

Best travel brands honoured at World Travel Awards

Red carpet welcome to travel leaders and professionals.

SINGAPORE – With Southeast Asia booming in the tourism sector, World Travel Awards (WTA) Asia, Australasia & Indian Ocean Gala Ceremony 2012 was aptly held in Singapore during TravelRave 2012 in October. Considered the most prestigious and comprehensive awards programme in the global travel and tourism industry, the by-invitation WTA recognised the awardees in a gala dinner, top entertainment and presentation of the awards.



Mekong turtle conservation

PHNOM PENH – Conservation International (CI) launched a nest protection program for the Mekong Turtle Conservation Centre (MTCC), a unique Cambodian turtle ecotourism facility. CI aims to conserve the last known population of the Cantor's Softshell Turtle (*Pelochelys cantorii*) in the Kratie province of the Mekong River.

The MTCC functions as an ecotourism project to raise awareness of turtle conservation in Cambodia. Proceeds from ecotourism will be used to maintain the MTCC and the nest protection program. These are managed by the monks of the 100 Pillar Pagodas who have supported the MTCC since the beginning of the program when they donated an area of land on the pagoda grounds to build the center.

To know more about the MTCC project, visit their website at www.mekongturtle.com.

FAR EAST HOSPITALITY RAMPS UP SINGAPORE OFFERINGS

Singapore's largest hospitality operator reveals regional growth plans.

SINGAPORE – Far East Hospitality, Singapore's hotel and serviced residences operator, will ramp up its local offerings while keeping an eye on hospitality management opportunities in the region.

Strengthening its foothold

in Singapore, plans include new properties, completion of refurbishment works for existing properties, and service enhancement for bookers, travel consultants and groups of travellers.

"With tourist arrivals in Singapore

expected to rise 6.6% annually from now till 2015, we continue to fortify our stronghold here. We have been able to stay resilient through the economic cycles by keeping a strong presence in the mid-tier to upscale sectors. Moving forward, we will build on this to stay relevant to today's travellers. We are also actively looking to build and expand our portfolio," reveals Far East Hospitality's CEO, Mr Arthur Kiong.