

**PRESS RELEASE
13 August 2009**

SINGAPORE'S FIRST DEDICATED WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTRE OPENS TODAY

SINGAPORE, 13 August 2009- ACRES (Animal Concerns Research and Education Society) is delighted to announce that the ACRES Wildlife Rescue Centre (AWRC), Singapore's first dedicated wildlife rescue centre, begins operations today.

The AWRC will begin housing reptiles and amphibians rescued from the illegal wildlife trade, as well as injured native reptiles and amphibians. Species include snakes, tortoises, turtles and lizards.

The on-site Lee Foundation Education Centre and the South West CDC Volunteer House will also begin full operations.

Unique educational programmes at the Outdoor Conservation Classroom will let Singaporeans delve into the exciting world of Singapore's native wildlife. The Wildlife Guardians Volunteer Programme inspires members of the public from all walks of life to play an active role in animal and environmental protection efforts. These programmes aim to empower the public with knowledge about animal protection issues, inspire them to volunteer and take action to make a difference for our community.

"Our main aim is wiping out the illegal wildlife trade in Singapore and we are confident that the AWRC will be an important tool in our efforts. On behalf of the animals, we would like to thank our supporters for the strong support they have shown us over the past few years" said Mr. Jagdish Ramakrishnan, President of ACRES.

The opening is a milestone as almost five years have passed since ACRES started work on establishing Singapore's first dedicated wildlife rescue centre.

"It is a great day for the animals. It has been a long and eventful journey with many setbacks along the way. It has, however, been a journey that is without a doubt worthwhile. We have learnt many important lessons and look forward to the AWRC being a landmark facility for the protection of animals" said Mr. Louis Ng, Founder and Executive Director of ACRES.

"It is said that the graciousness of a society is not measured by how the members of the society interact with one another but how well the weakest and defenceless members of the society are cared for. In this respect, the opening of the new animal rescue centre by ACRES is a step towards a more gracious society for Singapore" said Dr. Lim Wee Kiak, Member of Parliament for Sembawang GRC and Guest of Honour for the opening ceremony.

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Notes to editors

- Photographs of animals who will potentially be housed at the AWRC are available on request.
- ACRES is a local animal welfare charity and Institution of Public Character aimed at fostering respect and compassion for all animals. It currently has more than 18,000 individuals on its supporter database.
- The opening of the Main Sanctuary Area is delayed by at least another six months. ACRES has commenced a suit in the High Court against the main contractor and its director, who was the site supervisor for the construction of the AWRC, in relation to, amongst other things, the delay in the opening of the AWRC. ACRES is awaiting the decision of the Judge on whether the main contractor and its director are liable to ACRES in this regard.