

## **Sea Turtle Sanctuary**

Over the years, Underwater World Singapore (UWS) has been Singapore's main sanctuary for injured and stranded marine turtles, as well as for the turtles confiscated by the AVA from illegal traders. We work closely with both local and international experts to ensure appropriate husbandry and care for the turtles.

### **Sea Turtle Rescue, Rehabilitation and Breeding**

Turtle eggs found in local beaches rescued by local authorities are given to National Institute of Education (NIE) for incubation. Weaker hatchlings would then be given to UWS for husbandry and care until they are in better health condition for release. Many of the adult turtles under our care have also been returned into the wild on several occasions. Before their release, these turtles would be conditioned to ensure that they would be able to hunt for their own food.

*UWS also has collaborations with Port of Nagoya Public Aquarium (PNPA) in Japan. Through animal exchange programs with PNPA, UWS was able to exhibit captive-bred loggerhead turtles which are rarely seen in regional waters. PNPA have also managed, since 1998, to breed and raise in captivity, more than 100 hawksbill hatchlings - offsprings of the adult hawksbills that have been cared for by UWS and sent to Japan.*

### **Sea Turtle Research and Release**

In celebration of the Indian Ocean-Southeast Asia (IOSEA) Year of Turtle 2006, UWS also spearheaded a sea turtle conservation project, and selected students to be trained as Turtle Ambassadors to reach out to their fellow students. A Sea Turtle Gallery was officially opened for public education by the Minister for National Development Mr Mah Bow Tan. 12 sea turtles that have been rehabilitated were also released for a research and tagging project with Nanyang Technological University-National Institute of Education (NTU-NIE).