



SeaKeepers Asia supports Coral Rehabilitation

The ONE°15 Marina - SeaKeepers Asia Coral Garden was launched on Oct 6.

This coral zone will be maintained by researchers and volunteers from the Tropical Marine Science Institute of the National University of Singapore under the supervision of Professor Chou Loke Ming, who is an Adjunct Research Professor at TMSI, and a veteran in coral ecology.

This eco initiative is sponsored by the International SeaKeepers Society Asia; Audi Singapore and SC Global Developments. The longer-term vision of this eco initiative is to develop suitable sites within the waters of ONE°15 Marina Sentosa Cove into an education and research site for students and researchers. The Coral Garden also encourages the Marina's boaters, acting as an important reminder to them to keep the water in the marina clean so as to sustain the marine eco-system living within.

ONE°15 Marina has apportioned a stretch of 150 meters of sea bed within its marina for coral cultivation and this area currently encompasses specially designed nurseries to grow young corals and rock boulders with clusters of matured corals.

An earlier study conducted by the Reef Ecology Laboratory of NUS showed that at least 50 types of animals including worms, crustaceans, brittle stars, sea cucumbers, seahorses, algae and zoanths inhabit the waters of ONE°15 Marina. The stable marina structures such as berthing pontoons and seawalls has allowed sea life to populate and thrive. The survey also uncovered 22 genera of hard corals, and with new ones forming. Furthermore, the survey found that these hard corals had attracted 29 species of fishes, many of which were reef fishes.

The Marina also put together an exhibition with several other organizations in the marine community on the day of the launch. The main purpose was to educate the public on marine ecology and biodiversity and the conservation efforts against pollution through via educational displays and videos and games.

Key highlights included a display of a life-sized sperm whale skeleton replica, found in 2015, found off the coast of Jurong Island, Singapore. Whilst the International SeaKeepers Society, Asia booth focused on the key messages against plastic pollution.

Special thanks to:

ONE°15 Marina: www.one15marina.com

Tropical Marine Science Institute, National University of Singapore: www.tmsi.nus.edu.sg

SC Global Developments: www.scglobal.com.sg

Audi: www.audi.com.sg

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