

## press release

### Resorts World Sentosa's Expansion to Lead the Recovery of Singapore's Tourism

- *RWS's expansion will progressively transform the integrated resort into a sustainable and innovative top tourism destination*
  - *Construction for RWS 2.0 and refurbishment works to commence in Q2 2022*
  - *Fresh new experiences boosted by technology and marine biodiversity research will unlock new potential for Singapore's tourism*



*Concept rendering of the Despicable Me Minion Mayhem ride at Universal Studios Singapore (left; Credit: Universal Parks & Resorts) and an artist's impression of the Singapore Oceanarium\* (right)*

**SINGAPORE, 17 February 2022** – As a key pillar of Singapore's tourism sector, Resorts World Sentosa (RWS) is set to lead the way to recovery with its upcoming expansion strategized for a post-pandemic future. Its expanded offerings will bring about completely new and exciting visitor experiences poised to reinvigorate Singapore's tourism and welcome back international visitors. First announced in 2019, its expansion plan, known as RWS 2.0, will add a mix of all-new exciting attractions, entertainment and lifestyle offerings to the destination resort. Construction will commence in the second quarter of 2022 starting with the expansion of two major RWS attractions.

Universal Studios Singapore will feature a new highly immersive themed zone, Minion Land. At the same time, S.E.A. Aquarium will be significantly enhanced and rebranded as the Singapore Oceanarium. The upgraded attractions will form two key components of RWS 2.0, and are envisioned to become Singapore's new tourism icons and purpose of visits. Together with other refurbishment works, construction will commence with about S\$400 million to be spent as project investment in 2022.

**Minion Land** will thrill and delight audiences of all ages with its popular and mischievous Minions from Illumination's *Despicable Me*. New adventures will be in store at the expansive zone, where there will be multiple rides including a world's first original ride exclusive to Universal Studios Singapore, and Despicable Me Minion Mayhem, an immersive motion-simulator 3D ride featuring a hyper-realistic

projection system. Themed shops as well as restaurants in this new zone will appeal to multi-generational guests.

Complementing the high-tech entertainment of Minion Land, the **Singapore Oceanarium** (SGO) will boost the quality of visitor experience as a first-class institution that champions marine education and protection of our environment. To be three times the size of the current S.E.A. Aquarium, it will showcase a larger scale and depth of content than before, brought to life through state-of-the-art digital innovation and interactive technology. Backed by rich marine science knowledge, engaging exhibits will provide immersive and multi-sensory storytelling of the evolution of the oceans' inhabitants, fascinating oceanic zones such as the largely unexplored deep ocean, as well as unique representations of Singapore's coastal ecosystems. It will offer fresh, new enriching educational experiences and programmes that inspire positive mindset change and drive action to protect the oceans.

SGO will also encompass a **Research and Learning Centre** which will be carbon-neutral. Fully equipped with immersive learning labs, collaborative workspaces, seminar rooms and a rooftop event space, the Centre will augment SGO's robust educational offerings and provide advanced facilities for scientists and researchers to conduct valuable research work and drive marine science outreach on-site. Its aims are to catalyse the test-bedding of innovative solutions for real world challenges, and empower students and the community at large with hands-on learning experiences. S.E.A. Aquarium will remain open as expansion work to elevate it into the Singapore Oceanarium begins in the second half of 2022.

In addition, RWS will be refurbishing three of its hotels, namely **Hard Rock Hotel Singapore**, **Hotel Michael** and **Festive Hotel** which collectively offer over 1,200 keys. These hotels will undergo renovation works in phases from the second quarter of 2022 through 2023. When completed, Festive Hotel will be refashioned into a bleisure (business-leisure) and workation (work-vacation) hotel with a variety of mobile working spaces and lifestyle offerings that will meet new work trends. To strengthen RWS's position as a premier business destination, a facility refurbishment and upgrade is also planned for the Resorts World Convention Centre.

