

Media Release

For immediate release

### **Teachers Go Underwater at Underwater World Singapore's New School**

*Singapore, 18 April 2009* – Underwater World Singapore (UWS) makes a first on the usage of professional deep sea marine communication system for school teachers to conduct lessons on marine life to students while submerged in water.

As part of the aquarium's latest education initiative, the *Schooling School Educational Programme* involves a school teacher suited up in diving gear and puts him in a water tank accompanied by a trained UWS diver. The programme, open to primary and lower secondary classes, utilizes a special audio-and-microphone system from the United States to enable communication between the submerged teacher and students seated outside the exhibit tank.

Originally used by divers to communicate with visitors during feeding times, the UWS education team was inspired by the positive response visitors exhibited during these sessions. Two years in the making, the concept was further tweaked for safety and to incorporate educational elements of interaction and marine life. The inclusion of a class teacher in the tank facilitates and enables an interactive question-and-answer session with the students in a 'live' classroom setting.

Mr Wah Yap Hon, Curator of UWS, commenting on the inaugural *Schooling School* launch, "Marine communication systems have been used both professionally and recreationally to help divers communicate with each other on land and at sea but this is the first time it has been used by teaching professionals for educational purposes."

Schooling School was designed for everyone in mind; teachers do not require any diving experience and are given adequate briefing and assistance by the accompanying UWS diver before and during their time in the tank.

Mr Kwek Meng Tiam, General Manager of UWS, said this of the aquarium's newest initiative, "UWS has always been working towards greater awareness for sea animals and Schooling School is part of our efforts to better reach out to the young. The interactive element enhances the learning experience for both teachers and students and is a milestone for marine education."

#### **About UWS**

UWS 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 UWS 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 UWS, 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. UWS 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. UWS 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:**

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