EXPEDITION PROFILE

August 1st aboard DISCOVERY Yacht *The Admiral*

Ten students from the Changkat Changi Secondary School's Young Enriched Scientist (Yes) Program participated in the SeaKeepers Asia's Floating Classroom session. The students, aged 13, are part of the School's Science Talent Development Program and have been identified as having a keen interest and aptitude in science.

Hosted aboard D/Y *The Admiral*, scientists from the Tropical Marine Science Institute of Singapore of the National University of Singapore presented to the students. The lessons aimed to foster a greater awareness and curiosity about Marine Science and Conservation. The students participated in activities that looked at the study of marine life and the current challenges faced by the marine environment.

The session provided a hands-on learning approach with the students getting a glimpse of what field work involves by trawling for plankton and using a microscope to identify organisms from the collected water samples. The young scientists were also introduced to SCUBA equipment and were able to try on the breathing apparatus. The experience showed the value of scuba diving for marine research efforts.

As a further enhancement to the learning experience, Marina at Keppel Bay conducted a presentation and tour of the Marina's Coral Reef at Keppel Bay. The Marina is now home to a vibrant aquatic community of more than 129 different species of marine life. Marina at Keppel Bay was constructed based on an open concept which allows water to flow freely through the entire basin during the change of tides, with nutrients and plankton being carried through the waters as currents flow. This helps to sustain a well-balanced eco-system and food chain amongst the marine life.

In preparation for attending the Floating classroom, the students joined an Introductory Lesson which was specially crafted and facilitated by the St John's Island National Marine Laboratory, Outreach and Education team, at the Changkat Changi Secondary School premises. Highlights of the lecture session included information on the research and marine conservation efforts currently being undertaken at the St John's Island National Marine Laboratory as well as material on SeaKeepers Drifters.

This floating classroom session was made possible through the partnership of The International SeaKeepers Society Asia, Rolls Royce, and Marina at Keppel Bay.

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The young scientists were so inspired by their personal experience and understanding of the value of our marine environment that they have offered to share on raising awareness of blue spaces and coral bleaching during their school assembly.

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