



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**MEDIA ALERT**

### **2017 SeaKeepers Asia Awards Dinner Marks Growth of Programs in the Region**

Singapore – April 7<sup>th</sup> 2017 - The International SeaKeepers Society, Asia Awards Dinner 2017 was hosted by Dinner Chairs Julian and Sandra Chang, to recognize Francis Lee and the Nature Society (Singapore) Marine Conservation Group for their extraordinary efforts and commitment towards Singapore's marine conservation. The event, organised by the Asian Chapter of The International SeaKeepers Society, was held at the SEA Aquarium, Resorts World Sentosa. Fabien Cousteau, world renowned aquanaut and member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the International SeaKeepers Society and Sylvia Earle, American marine biologist, explorer, author, and also a member of SeaKeepers' Scientific Advisory Council, were special guests for the evening.

This year's first honoree SeaKeeper of Singapore, Mr Francis Lee, is recognised for his exemplary work and distinguished service - spearheading efforts and dedication to the marine conservation movement in Singapore and beyond to the Asean region to protect its biological, social and cultural diversity. A keen activist for sustainable eco-tourism and as one of Singapore's original marine conservationists, Francis' stewardship of our oceans included being the 1st Singaporean Commodore of the Republic of Singapore Yacht Club and the Chairman of the Singapore International Year of the Reef Committee that co-produced the "Singapore Blue Plan." As an Expedition Leader and Author, Francis is also interested in the media field and was brains behind the award-winning National Geographic Channel TV documentary series "Indonesia Beyond the Reefs."

The second honoree, The Marine Conservation Group of the Nature Society (Singapore) was awarded the International SeaKeepers Society Asia Achievement Award 2017 in recognition of their efforts to approach conservation of our marine and coastal areas holistically. This non-profit organization, run by volunteers, has been committed throughout the years to appreciation, conservation, study, and enjoyment of the natural heritage in Singapore and the surrounding region. These efforts range from the collection and consolidation of Singapore's marine biodiversity in images to the relocation of corals from reefs earmarked for land reclamation and development.

Julian Chang, Chairman of International SeaKeepers Society, Asia announced a key partnership with Rolls Royce Marine Products Division to undertake SeaKeepers Asia and Rolls Royce Educational Outreach Program targeting Singapore's schools. Directed at educating Singapore's youth about the protection, conservation and restoration of our marine life and marine biodiversity, the outreach program will take place in two stages. The first involves schoolchildren who are invited on board DISCOVERY Yachts (private vessels supplied by members of the Society) and participate in marine based lessons with experts from the fields of science. The second stage is sharing this knowledge at each school's premises to allow for deeper facilitation of the program's curriculum. SeaKeepers welcomes participation from the yachting community. To learn more about supporting these programs with a vessel please contact Gail Tay at [gail.tay@seakeepers.org](mailto:gail.tay@seakeepers.org).

SeaKeepers would like to thank the following major sponsors for their event and programming support: Rolls Royce; Resorts World Sentosa, Singapore; Katrina Group Ltd; Fraser Yachts; Crystal Wines; City Neon;

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Concorde Hotel, Singapore. SeaKeepers would also like to thank our media partners for their promotion during the lifetime of the event. Official Media Publications: Yachtstyle and Palace: Official Lifestyle Publications: Prestige and Augustman.

### **About The International SeaKeepers Society®**

The International SeaKeepers Society is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization focusing on the health of the world's oceans and climate. SeaKeepers works with the boating and yachting community to take advantage of their unique potential in order to further marine research and to raise awareness about the issues our oceans face. The International SeaKeepers Society acts as a global catalyst working with governments, scientists, industry, and other marine organizations to further its mission and to support sensible, achievable marine protection and restoration.

The International SeaKeepers Society established SeaKeepers Asia in 2016. This expansion with a new chapter in Asia is under the leadership of Julian Chang. Operations will run parallel to the headquarters of SeaKeepers in Miami, Florida, with a main focus on expanding the impact of the **DISCOVERY Yachts Program**. This program will include the three essential aspects of DISCOVERY Yachts Programming:

- **Outreach programs** targeted at youth and learning experiences aboard DISCOVERY Yachts that serve as “floating classrooms.” These programs will focus on marine wildlife, plastic pollution, and sustainability practices. Participants will include local schools and national organizations.
  - **Instrument deployments** for ocean monitoring through deploying of SeaKeeper drifters. SeaKeepers works with institutions within the USA, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Argo, to make on-going oceanographic measurements with SeaKeepers drifters and Argo floats. Data collected is used for oil spill and marine debris accumulation analyses, weather and hurricane prediction models, satellite quality control, and to better understand the marine environment.
  - **Scientist-led expeditions** will be conducted by leading researchers aboard DISCOVERY Yachts. SeaKeepers works with experts in the marine science and oceanography fields to promote and facilitate ground breaking research, as well as providing yacht owners, guests and crew, the opportunity to utilize their vessel to serve as an at-sea research platform.
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- Building upon established international programming, the focus in Asia will be on creating better local awareness of the current situation of our oceans in order to build a sense of appreciation and commitment to protect, conserve and restore when possible.
  - The International SeaKeepers Society was founded in 1998 by a small group of yacht owners who were alarmed by the deterioration of our natural environment. Today the organization continues to work with the boating and yachting community to take advantage of their unique potential in order to further marine research and to raise awareness about the issues our oceans face.
  - The International SeaKeepers Society acts as a global catalyst working with governments, scientists, industry, and other marine organizations to further its mission and to support sensible, achievable marine protection and restoration.
  - Discovery Yachts are privately owned vessels which facilitate programming by providing access to the ocean for research, scientific discovery, community outreach and artistic inspiration. From hosting learning opportunities for children to facilitating research for genome sequencing; yachts are the platform to enable our goals.

For more information visit [www.seakeepers.org/singapore](http://www.seakeepers.org/singapore)

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