GoodPaper

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Can a concert bring freedom to 25 dolphins?

BY CATHERINE

Pleasant weather, good food, awesome musicians, and a worthy cause-what more could you ask for on a lazy Sunday afternoon?

However, for the volunteers and staff of ACRES, not one of them w as looking for sneak in an afternoon siesta. Everywhere you looked, they w ere on the move, busy with their assigned duties.

Be it distributing flyers, signing people up for the photo petitions, speaking to people about the cause, taking care of the logistics, whatever it w as - whatever it took - every one of them w as up to the job.

At the concert, the highlight of the day was when the audience was asked to stand together to form the shape of a dolphin (see above), symbolic of a collective voice calling for the dolphins' release.

The objective? To raise awareness amongst the public of the plight of 27 dolphins that had been caught in the wild, to be used in an interactive spa therapy programme next year by Resorts World Sentosa (RWS) in Singapore would release them back into the wild.

It w as also a bid to project a collective voice against the refusal of RWS to release the dolphins back into the wild.

So far, this proposal has been rejected by RWS, which plan to transport the remaining 25 dolphins (two had died while in captivity) to their marine park next year, to be part of an interactive spa therapy programme. The dolphins are currrently being trained in the Philippines.

Hence, over the recent months, ACRES has been spreading the word about the dolphins' plight in the form of photo petitions, online petitions, roadshows and schools visits to raise awareness. They even set up a website - Save the World's Saddest Dolphins - and printed T-shirts specially for the cause.

There has been much support from the public and private individuals, both local and abroad. Even the newly-elected President of Singapore Dr Tony Tan, offered his support during a meeting with ACRES on August 20th: "We should be concerned about animal welfare and biodiversity. I know that ACRES is very passionate about the dolphin issue and this is something w e should look into."

To date, more than 670,000 signatures have been collected.

That's a lot of support, but as long as the dolphins are not released, ACRES is not resting on its laurels. "The public has shown their strong support for the dolphins' release and we are confident that an increasing number of people will sign the petition urging RWS to make a moral and ethical decision to let the dolphins go.