



Clipper Round the World Yacht Race 05-06

Welcome Celebrations and Presentation of the Uniquely Singapore Cup

WELCOME REMARKS BY MS WANG LOOK FUNG, GENERAL MANAGER, GROUP CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS, KEPPEL CORPORATION

Good evening, Mr Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry,

Your Excellencies

Mr Alan Collins, High Commissioner of United Kingdom

Ms Zanele Makina, High Commissioner of South Africa

Mr Alan Virtue, High Commissioner of Canada

Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, Founder and Chairman, Clipper Ventures,

Mr Lim Chee Onn, Executive Chairman of Keppel Corporation,

ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of Keppel Corporation and our fellow race partners, let me extend a warm welcome to all of you here in Singapore and at Keppel Bay.

We hope you've enjoyed our Uniquely Singapore hospitality over the last two days. When I met some of you before your departure from Fremantle, you had asked me to prepare cold beer and beef sandwiches when you land in Singapore. I decided to give you Singapore's very best – Tiger beer and our popular Satay. I hope you are happy with that.

This vision – that of promoting Singapore to the world have brought Keppel and the other race partners together in this Clipper Round the World Yacht Race, as we play our part in efforts to make Singapore a truly global city and one of Asia's top business and tourist destinations.

Our island city is undergoing dramatic and vibrant transformations. One such transformation is taking place right here in this whole waterfront precinct comprising Sentosa with its upcoming Integrated Resort, the Singapore Cruise Centre, Harbourfront with Vivo City, touted as Singapore's largest entertainment and recreation hub and of course, Keppel Bay with its quality waterfront homes and a world-class marina that will be ready by end 2007. The arrival of the Clippers here cannot be more timely. It signals the start of a new and exciting phase in this entire waterfront precinct.

It was Ambassador Tony Siddique, a keen sailor and a man with many dreams, who dreamt this up and hatched it. Very quickly, Keppel came alongside him and onboard Uniquely Singapore as a race partner. This is because at Keppel, we mirror what Clipper is celebrated for – passion, the spirit of adventure and achievement, a global outlook and an inclusive mindset. We not only want to nurture these values but also provide the opportunities for them to flourish.

Here, we must commend the Uniquely Singapore crew, many of them amateurs sailing for the first time. The Uniquely Singapore is our very first boat which we put out to race round the world and the crew led by Skipper Richard Falk, as our ambassadors, have made us really proud. Your spirit of adventure and your endeavour to achieve your dreams will inspire Singaporeans from all walks of life to rise to challenges and overcome them. I am sure when you finish the race in Liverpool in mid July, you would return to regale us with stories that will encourage more Singaporeans to go beyond the horizon with a 'Can Do' spirit.

Even now, the 'Can Do' spirit is demonstrated by Cardiff and Glasgow as they battle strong head winds to reach our shores. They are expected to arrive at Keppel Bay tomorrow but for now, we applaud them for their admirable efforts and spirit of tenacity.

While we may be presenting the Uniquely Singapore today to the first Clipper coming into Singapore, in our eyes, you are all winners.

It will be improper of me not to thank the many public and commercial organisations which have contributed to make your arrival, your stay and your departure a Uniquely Singapore experience. Among them is the Maritime Port Authority. Without their help to make sure you get right of way here in the world's busiest container port, you might still be bobbing out there.

Our appreciation also goes to Minister Lim Hng Kiang who has so graciously taken time out to be here with us in our celebrations. Thank you, Minister.

This evening, Keppel has prepared for all of you an unforgettable Uniquely Singapore spread of local favourites. Please enjoy.

It leaves me now to wish everyone, especially our friends from overseas and their families who are visiting Singapore a most memorable and enjoyable time in our island city.

Thank you.