to inculcate good BYO habits in young minds to protect the marine environment."

Activities spearheaded by S.E.A. Aquarium Society this month include its first-ever underwater reef clean-up at Pulau Hantu on 6 June to contribute to worldwide data on marine litter. S.E.A. Aquarium Society is also organising a beach clean-up involving RWS team members and the community to record the type of marine litter found on Singapore's shores.

S.E.A. Aquarium is the Official Singapore Sponsor of World Oceans Day 2017, working alongside other members of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) to raise awareness on ocean plastic pollution through educational interpretives, interactive activities and storytelling.

From now till 25 June, visitors to S.E.A. Aquarium can take part in a series of educational activities that highlight the beauty of the ocean and the importance of protecting them. One of the event highlights is a National Geographic photo exhibition titled "Ocean Soul" featuring stunning images taken by renowned underwater photojournalist Brian Skerry. Divers and underwater photographers can join a photography contest, and kids can learn how to make cute-looking sushi using sustainable seafood.

From 10 June to 31 July, Singapore Residents purchasing tickets online can enjoy adult one-day tickets at S\$28 each which includes admission, free dessert and a S\$5 retail voucher with a minimum spending of S\$35.



Individuals and organisations who wish to collaborate with S.E.A. Aquarium Society can email conservation@rwsentosa.com. Supporters can also join by signing up for the society's newsletter at [S.E.A. Aquarium blog](#). To stay connected, supporters can join the [S.E.A. Aquarium Society Facebook group](#).

*According to the Centre for World University Rankings (CWUR). For more information, visit <https://www.jcu.edu.sg/news/releases/jcu-no.1-in-world-for-marine-biology>

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ABOUT S.E.A. AQUARIUM

Opened in November 2012, S.E.A. Aquarium at Resorts World Sentosa is one of the world's largest aquariums home to more than 100,000 marine animals from across 800 species. Featuring 49 habitats, S.E.A. Aquarium exhibits close to 80 threatened species including the manta ray, Clarion angelfish and a variety of beautiful corals that mirror a pristine aquatic environment. Through interactive programmes, up-close animal encounters and immersive learning journeys, S.E.A. Aquarium aims to inspire visitors to protect the ocean.

S.E.A. Aquarium collaborates with local and regional partners in marine conservation projects and is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

ABOUT RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA

Resorts World Sentosa (RWS), Asia's premium lifestyle destination resort, is located on Singapore's resort island of Sentosa. Spanning 49 hectares, RWS is home to four world-class attractions including Universal Studios Singapore, S.E.A. Aquarium, Dolphin Island and Adventure Cove Waterpark. Other attractions include the Asian flagship of a world-renowned destination spa, a casino, six unique hotels and the Resorts World Convention Centre. With the most number of Michelin stars in one destination, RWS offers award-winning dining experiences at renowned celebrity chef restaurants, establishing itself as a key player in Singapore's vibrant and diverse dining scene. The integrated 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 six 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.

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Note to Editors

1. Photos of the launch event, including past conservation initiatives by S.E.A. Aquarium Society can be downloaded from <https://app.box.com/v/worldoceansday2017>
2. All photos are to be attributed to **Resorts World Sentosa**



A group of underwater divers at S.E.A. Aquarium unveiling the logo of S.E.A. Aquarium Society, a new conservation institute. The society will take greater strides in supporting conservation research, education and public engagement efforts by bringing together a community of like-minded people and organisations collaborating with S.E.A. Aquarium to protect the marine environment.



Ms Michelle Choo, Assistant Vice President of Attractions at Resorts World Sentosa, presents a plaque to Professor Ken Greenwood, Dean of Research & Professor of Psychology, James Cook University (JCU) Singapore. S.E.A. Aquarium Society signed a Memorandum of Understanding with JCU Singapore which will see the two organisations collaborate on research projects, student and public engagement programmes, as well as groom the next generation of marine scientists through internships.



Ms Michelle Choo, Assistant Vice President of Attractions at Resorts World Sentosa, presents a cheque of S\$54,000 to Mr Eugene Tay, Executive Director of Zero Waste SG, a non-profit and non-governmental organisation dedicated to helping Singapore eliminate the concept of waste. The contribution will support a new nationwide BYO (Bring Your Own) Schools Programme which engages students on plastic disposables and marine litter through talks and interactive booths, and encourages them to reduce plastic disposables.