

Media Information
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UWS CELEBRATES MARINE CONSERVATION WITH YOUNG MARINE BIOLOGIST AWARD

With much effort being geared towards fostering environmental awareness globally, Underwater World Singapore (UWS) continues its part in equipping the nation's young with what they should know about marine conservation. Today, UWS announced the prestigious winners of its Young Marine Biologist Award (YMBA) 2005. The awards were handed out in a prize presentation ceremony graced by Guest-of-Honour Mdm Poon Chew Leng, Deputy Director, Sciences Branch, Curriculum Planning & Development Division, Ministry of Education.

An annual, non-commercial contest launched by UWS since 2002, the Young Marine Biologist Award aims to develop interest amongst local primary school students in the marine life sciences and to promote marine conservation and environmental awareness. This year, the top prize of S\$400 was won by eleven-year-old Dawn Tan, Nadia Cheah and Soon Hui Ker from Maha Bodhi School. Their creative writing and life-like 3D model on Corals earned these three impressive Primary 5 students their much-deserved reward. The second and third prizes of S\$300 and S\$200 both went to Tao Nan School. Seven consolation prizes of S\$50 each were also handed out to winners from other primary schools at today's ceremony.

Undergoing a total revamp, this year's contest structure placed greater emphasis on the application of knowledge, integrated learning and the holistic development and interaction of students to shape more well-rounded and better learners. Exciting and no less challenging, this year's competition required Primary 5 and 6 students to work in teams to conduct their own research and glean all the facts and information about a marine animal of their choice. Each team would then have to apply their knowledge to come up with a creative writing in the form of a story or poem of their chosen animal, a 3D Model of it using recycled materials and finally a poster to raise awareness on conservation issues about the animal.

Mr Kwek Meng Tiam, General Manager of Underwater World Singapore commented, "When the awards first began, it was a simple contest where students were required to answer questions individually. This year, we decided to place stronger emphasis on teamwork in a bid



to spur greater creativity and help students understand the importance of teamwork. The contest now requires greater application of knowledge and encompasses the multi disciplines of Creative Writing, Art, Science and Conservation.”

This year's competition also saw an overwhelming response with 350 creative submissions from more than 1500 participants. The top three prizes and seven consolation prizes were selected by Professor Chou Loke Ming of the Department of Biological Sciences of the National University of Singapore. Both Prof Chou and Mdm Poon are the board member of Underwater World Singapore's Education Advisory Panel.

About Underwater World Singapore

Underwater World Singapore is a wholly owned subsidiary of Haw Par Corporation Limited. Situated on Sentosa Island, this leisure and educational attraction showcases the rich variety of marine life to be found around the region, with educational and recreational activities available here.

The Dolphin Lagoon, an attraction of Underwater World Singapore houses the Indo-Pacific Humpbacked Dolphins, commonly known as pink dolphins for its coat of "bubbly" pink in contrast to the usual grey appearance of dolphins. At the "Meet-the-Dolphin" sessions, visitors can enjoy a close encounter with these adorable pink creatures.

At Underwater World Singapore, our mission goes beyond making our guests aware of the fascinating marine life. Our commitment to marine conservation and environmental awareness is demonstrated through our work in public education, breeding, rescue and rehabilitation, and research. Underwater World Singapore reinforces its environmental efforts through educational exhibits and a variety of education programmes to children and other guests. School visits are actively supported, and a number of new educational programmes are planned. Underwater World Singapore has also been very active in providing special programmes and assistance to the physically and mentally disabled.

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