



For Immediate Release

Media Information
June 3, 2003

Pink Dolphin Calf Meets the Public

Underwater World Singapore is pleased to announce that a pink dolphin calf was born at the Dolphin Lagoon on November 6, 2002. It is now six months old.

This was the first successful and documented birth of the Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa chinensis*) at any marine park in the world. The birth is a significant event because this species of dolphin is highly endangered and there is not much scientific information on the biology and the reproduction of the species. The information which we have gathered from the pregnancy and monitoring of the calf will help in the conservation efforts of the Indo-Pacific Humpback dolphin. This is also an important milestone for Underwater World Singapore, as it demonstrates our commitment to marine mammal conservation and environmental protection as a whole.

The successful reproduction indicates that the animals were comfortable in their environment at the Dolphin Lagoon. In November 2001, mating between Jumbo, our male pink dolphin and Pann was observed. In January 2002, Pann displayed some behavioural changes when she was not cooperative during her weekly routine examination. Through an ultra-sound examination of Pann's abdomen, the pregnancy was confirmed in March 2002. About one to two days before she was due to deliver, Pann lost her appetite. On the morning of November 7, 2002, when staff went to check on Pann, they found a healthy grey male calf swimming alongside its mother. (Pink dolphin calves are born grey). As the staff did not witness the birth, we deduced that Pann had given birth the night before. Over the past few months the calf has become more independent. He often swims away from his mother who quickly chases him and rounds him up.



We are very honoured by the presence of Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of State for National Development to officially introduce the pink dolphin calf to the public. The endorsement by the Minister will encourage Singaporeans to “step out” and get back to their everyday way of life. Sars will continue to hang like a cloud over us, but it is hoped that the introduction of the dolphin calf will bring some cheer to Singaporeans and lift their spirits.

A naming contest of the dolphin calf will be held during the forthcoming school holidays in June 2003, which will be jointly organized with a local radio station.

A detailed report on the Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphins at Underwater World Singapore/Dolphin Lagoon is attached as Appendix 1.

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