



*Souvenir Programme  
Philippines 2007*





*Beneath Verde Island, Puerto Galera – Michael AW*

**The Sea** has been the source and cradle of life on Earth for over 3 billion years. Without the Sea there could be no life on this planet. Our Seas occupy 70.98% of our planet's surface and provide 99 percent of the Earth's living space – the largest space in our universe known to be inhabited by living organisms. The Sea has more plants and more animals than land. Of the 33 biological groups of animals, 28 of them have links to the Sea thus only 5 of them are entirely terrestrial. The Sea acts as both heaters and air conditioners; ocean currents move warm water to cold areas and likewise from cold to warm. The Ocean absorbs heat in summer and releases it in winter. The ocean and marine life consume huge amounts of carbon dioxide, and much more oxygen is produced and released through oceanic photosynthesis than by all the earth's terrestrial plants and forests combined.

Most of us give little attention to the Sea. We celebrate our country's National Day, we celebrate our birthday, we celebrate the New Year, we even have bank holidays, yet through the ages, none of us, kingdom, nation or country had ever taken time to celebrate the Sea... the very essential element that keeps us all alive. Unlike the sky that is mostly clear in sight, the Sea is a big pond of water, that has conveniently become a big dumping ground for our waste. Does that plead our ignorance and justify our apathy? We need to develop a greater affinity with the Sea, for in the end, we can only protect what we love. We owe it to ourselves and our children to preserve the well being of the Sea; there's nothing quite like it on land that is comparable to the resources and entertainment of our Seas. Now in its 6th year, the Celebrate the Sea Festival uses the beauty of the Sea to not only entertain and inspire, but more importantly to empower people into action that will preserve our natural environment. The Oscars of underwater imagery will be the centrepiece of the Celebrate the Sea Festival – we invite you to celebrate the sea with us....indulge and experience the award winning images, films, children's paintings from over 38 countries. **Enjoy the Sea**

**MALACANAN PALACE  
MANILA**

**Warmest** congratulations to Ocean N Environment Australia, the Department of Tourism and the Philippine commission on Sports Scuba Diving for organizing the “Celebrate the Sea Marine Imagery festival Philippines 2007.”

This festival is the biggest annual international event of the sea ever staged in the Asia Pacific region. Since 2002, the festival, held in Singapore and Malaysia has attracted entries from 38 countries.



“Celebrate the Sea” is held in association with the World festival of Underwater Pictures, Antibes, also known as the “Cannes of Underwater Film Festivals.” The organizers are bringing “Celebrate the Sea” to Manila in 2007 with the intention of making the city a permanent home for the Festival, thereby positioning Manila as the capital of underwater imagery in the Asia Pacific region.

I enjoin everyone to be part of “Celebrate the Sea Festival” and actively take part in preserving our natural environment.

***More power to all of you and Mabuhay!***

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gloria Arroyo". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO  
MANILA**

21 September 2007

**Philippine** diving has everything to satisfy the fussiest diver – a variety of dive sites and facilities, extremely helpful English speaking Filipinos, unbelievable abundance of marine life and value for money products and services.



Our country is indeed a virtual paradise of infinite subaquatic and subterranean possibilities – from pristine reefs, huge pelagic fishes, World War II shipwrecks and undiscovered treasures, spectacular and vibrant soft and hard coral formations to exhilarating activities such as wall diving, underwater photography and deep diving. Anilao, Puerto Galera, Busuanga, Malapascua and Balicasag – these are just some of the favorite and popular dive sites desired by many.

More colorful vignettes and natural diversities await you in a country of rich legacy, exquisite fusion cuisine, varied languages and religions and the most important ingredient of a travel destination – friendly and hospitable people.

Essentially we have everything and more. Your expectations will be met and driven further than you can ever imagine. I welcome you all to the 6th celebrate the Sea Marine Festival 2007 and behold and experience a beautiful symmetry of 7,107 islands in the Asia-Pacific region that are absolutely beyond the usual.

**Mabuhay!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JOSEPH H. DURANO'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

**JOSEPH H. DURANO**  
Secretary

**Welcome** to our nation of islands...all 7,107 of them are surrounded by seas; the south China Sea to the west, the Celebes Sea to the South, the Philippines Sea to the East and the vast West Pacific Ocean to the North. In fact the wealth of our country is mostly beneath the waves. Believe me, I am a diver and I get to indulge in some of the richest reefs in the world.



The Philippines is in heartland of the Coral Triangle, which spans across eastern Indonesia, Papua New Guinea to Timor Leste. Supported by scientific numbers, this is the global centre of marine biodiversity; it is our top priority for marine conservation. This extraordinary expanse of seas cover an area of 5.7 million sq km, the equivalent to half of the entire United States. It is home to over 600 reef-building coral species that is 75% of all species known to science! Geographically, we are indeed aptly sited. With the choice so ordained and bestowed by nature, we are proud to host the Celebrate the Sea Festival. It now gives us the international platform to celebrate the beauty and the wealth of our seas. We know that by preserving its health and well being, we are preserving our very own.

We hope that the Celebrate the Sea Festival will make a new home in the Philippines, after all we are right in the centre of nature's richest realm of biodiversity. Welcome to the Philippines and our heartiest congratulations to all participants; you are all winners. Do take time to see our reefs; I am sure you will be awesomely surprised.

