I am delighted that we are here today to announce that Keppel Corporation will be the Team Sponsor for Uniquely Singapore in the next two editions of the Clipper Race.

Like Keppel we very much prefer to develop long term relationships and today’s announcement lays the foundations for continued success in promoting Singapore as a premier sailing destination in Asia and Marina at Keppel Bay as one of the world’s key waterfront destinations.

As you will have seen from the video playing as you arrived, Marina at Keppel Bay provided a spectacular setting for our stopover last year and we are looking forward to coming back here in just over a year with the Clipper 09-10 fleet.

Singapore always provides a friendly welcome and a unique experience for our crews and their families and friends who fly in to visit them.

All ten of the yachts which will compete in the next two Clipper Races are sponsored by cities, states and countries from around the world and this sponsorship formula allows sponsors to bring delegations to the various stopovers in order to forge trade links and to do business with companies in the cities we visit.

Singapore is always popular with our other sponsors and we know several are already planning activity here during the stopover in January 2010.

I’d like to congratulate Keppel on the opening of the new Keppel Bay Sailing Academy and their RYA accreditation.

Clipper Training sets the standard in ocean racing and the new Keppel Bay Sailing Academy will help us bring our expertise to aspiring ocean racers throughout Asia.

As Ms Wang said, at Keppel they celebrate an adventure-seeking mindset and provide opportunities to flourish. Our Chairman, Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, also has the same view and believes the Clipper Race broadens the horizons of everyone who takes part.

We hope we will see many of the people who pass through the Academy going on to compete as crew on Clipper 09-10, Clipper 11-12 and many more races to come.

ENDS