

Media Release
For immediate release

Underwater World Singapore celebrates year end with triple launch

Singapore, 6 December 2006 – Have a ray gently feed from your palm or even consider getting a thorough pedicure done by not your regular sort of pedicurist but by two amazing species of fish. As part of its continuing efforts to introduce more unique and interactive experiences to its visitors, and to differentiate itself from other aquariums, Underwater World Singapore (UWS) today unveiled three stunning exhibits – a spectacular ray pool dubbed Ray of Fun, Jewels of the Reef – a fascinating display of marine species of the reef community and the Fish Reflexology, a contemporary spa pool featuring spa fish that nibble gently on the dead skin of your feet. This latest project by UWS amounts to more than half a million dollars.

Spanning close to 60 square metres, Ray of Fun is home to five different species of rays – the Blue Spotted Stingray (*Taeniura lymma*), White Spotted Eagle Ray (*Aetobatus narinari*), Leopard Whipray (*Himantura undulata*), Cow-nose Ray (*Rhinoptera neglecta*) and the Brown Stingray (*Dasyatis sp*). Rays, like sharks, have a boneless skeleton made of a tough, elastic substance called cartilage. Although most species of rays are marine creatures, there are a unique few that are found in brackish water and freshwater habitats. Widely misunderstood creatures, rays are generally shy and docile and would swim away when threatened. Depending on the species, rays have between one to five barbs on their tails. Visitors who would like to feed or touch the rays at UWS will not have to worry about their barbs as these have been professionally removed by the curatorial staff.

An experience that promises to be fun, exciting and delightful, the launch of the Ray of Fun presents visitors a rare opportunity to encounter numerous rays that are simply extraordinary. Species like the Cow-nose Ray, with its unique head shape that resembles a cow's mouth is bound to thrill visitors. Dr Jeffrey Mahon, Curatorial Director of UWS commenting on the rationale behind the Ray of Fun, "We have received many compliments from guests about how they enjoyed feeding our Eagle Rays during our Dive with the Sharks programme. We wanted more of our guests to enjoy this experience, so we created this pool where visitors can feed the rays while staying dry. To be able to feed these wonderful rays is an experience I'm sure that all will enjoy."

The launch also featured the introduction of the Jewels of the Reef – a display highlighting unique small inhabitants of the reef ecosystem. Here, visitors can come up close with intriguing creatures like the Garden Eels (*Gorgasia preclara* and *Heteroconger hassi*), Harlequin Shrimps (*Hymenocera picta*), Rhinopias Scorpionfish (*Rhinopias Sp*) and the Ghost Pipefish (*Solenostomus Sp*).

In line with its efforts to provide its visitors with more interactive oceanarium experiences, UWS debuts the Fish Reflexology – the aquarium's very own in house spa! Following the end of their tour, visitors will now be able to get their tired feet soothed and relaxed. All it takes is a dip of the feet into the spa pool and visitors can watch the spa fish nibble away on the dead skin of their feet, leaving behind perfectly exfoliated smooth and healthy skin.

Mr Kwek Meng Tiam, General Manager of Underwater World Singapore commenting on the launch of Fish Reflexology, "The spa fish treatment is currently being used in beauty spas in countries like Japan and it is becoming increasingly popular. By building this spa, visitors will be able to experience this exciting and special treat right here at UWS."

About Underwater World Singapore

Underwater World Singapore is a wholly owned subsidiary of Haw Par Corporation. 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.

For more information, please contact any of the following:

Peter Chew

Marketing Manager
Underwater World Singapore
Tel: (65) 6275 0030
Email: peterchew@uws.hawpar.com

Jezamine Lee

Corporate Communications Manager
Haw Par Corporation Limited
Tel : (65) 6490 0209
Email : jezlee@hawpar.com