

Media Release

For immediate release

## **Scavengers of the Deep, Critters of the Sea at Underwater World Singapore**

Singapore, 2 June 2009 – **Underwater World Singapore (UWS)** unveiled its newest crustacean exhibit today: 52 hair-raising 14-legged Isopods scuttle and crawl in a specially constructed dome-shaped tank with a connecting children's crawling tunnel.

The pre-historic Isopod, scientifically known as the *Bathynomus*, belongs to the crustacean family of shrimps and crabs and dates back to some 160 million years ago. On display at UWS are 50 small 8-centimetres-long Isopods and 2 Giant Isopods that measure an impressive 28-centimetres each.

Generalist scavengers, Isopods typically feed on dead sea animal carcasses which commonly include dead whales, fishes and squids. Able to survive without food for over eight weeks, the Isopod lives in extremely harsh conditions and are found in the coldest (as low as 4 degree Celsius) and deepest (at depths of 1,000 metres) parts of the ocean, where water pressure is extremely high and food is scarce. Its complex mouth with four sets of jaws catches and shreds food swiftly and its soft body is protected by a flexible segmented hard shell.

Due to extremely low levels of light in its natural habitat, the Isopod is equipped with giant compound aviator-shades-like eyes with over 4,000 reflective individual facets and can hunt for food in pitch darkness.

Mr Wah Yap Hon, Curator of UWS, commenting on the Isopod species, “As a deep sea scavenger, the Isopod plays an important role in ocean ecology, recycling waste and returning them as nutrients to the ocean ecosystem. It is very interesting and ‘cool-looking’ with its unique ‘sunglasses’ eyes.”

To replicate the deep sea habitat of the Isopods and create a heightened sensory experience for visitors, UWS had specially designed and built a dome-and-tunnel tank to house the swarming critters for individuals to enter inside the exhibit and observe the Isopods in close proximity from all angles.

Mr Kwek Meng Tiam, General Manager of UWS, remarked about the “Critters of the Deep” display, “The Isopod tank is built in such a way that it allows the child to interact with the display fully and be fascinated by the sight of the Isopods ‘crawling’ overhead; a new experience that is fun-filled and educational.”

#### **June School Holidays Promotion**

UWS is pleased to offer 2 promotional packages from 2 Jun to 28 Jun 2009. Details are as follows:

- 1) 30% off published admission rates to Underwater World Singapore and Dolphin Lagoon
- OR
- 2) 4 admission tickets to Sentosa's latest attractions, Desperados @ CineBlast OR Segway Sentosa, at no extra cost when you buy 2 Adult and 2 Child tickets to Underwater World Singapore at regular price

All visitors to Underwater World Singapore can pose for a photo with our cuddly fur seals, Brenda and Analý, for just \$15. Daily photo sessions @ 11.30am, 1.30pm and 4.30pm.

In addition, visitors can flash their Underwater World Singapore tickets and enjoy 25% discount at F & B outlets under the Singapore Pan Pacific Hotels Group. They are: Plaza Brasserie @ Parkroyal on Beach Road, Spice Brasserie @ Parkroyal on Kitchener Road, Global Kitchen @ Pan Pacific Singapore, and 10 at Claymore @ Pan Pacific Orchard.  
Details can be found at [www.underwaterworld.com.sg](http://www.underwaterworld.com.sg).



### **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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