

**Nautique Article 1**  
**9<sup>th</sup> November 2006**  
**Abigail Alling, President PCRF**  
**Orla Doherty, Managing Director PCRF**

---

The Planetary Coral Reef Foundation (PCRF) and Raffles Marina have collaborated now for a decade towards the goal of coral reef conservation in the Asean Sea. This partnership has included our participation in the 1999 Marine Parks of Indonesia Expedition, an exchange of information regarding the reefs studied in Southeast Asia ([www.pcrf.org/science/index.html](http://www.pcrf.org/science/index.html)), and the design of Wastewater Gardens®, a sustainable wastewater recycling system for floating fish farms.

In the spirit of this collaboration, we are thrilled to be Raffles Marina's "Club at Sea" and to communicate to you our discoveries, both challenging and rewarding, as we travel through



the Asean Sea and into Melanesia in the coming years. The MOU signed by Francis Lee and Abigail Alling (President of PCRF) last month heralded for us the beginning of new adventures and a renewed commitment to the conservation of coral reefs in the Aseanarean Region. The decision to make Raffles Marina our home port holds a special meaning for us and signifies our long-term commitment to the Marine Parks of Indonesia initiative. On behalf of all of us at PCRF, we are honored to collaborate with you.

*The Board of Raffles Marina and PCRF Officers on board SV Infinity*

Since our last meeting in 2001, PCRF has newly acquired a sailing vessel named *Infinity*. This 120' two-masted ferroceement sailing ketch is an ideal vessel for our extended voyages and work on offshore reefs. In early October, we sailed *Infinity* from Phuket to ready her in Singapore for the upcoming two year expedition. Upon our arrival to Raffles Marina, we were placed at the super yacht dock and alongside our old friend, Yves de Leeneer, on board his vessel *l'Attitude*. The marina was already busy upon our arrival but as the weeks passed, it reached peak capacity. It was an exciting time to be at Raffles Marina and astonishing to see all the activities that the marina team completed daily with ease and smiles.

There was much work to be done to refit *Infinity*, preparing her to carry out coral reef and cultural expeditions in the years ahead. Within minutes of securing our docking lines, Abigail, Mark Van Thillo (Chief Operations Officer, PCRf) and Yves (PCRf Representative in Asia) were deep in conference on the hit-list of tasks to be completed and sponsors needed to reach our goal of having a fully equipped expedition ship ready in just a few weeks. The work began, steady hands and calm minds thinking through what seemed at times to be an almost impossible list of things to be done.

*(Photo Right: Captain Klaus Eiberle and Sailing Master Michel Lippitsch install a radar)*



It was a period of celebration in Singapore, the Muslim community celebrating Hari Raya and the Hindus, Deepavali. During these celebrations, we found ourselves showered with donations and blessings from the community of sailors, scientists and businesses in Singapore. We were honored by your support of our mission and your help to complete the tasks at hand so we could continue our work with education and science of coral reefs.

We received gifts from strangers who became friends during these weeks. This included support from Compass Energy and Brunel International, a generator donated by Seagull Marine; an electrical panel by S&W Engineering; a Viking life raft and Jotun paint; Mooreast replaced our shrouds; Simon advised us how to tighten them; Fish Head Gear provided diving tanks; Dirk, Little Ferry and Sinwa stocked us with food; Bob Howison helped us find a ship surveyor; Singapore Petroleum filled our fuel tanks; and many others who supported our work, came to visit and beamed encouragement our way. In the midst of all this excitement, Raffles Marina Director, Tan Teck Huat, encouraged AsiaOne to interview PCRf and highlight the student program at sea! We were deeply touched and honored by all of you who supported us in these many ways and made it possible get us back out at sea.



*Chris "Dolphin" Alling interviewed by AsiaOne*

And none of this would have been possible without the staff at Raffles Marina who were key to our ability to work at a swift tempo and keep the deadlines. Rose, Julian, and Margaret,

Singapore's own Charlie's Angels, ensured that the many presentations of PCRf and its work were smooth and well received. Din, Canon and the marina crew smiled continuously while loading and unloading equipment and supplies to and from the dock to the car park and back again. Phil, Tasrin, Sani, and Ali took care of all our needs in the Dockmaster's office and answered our endless questions with grace and patience.



In the midst of this cyclone of intensity gathering around the launch of *Infinity's* expedition, PCRf and Raffles Marina signed the MOU to further the conservation of coral reefs and oceans. The signing took place at a beautiful ceremony surrounded by visiting sailors who had traveled from afar to rendez-vous in Raffles Marina, the heart of Asia. Within days, Francis swung into action and proposed that *Infinity* meet Colonel Aji in the

Anambas Islands to study coral reefs in November. We are all looking forward to diving on the lovely Anambas reefs and will report on our findings in the next Nautique magazine!

While we will be many nautical miles away in the coming year, we very much look forward to having you "Join the Voyage" and follow our progress and learn of our scientific discoveries in Nautique as well as on our homepage at [www.pcrf.org](http://www.pcrf.org). This time we head out to sea knowing we have a new home, Raffles Marina and colleagues who wish to further the conservation and protection of coral reefs and oceans. Together we can make a difference – we will sail the Aseanarean Seas inspired and graced by your participation.



*Infinity* heads back out to sea, October 31, 2006