

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Healthy Seas Expands Its Ocean Conservation Efforts in Hong Kong with DWS Partnership

Honouring International Volunteer Day and Showcasing Impact at the Diving, Resort, and Tourism Expo



HONG KONG – 13th December 2023 – Healthy Seas, the global foundation committed to marine litter removal, announces its second event in Hong Kong, made possible through a valued partnership with DWS, a leading global asset management company. This collaboration marks a significant milestone in their joint commitment to cleaner oceans and a sustainable future.

International Volunteer Day Dual Initiative (5th December):

On December 5th, International Volunteer Day, the shores of a heavily polluted island near Hong Kong witnessed a transformative effort led by Healthy Seas, DWS, and Ghost Diving Hong Kong.

A group of 65 students (ages 11-14) from the Australian International School actively participated in a beach cleanup, guided by art teachers. The students not only collected waste washed ashore but also engaged in an educational process. The cleanup aimed to instill a deeper understanding of the dangers of marine litter to marine animals and illustrate the positive impact of recycling nets into new, useful products through partnerships with innovative companies.

Simultaneously, volunteer divers from a local diving centre embarked on an underwater mission to recover ghost nets near the beach. This synchronized effort addressed the issue of marine litter from both angles – above and below the waterline. The recovered nets contribute to the larger initiative of repurposing waste into innovative products and create awareness in the younger generation.

Following the dual initiative, a post-cleanup debrief was organized, culminating in a school visit. Captivating photos and videos of both the beach cleanup and underwater mission were shared with the students, providing an immersive experience and fostering a deeper understanding of the impact of marine conservation efforts.

DRT Show Participation and Interactive Exhibits (15th-17th December):

Building on the momentum, Healthy Seas is set to make waves at the Diving, Resort, and Tourism Expo in Hong Kong from the 15th to the 17th of December at booth R267. The Third Dimension Diving SEA dive centre, generously supported by DWS, will serve as a focal point for visitors to learn about Healthy Seas' efforts and witness the tangible outcomes of cleanup missions, including products crafted also from fishing nets.

Key Highlights:

Information Booth: Visitors will have the opportunity to learn about Healthy Seas' mission to clean the seas from marine litter. The booth will provide insights into the foundation's impactful cleanup missions and the transformative journey from marine debris to innovative products.

Virtual Reality Experience: Healthy Seas will offer a virtual reality experience, allowing people of all ages to step into the shoes of a diver on a cleanup mission. Participants can virtually retrieve ghost nets from a shipwreck underwater, providing a unique and immersive perspective on the challenges and rewards of marine restoration.

Interactive Activities for Kids: Understanding the importance of educating the next generation, Healthy Seas will host activities tailored for children. These engaging sessions aim to impart knowledge about the dangers of marine litter to marine animals and illustrate the positive impact of recycling nets into new, useful products through partnerships with innovative companies.

Expanding Environmental Education:

Healthy Seas and DWS recognize the significance of not only cleaning the oceans but also fostering environmental education. By combining innovative exhibits with interactive experiences, the collaboration aims to inspire a sense of responsibility and a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness between human actions and the health of our oceans.

Expanding Horizons Through DWS Partnership:

This year's activities in Hong Kong represent a significant expansion for Healthy Seas, thanks to the steadfast support of DWS. The partnership with DWS has played a pivotal role in bringing the foundation's impactful initiatives to the Asia-Pacific region. Through collaborative efforts, the two organizations have successfully executed multiple cleanup events, engaging local communities and raising awareness about the critical issue of marine litter.

Quotes:

"We are immensely grateful for the ongoing support of DWS, which has allowed us to expand our activities to Hong Kong and continue making strides in our mission to rid the oceans of marine litter. Their commitment to sustainability aligns perfectly with our goals, and together, we are making a tangible difference." Veronika Mikos, Director of the Healthy Seas Foundation.

"At DWS, our commitment to the oceans goes hand in hand with our dedication to combatting climate change. Partnering with Healthy Seas has been an incredibly rewarding journey. We take pride in contributing to their impactful initiatives, working collaboratively towards a future where our oceans are free from the harmful effects of marine litter. Healthy Seas' vision aligns with our corporate social responsibility goals, especially in our shared mission to combat climate change. By intensively collaborating with Healthy Seas, we are making a sustainable contribution to protect the oceans, fostering a healthier environment for marine life and future generations." Simone Brandes, Head of CSR at DWS.

About Healthy Seas:

Healthy Seas is an international non-profit organisation whose mission is to remove waste from the seas, in particular fishing nets, for the purpose of creating healthier seas and recycling marine litter into new products. The recovered fishing nets will be transformed and regenerated by Aquafil, together with other nylon waste, into ECONYL® yarn, a high-quality raw material used to create new products, such as socks, swimwear, sportswear, or carpets. Other types of plastic nets are given to others for recycling, for example Bracenet, a company that uses different type of fishing nets to make



bracelets and accessories. Beyond cleanup, our pillars encompass prevention and education. In collaboration with volunteer divers and fishermen, we've successfully reclaimed over 905 tons of waste globally. Our reach spans from the US to Korea, involving 150 partners and nearly 300 dedicated volunteers.