



## EXPEDITION PROFILE

### December 5, 2016 on DISCOVERY Yacht *Asean Lady*

As part of SeaKeepers Asia, fifteen children from the Girls Club and Gift of Music Group of Tasek Jurong Limited came aboard D/Y *Asean Lady* to learn about marine invertebrates. The expedition introduced students to local marine habitats and gave them a hands-on learning experience.

Dr Toh Tai Chong from the Tropical Marine Science Institute of the National University of Singapore, started with a lesson about Singapore's marine biodiversity and the impacts on Singapore's reefs. To help the students better understand the habitat, they handled calcium carbonate coral skeletons to get an up-close view of the marine organisms. Using nets, the students then gathered plankton specimens around Raffles marina.

Once back on the D/Y *Asean Lady*, the students were guided by Dr Toh's team to view the planktonic organisms under microscopes. Searching for the minute plankton in droplets of seawater was like a mini treasure hunt! The students were also taught how to observe and differentiate between phytoplankton and zooplankton.

In April 2016, the International SeaKeepers Society established SeaKeepers Asia. This expedition marks the fourth educational outreach trip in the region. This was also the first time that children from Tasek Jurong Limited participated. The nonprofit organization helps to support and uplift disadvantaged and needy community members.

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