

NEWS RELEASE



DIRECTOR GENERAL OF WWF INTERNATIONAL TO LEARN FIRSTHAND ABOUT SINGAPORE'S APPROACH TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

*Singapore, 14 October 2009...*The Singapore International Foundation (SIF) has invited Mr James P. Leape, Director General of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), to Singapore as its 21st SIF Distinguished Visitor.

Having last visited Singapore in 2008, Mr Leape arrives in Singapore on 14 October and will call on Senior Minister S Jayakumar and Dr Yacob Ibrahim, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources.

Mr Leape will attend a roundtable organised by the Institute of Policy Studies at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, where he will meet corporations to share how the global business community is involved in the lead-up to the Global Deal negotiations.

He will also give a public lecture, "Good COP, Bad COP – the Compelling Case for a Good Global Climate Deal" on 14 October, jointly organised by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) and the SIF. Subsequent days will see Mr Leape having an interactive session with students and staff from schools in the West Zone of Singapore, held at Commonwealth Secondary School, the West Zone Centre of Excellence for Environmental Education; and visiting Pulau Semakau and Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve to learn firsthand about Singapore's conservation efforts within an urban landscape.

Mr Leape will also meet Mr Leo Yip, Chairman of the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB). The EDB invites and facilitates the setting up of international organisations in Singapore as a base for their regional outreach activities.

Devoting three decades in conservation work, Mr Leape, 53, began his career as an environmental lawyer, where he also advised on a UN programme in Kenya. He is the co-author of *Environmental Regulation: Law, Science, and Policy*, a foremost text in the United States on environmental law.

Joining the WWF in the United States in 1989, Mr Leape led its conservation programmes around the world, serving as Executive Vice President. From 2001 to 2005, he directed the conservation and science initiatives of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, one of the largest philanthropies in the United States. He was appointed Director General of the WWF International in December 2005.

The WWF opened its Singapore office in March 2006 focusing on the development of regional programmes in Asia Pacific, initiating corporate partnerships, and organising educational outreach activities.

Since 1995, the SIF has brought prominent leaders from the business, political and civil society sectors, as well as other public personalities from around the world, to Singapore through our SIF Distinguished Visitors Programme (DVP). Through the programme, it is hoped that the distinguished visitor would have the opportunity to become better acquainted with different facets of Singapore; share thoughts and ideas on issues of mutual interest, not only with his or her direct counterparts but also the larger Singaporean society; and build a personal network of Singaporean friends and contacts that would last beyond the visit. Former visitors include Dr Jürgen Hambrecht, Chairman of the world's largest chemical's company BASF SE; former International Monetary Foundation Managing Director Rodrigo de Rato; and Mr William Dobson, former Managing Editor for *Foreign Policy* magazine. Mr Leape is the SIF's first Distinguished Visitor from an international non-profit organisation.

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Enclosed:

1. CV of Mr Leape
2. Description of lecture by Mr Leape: "Good COP, Bad COP – the Compelling Case for a Good Global Climate Deal"

Media Invitation

Your journalist and photographer are invited to the following media events:

1. Public lecture and media interview

Topic: "Good COP, Bad COP – the Compelling Case for a Good Global Climate Deal"
Date: Wednesday, 14 October 2009
Time: 2.30pm – 4.00pm (*media interviews to start from 4.00pm*)
Venue: Ballroom 2, Level 2
Grand Park City Hall
10 Coleman Street

2. Photo opportunity and interviews at Pulau Semakau

Event: Visit to Pulau Semakau organised by the National Environment Agency
Date: Friday, 16 October 2009
Time: 9.00am – 11.30am (meet at ferry terminal)
Venue: Pasir Panjang Ferry Terminal

For registration of attendance, or for more information, please contact:

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About the Singapore International Foundation

Established in 1991, the Singapore International Foundation (SIF) is a not-for-profit organisation that seeks to nurture active global citizens and friends for Singapore.

The SIF aims to help the development of communities outside of Singapore through the Singapore Volunteers Overseas (SVO) programme. The SIF facilitates the participation of volunteers in capacity-building programmes in areas as diverse as healthcare and health education, organisational and personal capacity development, empowerment of disadvantaged children, women and families, and rehabilitation of the disabled.

The SIF seeks to reach out to new audiences and friends of Singapore through a public and cultural diplomacy programme which includes organising concerts abroad and hosting visits to Singapore by foreign thought leaders and influential personalities in the fields of academia, business, civil society, government and the media.

For its work, the SIF was presented the Excellence for Singapore Award. Our Patron is His Excellency S R Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore.

Please visit www.sif.org.sg.