



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**SINGAPORE, 19<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

### **SINGAPORE TO HOST 2008-09 EDITION OF THE VOLVO OCEAN RACE**

**Singapore will soon earn a place in the history books as the first Southeast Asian stopover in the prestigious Volvo Ocean Race. The Race, which has been thrilling yachting enthusiasts for the last 34 years, will be crossing Asian waters for the first time.**

**The island state's participation in the 2008-09 edition of the world's premier yacht race was sealed in a landmark agreement signed today between ONE15 Singapore Ocean Race Pte Ltd and Volvo Event Management (UK) Limited, and witnessed by Guest-of-Honour, Mr. S Iswaran, Singapore's Minister of State for Trade and Industry.**

Singapore's confirmation as the only Southeast Asian stopover caps 12 months of extensive evaluation and negotiations and follows the recent announcement of another first - the race finish in the historic Russian port of St. Petersburg.

Singapore will stage the second in-port race of the series in early 2009. The first will be in Alicante, Spain, ahead of the Leg One start. Organised and promoted by ONE15 Singapore Ocean Race Pte Ltd, the Singapore Stopover for Volvo Ocean Race 2008-09 will be hosted by Sentosa and ONE°15 Marina Club.

While the focus will naturally be on the main competition, a whole host of race-related activities have also been lined up to educate and entertain supporters and spectators. A major highlight will be the Race Village that will be created at ONE°15 Marina Club and is expected to draw thousands of visitors during the stopover. Singapore will also be the venue for the second in-port race in the series, as well as another race in smaller, high performance boats, held very close to the shore. These will give spectators the opportunity to experience the thrill of yacht racing close-up. For those who are inspired to do more than watch, there is also a "pro-am" (professional-amateur) race to look forward to.

Mr. Lim Neo Chian, Deputy Chairman & Chief Executive at the Singapore Tourism Board, was delighted with the confirmation that Singapore will be one of the stopover ports for the Volvo Ocean Race. "Hosting top-tier international events such as the Volvo Ocean Race and the Formula One race raises Singapore's destination profile as a premium lifestyle destination. These events also strengthen our image as one of Asia's key events and entertainment capitals, a city that is always abuzz with vibrancy and excitement," he said.

"The activities and corporate events hosted by international organisations and sponsors during the Singapore Stopover of the Volvo Ocean Race will help showcase our city as a great place to meet, live, work and play in, where business opportunities and leisure options abound. We welcome the various teams, global corporations and their special guests to Singapore, and look forward to delivering unique and memorable experiences to each visitor."

Volvo Ocean Race Planning and Operations Director, Jeremy Troughton, who signed the agreement on behalf of the Race, said the Singapore Stopover will be a highlight of the Volvo Ocean Race.

"It comes at the midpoint, and we have had enormous interest from both the sailors and also from companies affiliated with the race in taking the event to such a modern and commercially dynamic city," noted Troughton.

"Singapore is vastly experienced in managing major sporting events and, as a testament to this, has just recently acquired the Formula One Grand Prix. The facilities provided to us by ONE°15 Marina Club on Sentosa Island will be world-class," he added.

### ***Exciting times for Singapore***

Mr. Arthur Tay, Chairman of ONE15 Singapore Ocean Race Pte Ltd and Chairman of ONE°15 Marina Club, the event organiser and one of the host sponsors respectively, said, "We are very excited to be hosting this world class race – often referred to as the Formula 1 of the sailing world – at our world class facility at ONE°15 Marina Club."

"Hosting the Volvo Ocean Race is consistent with our vision for ONE°15 Marina Club to host major national and international events for sailors and power boaters alike. In order to ensure that this high profile event gets the dedicated attention and support it deserves, we have established ONE15 Singapore Ocean Race specifically to organise and promote the Volvo Ocean Race 2008-09 Singapore Stopover," he revealed.

In addition acting as host, ONE°15 Marina Club will extend marina, clubhouse and race management facilities and services to the event. Mr. Tay said hosting the Southeast Asian stopover for this ocean marathon is very timely. "Singapore is fast gaining a reputation as an international sailing hub and an exciting lifestyle destination. Soon we will be welcoming the world's fastest mono-hull ocean racing yachts and hosting them and their crews in a specially constructed Race Village. These are truly exciting times for Singapore," he added.

Mr. Ko Eng Wee, Sentosa's General Manager for Leisure Business added, "As Asia's foremost leisure and lifestyle destination, Sentosa aims to be THE venue for world-class signature events and the Volvo Ocean Race adds to the list of global events that were already being held on the island. Being chosen as the first Southeast Asian stopover in the Race is a strong endorsement by the organisers. With an excellent mega-yacht marina – ONE°15 Marina Club located in the heart of an emerging waterfront enclave on the island, we are delighted to be the fifth port of call for what promises to be the world's premier ocean race."

Mr. Low Teo Ping, President of the Singapore Sailing Federation and Vice-President of the International Sailing Federation, also weighed in on the Singapore Stopover. He said, "This is a historic moment for sailing in Singapore. A lot of effort has been put into the bid, hosting the Volvo Ocean Race is like a dream come true. Having these fast racing yachts and world-class sailors at our doorstep has fulfilled SingaporeSailing's vision to make Singapore an international hub of sailing."

## ***Boost to industry***

Mr Oon Jin Teik, Chief Executive Officer of the Singapore Sports Council was positive about the impact the race would have on the growing sports industry in Singapore. "Just as the F1 Grand Prix has benefited and will be supported by the local motorsports industry, the Volvo Ocean Race will be a great boost to the industry surrounding boating. A major race like this will have fringe events and spinoffs, creating more opportunities for businesses involved in sailing, as well as for boating enthusiasts to be further engaged in the sport."