RWS's expansion plans and the transformation of its hotels will propel RWS further on its journey to become a world-leading sustainable tourism destination. With sustainability embedded in the heart of its business since 2010, it has achieved multiple affirmations for its environmental efforts over the years. From coral relocation to rainwater harvesting, a solar panel farm to three hectares of preserved forest, RWS became the first destination in the world to achieve both the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) Destination Criteria and GSTC Industry Criteria for Hotels in August 2021. It was also conferred the inaugural Special Award for Sustainability at the Singapore Tourism Awards and the Singapore Association of Convention and Exhibition Organisers and Suppliers' (SACEOS) Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) Sustainability Certificate, Intermediate Tier for Venue in 2021.

As RWS embarks on its next stage of development, it is reinforcing its longstanding commitment to sustainability by developing the "RWS Full Circle framework" to align its business with low carbon and

circular economy, create positive socio-economic impact and to better serve current and future generations.

Its first initiative is a collaboration with the National University of Singapore (NUS) which was announced on 5 January 2022. Known as the RWS-NUS Living Laboratory with RWS committing S\$10 million in funding support, the 5-year applied research collaboration focusing on marine biodiversity conservation and decarbonisation places RWS and NUS at the forefront to deliver on Singapore's goals of achieving long-term success in sustainable tourism. The partnership targets to increase local marine biodiversity, support marine conservation research and education in Singapore, lower carbon emission, and develop critical decarbonisation and integrative nature-based solutions across multiple domains including energy, water and waste. This is in tandem with RWS's pledge to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

Resorts World Sentosa CEO Mr Tan Hee Teck says, "With our upcoming RWS 2.0 developments, we are confident that RWS will be well-positioned to lead the recovery of Singapore's tourism as borders gradually reopen. We are excited to welcome the return of more international travellers with an even more vibrant RWS in the near future."

"RWS's vision for the next decade is to become a sustainable and innovative top tourism destination in line with the Singapore Green Plan. As we begin construction works on our expansion, we continue to pursue a holistic approach to destination building. We are acutely aware of the need to embody into our designs a more sustainable environment, and are engaging various stakeholders and consultants to incorporate the latest technology and research into our developments to achieve this goal."

"We are fortunate that Singapore has a comprehensive plan on reviving international travel in a safe manner and inspire travel to Singapore. I would like to thank the Government for their support and leadership for the tourism sector."

For more information on RWS's Sustainability Initiatives and Accolades, please visit [www.rwsentosa.com/sustainability](http://www.rwsentosa.com/sustainability).

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## 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 world-class attractions including Universal Studios Singapore, S.E.A. Aquarium, Dolphin Island and Adventure Cove Waterpark. Complementing the adventure and adrenaline of its theme parks and attractions are six unique luxury hotels, the world-class Resorts World Convention Centre and a casino. RWS offers award-winning dining experiences and exciting cuisines from around the world across its many renowned celebrity chef restaurants, establishing itself as a key player in Singapore's vibrant and diverse dining scene and a leading gourmet destination in Asia for epicureans. The integrated resort also offers world-class entertainment, from original resident productions to concerts and public shows. RWS has been named "Best Integrated Resort" since 2011 for nine 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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**EDITORS' NOTES**

1. Please use the following photograph captions for visuals.
2. All photographs are to be attributed to: *Resorts World Sentosa (圣淘沙名胜世界)* unless otherwise mentioned.

*\*Images shown are for illustration purposes only.*



Resorts World Sentosa will be well-positioned to lead the recovery of Singapore's tourism as it progresses with its RWS 2.0 developments.



Concept rendering of Minion Land at Universal Studios Singapore\*

*Credit: Universal Parks & Resorts*



Artist's impression of the Singapore Oceanarium\*



Artist's impression of the Singapore Oceanarium\*



Artist's impression of the Singapore Oceanarium\*



Artist's impression of the Singapore Oceanarium's Research and Learning Centre\*

