

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

**Prosperity and Good Fortune Come Alive This Lunar New Year**

*Singapore, 24 January 2006* - As the Lunar New Year approaches and the air rings with festive revelry, Underwater World Singapore (UWS) ushers in the Year of the Dog in 3-D style for the first time with unique and specially created live paintings. Visitors who pay a visit to UWS during the bustling Lunar New Year period will be treated to an artistic feast for the eyes with the aquarium's latest exhibit – two traditional Chinese paintings of Koi and Arowana fishes, representing prosperity and good fortune, coming to life in front of visitors' eyes as the fishes merge seamlessly with the specially created painted backgrounds.

In the spirit of the New Year, each tank of the new exhibit has been aptly given auspicious names to wish all visitors an abundant and prosperous year ahead. The first exhibit consists of nine Koi fishes and is named *Fu Gui Jiu Yu* ( 富贵久余 ), a saying that wishes visitors long lasting abundance. Touted as one of the most auspicious fish in Chinese culture, the Koi (or Carp) symbolizes strong determination and great achievements. This special fish is also looked upon as a sign of good luck and prosperity.

The second exhibit of the spectacular Arowana fish is called *Ji Xiang Ru Yi* ( 吉祥如意 ). This saying wishes all visitors an auspicious and smooth sailing year ahead. The Asian Arowana, otherwise called the Dragon Fish, is a highly regarded creature in the practice of Feng Shui. Its slender body with distinct, reflective scales, resembles the mythical dragon and is a sign of luck, wealth, prosperity and strength for the Chinese. Besides these beliefs that surround the Arowana, not many realise that the captivating fish is a much-endangered species in the wild. However, successful breeding programmes have made it possible for the species to be reared in captivity and appreciated by enthusiasts the world over.



The animals in this display are graciously loaned to us from Qian Hu Corporation Limited (Arowana) and Max Koi Farm (Koi). UWS has a practice of working with fish farming companies to encourage captive breeding of aquatic animals, which reduces the demand for wild caught animals and enables sustainable ocean resources.

Mr Kwek Meng Tiam, General Manager of Underwater World Singapore, commented on these unique displays, "At UWS we constantly seek to present fresh and unique exhibits to enhance the experience of every visitor. For the Lunar New Year in 2006, we decided to enhance the festive mood for the public by bringing them auspicious symbols like the Koi and Arowana in a way they have never seen before. By making these amazing fishes come alive in the unique context of a traditional painting, we hope to enable visitors to better appreciate the beauty of the fishes and bring out their cultural significance to both locals and tourists alike."

As a symbol of prosperity and good fortune, the new exhibit at UWS will also be a means to share the desire of a better future with the underprivileged. Visitors to the exhibit are encouraged to make a donation to the less fortunate by making a wish for the New Year on a specially designed 'Wishing Fish' shaped in the form of a leaping carp. All proceeds raised will go to The Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund, an annual community project by The Straits Times. The ST School Pocket Money Fund makes pocket money available for children from low-income families. The objective is to lessen the financial burden faced by parents when providing for their children's education.

The new exhibits were unveiled by Mr Peter Khoo, Chairman of the ST School Pocket Money Fund. Mr Khoo commented on this interesting and novel way of fund raising: "This is the first time that we are working with Underwater World Singapore to raise funds for the School Pocket Money Fund. We are thrilled with the efforts that UWS has taken to come up with a unique and interesting exhibit for its visitors to enjoy and at the same time share their prosperity and good fortune with those less fortunate than themselves. We are very confident that this will be a very fruitful effort."

The Lunar New Year exhibit is opened for public viewing at Underwater World Singapore from 24 January to 28 February 2006.



### **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.

### **About Qian Hu**

The first and only ornamental fish company to be listed in Singapore, Qian Hu is a breeder of the highly-prized Dragon Fish or Asian Arowana. Qian Hu distributes and exports a wide variety of ornamental fish and accessories to more than 60 countries from its distribution points in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and China.

### **About Max Koi Farm**

Max Koi Farm has been producing a large variety of koi for 14 years. They also specialize in koi pond design, construction and maintenance.

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