The selection of Singapore marks another milestone in the 2008-09 iteration of the race after the decision to take the offshore odyssey through Asia. The race route is nearing finalisation with the offshore start set for Alicante on 11 October 2008, following an in-port race a week earlier. The fleet is expected to reach Singapore by end 2008 and will wind up its Asian section in Qingdao, China, home to next year's Olympic sailing regatta, before heading off to South America on its longest and toughest leg, covering more than 12,000 nautical miles. The fleet then heads up the U.S. East Coast to Boston and then across the North Atlantic to Galway before visiting Sweden en route to St Petersburg in late June 2009.

Six boats from the US, Russia, Spain and Sweden have now confirmed for the 2008-09 event, which will be the 10<sup>th</sup> running of this ocean marathon. Covering more than 39,000 nautical miles and stopping over in at least 11 ports, the Volvo Ocean Race takes nine months to complete and is the world's premier yacht race for professional racing crews.

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### **For further media information on the Volvo Ocean Race, please contact:**

Lizzie (Green) Ward  
Tel: +44 1489 554 832, Mob: +44 7801 185 320  
Email: [lizzie.ward@volvoceanrace.org](mailto:lizzie.ward@volvoceanrace.org)

Vivien Teo  
Tel: +65 6309 2452, Mob: +65 9873 5073  
Email: [vivien.teo@one15marina.com](mailto:vivien.teo@one15marina.com)

Full press information can be read and downloaded from:  
<http://press.volvoceanrace.org>

### **Broadcast**

For broadcast-standard video supporting this press release, please go to:  
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### **Images**

Jessica Nicholson, Picture Desk Manager  
Image Archive: <http://media.vemuk.com>  
Email: [images@volvoceanrace.org](mailto:images@volvoceanrace.org)  
Tel: 44+ 1489 554 856

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## **Notes to the Editor**

### **About the Volvo Ocean Race**

- Competitors in the next Volvo Ocean Race, will cover over 39,000 nautical miles of the globe's most treacherous seas over a period of more than nine months.
- The Volvo Ocean Race 2008-09 will start in the Spanish port of Alicante on 4 October 2008
- The 2005-06 race reached a television audience of over 1.8 billion ranking it among the leading international sporting events. The race attracts in-depth coverage from the world's media and uses ground-breaking technology on board each yacht to relay all the action around the world.
- The Volvo Ocean Race yachts, the Volvo Open 70s, are crewed by professional yachtsmen and women. The boat design is regulated and built for speed whilst safety remains a key concern.
- The first 31,250 nautical-mile race first took place over 30 years ago (as the Whitbread Round the World Race), testing the crews against some of the most ferocious elements that man can encounter. The 2008-09 race will be the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the event.

### **About ONE15 Singapore Ocean Race Pte Ltd**

A wholly owned subsidiary of the SUTL Group and ONE<sup>o</sup>15 Marina Club, ONE15 Singapore Ocean Race Pte Ltd was established to manage and promote the Singapore Stopover for the 2008-09 edition of the Volvo Ocean Race. In concert with Volvo Event Management, UK (VEMUK), the Company will develop the Singapore Stopover for the Volvo Ocean Race with facilities that include a Race Village, boat hauling and maintenance facilities. The Company will also provide race management assistance and manage related special events, community outreach programmes and spectator fleets.

### **About the Singapore Tourism Board**

The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) is an economic development agency for one of Singapore's key service sectors – tourism. The mission of the Board is to develop and champion tourism, so as to build the sector into a key driver of economic growth for Singapore. The STB aims to differentiate and market Singapore as a memorable destination through the proliferation of the destination brand *Uniquely Singapore*.

### **About Sentosa**

Sentosa is Singapore's premier island resort getaway with the special distinction of fast becoming Asia's leading leisure destination. Mere minutes from the city, Sentosa is nestled at the heart of the Sentosa-HarbourFront Precinct that comprises a world-class shopping and entertainment hub, cruise terminal and offices. This 500-hectare resort island boasts a plethora of themed attractions, award-winning spa retreats, lush secondary rainforest, white sandy beaches, resort accommodation, championship golf courses, deep-water yachting marina namely ONE<sup>o</sup>15 Marina Club and luxury residences, making it a compelling destination for business and leisure. The island also hosted world-class signature events such as the Barclays Singapore Open, Forbes Global CEO Conferences, Swatch FIVB Women's Beach Volleyball World Tour, and Clipper Round-the-World Yacht Race. Currently undergoing a US\$5 billion rejuvenation plan that will update its appeal and facilitate convenient public access, Sentosa achieved a record of 5.7 million visitors in 2007. With a brand new mega integrated family resort attraction, Resorts World at Sentosa (featuring Singapore's very own

Universal Studios), as well as 2,500 homes on Sentosa Cove due for completion by 2010, Sentosa is poised to be an exciting destination in the region to work, live and play.

**About ONE°15 Marina Club**

The brainchild of Mr. Arthur Tay, Chairman and Group Managing Director of SUTL Group of Companies, the ONE°15 Marina Club is named after its strategic location one degree 15 minutes north of the Equator in nautical terms. Offering the best of world-class marina facilities and breathtaking sea views, ONE°15 is nestled within the exclusive Sentosa Cove enclave and is a part of the emerging hip, upscale luxury neighbourhood that is positioned to become one of the world's most well-integrated waterfront lifestyle communities. The project – costing more than SGD 70 million – involves the construction of 142,000 sqm (inclusive of the water-site) and is replete with a comprehensive range of luxurious private members club facilities and amenities catering to both boaters and non-boaters alike. For more information, please visit [www.one15marina.com](http://www.one15marina.com)

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