

RWS, NUS in five-year partnership to boost sustainable tourism

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A new five-year applied research partnership to focus on biodiversity and energy conservation promises to give a boost to Singapore's quest for sustainable tourism.

Launched yesterday, the applied research partnership will see Resorts World Sentosa (RWS) committing \$10 million to the effort with the National University of Singapore (NUS).

It aims to contribute towards the Singapore Green Plan 2030 and support Sentosa Development Corporation's plans to transform the island into a carbon-neutral destination by 2030, said RWS and NUS in a joint statement.

The partnership will also bring together NUS' expertise in engineering and marine sciences and RWS' position as a leisure and tourism

destination that has sustainability as part of its business model, said NUS president Tan Eng Chye, who spoke at its launch event at the RWS Equarius Hotel Ballroom.

As part of RWS' expansion plans, the Singapore Oceanarium, whose development was first announced in 2019, is set to be three times bigger than the original S.E.A. Aquarium.

It will include immersive and multi-sensory storytelling of the evolution of the oceans' inhabitants and unique representations of Singapore's coastal ecosystems, said Mr Tan Hee Teck, chief executive of RWS.

The oceanarium will also engage the community at large, with its explorers in residence and visiting scientists conducting seminars and workshops to establish it as a centre of marine biodiversity education, conservation and research.

The RWS-NUS partnership will also identify marine species under threat, such as native crab species and marine plants, in and around Singapore.

It will implement rewilding programmes to restore the health of the species populations in Singapore's waters.

Minister of State for Trade and Industry Alvin Tan, who spoke at the launch event, said that the collaboration will provide opportunities for conservation, research and education in marine science, while reinforcing Singapore's appeal as a tourist destination.

He added that the partnership "contributes to sustainable development and preservation of our natural heritage, allowing future generations of Singapore families to continue to enjoy these special places".

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