



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Singapore-Delft Water Alliance & Science Centre Singapore to Promote Appreciation of Water and its Conservation through Asia's First Aquatic Science Centre**

*Featuring DIY experiments, guided field trips and gallery trails, the outreach programme is expected to benefit 50,000 visitors annually*

The Singapore-Delft Water Alliance (SDWA), a joint collaboration between the National University of Singapore (NUS), Public Utilities Board of Singapore (PUB) and Deltares, will collaborate with Science Centre Singapore (SCS) to embark on an outreach programme to educate students and the public on freshwater research at the Aquatic Science Centre (ASC), the first of its kind research facility in Asia where in-depth studies on urban freshwater management will be carried out on site to address real world problems.

Located at Sungei Ulu Pandan, the ASC will integrate both research and public education along an active urban waterway with the aim to cultivate awareness of and engage public's interest in water conservation by providing an interactive experience through observation of real-world research, hands-on experiments, guided field trips and gallery trails. It is expected to benefit 50,000 visitors annually upon its completion by August 2010.

The 1,800 square metre research facility will be home to state-of-the-art research laboratories and a visitor centre featuring an interactive showcase of urban freshwater research projects and technologies for public education. SDWA and SCS will collaborate to develop an integrated exhibition and outreach programme to educate primary to tertiary students, as well as the general public, on the importance of water bodies in Singapore and the ways to enhance and sustain the use of water as a resource and for recreation.

The educational programmes, designed to be highly interactive, will leverage on the facilities at the ASC as well as the Science Centre. Visitors and students will get to conduct scientific experiments and tests on water quality, apply field observation and identification techniques and contrast and compare freshwater habitats. These activities, as well as the opportunity to interact



with researchers to learn more about aquatic science research, will help visitors and students gain an appreciation of living (biotic) and non-living (abiotic) factors affecting a freshwater environment. There are future plans to introduce attachment programmes for students to carry out scaled down aquatic science research projects under the supervision of researchers at the ASC @ Sungei Ulu Pandan.

Commenting on the collaboration with SCS, Associate Professor Vladan Babovic, Director of the Singapore-Delft Water Alliance, said, "Fragility of water resources is capturing the attention of public and policy makers as never before. The most serious problems challenging researchers and engineers today are associated with preservation, management and restoration of our water bodies. This collaboration between Science Centre Singapore and Singapore-Delft Water Alliance is centred on celebration of water-related sciences. It is fundamental that we share our passion for scientific research with younger generations and public in general. In this fashion the need and value of sustainable water management will be broadly appreciated. We are thrilled to work with SCS in achieving these goals. We look forward to welcoming schools to see students interact with SDWA researchers and enjoy educational displays by SCS."

Associate Professor Lim Tit Meng, Chief Executive, Science Centre Singapore, said, "The Aquatic Science Centre venture is truly exciting and meaningful and we are most pleased to be collaborating with SDWA to share complementary expertise and develop programmes examining the impact of human interaction on and with aquatic systems in Singapore. Through outreach, we seek to help students and the public achieve a deeper appreciation for the importance of water in our everyday lives and urge them to a greater sense of urgency to help manage and conserve this very precious natural resource."

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed today by Professor Barry Halliwell, NUS Deputy President (Research & Technology); Associate Professor Lim Tit Meng, Chief Executive of SCS; Mr Khoo Teng Chye, Chief Executive of PUB Singapore; and Mr Harry Baayen, Managing Director of Deltares, to kick-start the collaboration.

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