

**Wildlife Reserves Singapore and Ngee Ann Polytechnic launch
Singapore's first course in animal management**

Singapore, 5 July 2010 – Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS), Asia's leading operator of world-class wildlife attractions, and Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP), one of Singapore's leading institutions of higher learning, today launched the Certificate Programme in Animal Management course.

This is Singapore's first and only such programme that provides training in the care, handling and husbandry of animals. The comprehensive curriculum will cover mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians as well as exotic animals encountered in wildlife theme park settings. The principles of animal management and wildlife conservation will also be emphasised.

Launched with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between WRS and Ngee Ann's School of Life Sciences and Chemical Technology, the programme will be the first of many exciting collaborations between the polytechnic and WRS, the parent company of award-winning attractions, such as Jurong Bird Park, Night Safari, Singapore Zoo and the upcoming River Safari.

The new course will be jointly administered by the two parties. Ngee Ann will provide a strong foundation for the course, while more in-depth classes on topics such as wildlife nutrition and diet, social groupings and animal behaviour, as well as quarantine management and prophylactic medication will be conducted by WRS experts. The programme also includes modules on research techniques, public relations, conservation marketing and wildlife conservation.

WRS and Ngee Ann will also collaborate on Research & Development, staff exchange programmes, as well as internships and off-campus classes for students in Ngee Ann's Diploma in Veterinary Bioscience (VBS) programme.

WRS and Ngee Ann are also exploring the possibility of involving the VBS students as Volunteer Rangers, Conservation Ambassadors, Wildlife Buddies and Education Volunteers.

“The MOU marks an important step for WRS as we seek to develop the next generation of individuals who are passionate about wildlife and conservation,” said Ms Fanny Lai, Group CEO of WRS. “A pillar of this partnership is the Certificate Programme in Animal Management course, which will be the only qualification available in Singapore and Southeast Asia that provides a foundation in the management skills required to run a successful wildlife institute. Animal management is an extremely specialised career and those in the industry often face unique challenges. We hope that by lending our expertise and vast experience in managing successful wildlife parks, we can provide keen and passionate students in Singapore and across the region, an opportunity to acquire the foundation and skills for conserving our world’s priceless animal species.”

“Ngee Ann Polytechnic is very proud to partner Wildlife Reserves Singapore to enhance the professionalism of the industry. The collaboration promises to be beneficial on several fronts, including education, training, and research. We will spare no effort to ensure the success of the new Certificate in Animal Management course, and look forward to launching a number of other exciting joint initiatives with Wildlife Reserves Singapore in the months ahead,” said Mr Chia Mia Chiang, Principal of Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

The one-year, part-time Certificate in Animal Management course will start in October 2010 with an expected intake of 25. Participants will need to complete six modules over the course of two semesters. To qualify for the course, participants need to have:

- At least 2 GCE ‘O’ level subjects, including English, with a minimum grade of 7, excluding CCA, and / or
- NTC-2 / NITEC or ITC/ Higher NITEC

Course fee: \$2,600 per participant, excluding GST. WDA funding is available for this course.

Website: To find out more about this course, please visit <http://www.np.edu.sg/cet/Pages/default.aspx>

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ABOUT Ngee ANN POLYTECHNIC

Ngee Ann Polytechnic is one of Singapore's leading institutions of higher learning, with over 15,000 full-time students, about 1,500 part-time students and a vibrant alumni community of more than 100,000. The polytechnic offers 47 full-time diplomas in diverse areas such as business, engineering, sciences, infocomm technology, media and humanities, and a wide range of part-time programmes.

The polytechnic aims to provide relevant, balanced and value-added curricula by creating an effective teaching and learning environment.

As the first polytechnic in Singapore to introduce interdisciplinary studies to students, Ngee Ann pioneered a broad-based and multi-disciplinary approach to learning.

It was the first polytechnic in Singapore to launch Mobile e-Learning (MeL) in 1999, integrating a notebook ownership scheme, a wireless campus network and an e-learning platform. The entire polytechnic is now fully enabled for students to connect to the wireless network. About 95% of all the teaching modules are now available online.

Ngee Ann was also the first to partner an overseas educational institution to offer a degree under the Ministry of Education's Polytechnic-Foreign Specialised Institution collaboration framework. Another key thrust for the polytechnic is forging partnerships with industry and research partners to enrich students' learning journey and keep them up-to-date with market practices. For more information, please visit www.np.edu.sg

ABOUT WILDLIFE RESERVES SINGAPORE

Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) is the parent company of award-winning attractions Jurong Bird Park, Night Safari, Singapore Zoo and the upcoming River Safari. WRS parks strive to be world-class leisure attractions, providing excellent exhibits of animals and birds presented in their natural environment for the purpose of conservation, education and recreation. In 2009, Jurong Bird Park served 900,000 visitors, the Night Safari, more than 1.1 million visitors and Singapore Zoo welcomed more than 1.6 million visitors.

WRS parks are the first zoological institutions in Southeast Asia to achieve both ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 certifications, which indicate compliance with the highest standards in environment, health and safety standards.

In the areas of conservation and research, WRS parks have undertaken multiple projects, which focus on species such as the oriental pied hornbill, pangolin and orang utan, through collaborations with various organisations and institutions. Recent conservation efforts include hosting a regional Asian pangolin conservation workshop. All WRS parks are designated rescued wildlife centres by the governing authority.

WRS office is located at 80 Mandai Lake Road Singapore 729826. More information can be found at www.wrs.com.sg

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