**Mabuhay!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cynthia Carrion'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'C'.

**CYNTHIA CARRION**

Assistant Secretary for Sports & Wellness Tourism  
Executive Director of Philippine Commission of Sports Scuba Diving (PCSSD)

## 22 SEP Conference Room

- 10am** FORUM – **SAVING OUR SEAS WITH UNDERWATER IMAGERY**  
*does underwater imagery contribute to the preservation to our coral reefs, endangered marine animals? How can underwater image makers contribute?*  
Jennifer Hayes, David Doubilet, Steve White, Brad Norman, Gunther Deichmann
- 11am** FORUM – **CELEBRATING OUR SEA OF DIVERSITY**  
*Nature's Richest Realm*  
Mathieu Meur, Scott Tuason, Philippe Poppe, Guido Poppe, Lynn Funkhouser
- 12noon** FORUM – **PRESERVING OUR SEA OF DIVERSITY**  
*Nature's Richest Realm – the NGO, the local stake holders, the challenge.*  
Domingo G. Ochavillo PHD, Bryan Dias, Ferdie Marcelo, Guido Poppe
- 2pm** **EMBRACING DIGITAL UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY** (part 1);  
*advanced techniques and application; selecting pictures for competition.*  
Michael AW, Mathieu Meur, Scott Tuason
- 3pm** **HOW TO TAKE THE THUMBPRINT OF WHALE SHARKS**  
– a presentation by Brad Norman, Rolex's laureate 2006

## 23 SEP Conference Room

- 10am** **The Big Bold & Beautiful** – a big animal presentation by Amos Nachoum
- 11am** **EMBRACING DIGITAL UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY** (part 2);  
*advanced techniques and application; selecting pictures for competition.*  
Michael AW, Mathieu Meur, Scott Tuason
- 12noon** FORUM – **DIVERS ARE SAID TO BE THE BEST AMBASSADORS FOR OUR SEAS** – *how can divers help?*  
Domingo G. Ochavillo PHD, Bryan Dias, Ferdie Marcelo, Gunther Deichmann, Michael AW
- 2pm** **David Doubilet – Across the Pacific:** *The vast blue belt of the Pacific Ocean is composed of wildly different undersea countries. We will travel across the Pacific seascape from the temperate Galapagos Islands to the teeming reefs of Indonesia. This is a show that is not a portrait of an ocean but a photographic journey across the richest, most diverse part of our Water Planet.*
- 3pm** **Emory Kristof** – *this is a special presentation by the discoverer of the Titanic and deep sea vents. Don't miss this special treat.*

## 22 SEP Coconut Theatre – Film Festival

- 10am** **Up Ice Down: Clown Struck :Together: Gregarious Life : Galapagos**
- 11am** **Shark Feeding – the Trial: the 4 Seasons**
- 12noon** **Ocean Nights**
- 2pm** **David & Goliath**
- 3pm** **Equator – River of Sun**
- 4pm** **Premiere – SharkWater (Rob Stewart)**

## 23 SEP Coconut Theatre – Film Festival

- 10am Planet Earth Shallow Sea – BBC**  
**Presentation of Celebrate the Sea 2007 – MERIT OF EXCELLENCE winners (SILVER) – Feature & Short documentary**
- 11am Presentation of Celebrate the Sea 2007 – HONOR OF DISTINCTION winners (BRONZE) – Feature & Short documentary**
- 12noon Premiere – SharkWater (Rob Stewart)**
- 2pm Equator – River of Sun**
- 3pm Presentation of Celebrate the Sea 2007 – OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT winners (GOLD) – Feature & Short documentary**

## WHO IS WHO at Celebrate the Sea

**DANIEL MERCIER** *President* – World Underwater Pictures Festival: [www.underwater-festival.com](http://www.underwater-festival.com)  
**DAVID DOUBILET** [www.DavidDoubilet.com](http://www.DavidDoubilet.com): National Geographic Photographer in Residence. David has shot more than 60 stories for National Geographic magazine since 1972.

**EMORY KRISTOF** is a pioneer of innovative, high-tech underwater photography using robot cameras and remotely operated vehicles, Emory created the designs of the camera system which found the Titanic. He led photographic surveys of the 6th-century wreck San Diego in the Philippines in 1993.

**AMOS NACHOUM** [www.biganimals.com](http://www.biganimals.com) : Underwater photographer Amos Nachoum has led National Geographic expedition teams with Dr. Eugenie Clark, Dr. Sylvia Earle and astronaut Buzz Aldrin.

**BRYAN DIAS** is the Pacific Program Manager for the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL), an NGO based in San Francisco dedicated to protecting the health of coral reefs by integrating ecosystem management, sustainable tourism, and community partnerships.

**MATHIEU MEUR** Singapore: [www.mathieumeur.com](http://www.mathieumeur.com) : Mathieu co-authored “An Essential Guide to Digital Underwater Photography” and as well as the Advanced edition with Michael Aw

**MICHAEL AW** *Director*, OceanNEnvironment, Ocean Geographic [www.michaelaw.com](http://www.michaelaw.com): Michael is the founding director of OceanNEnvironment, a charity organization whose mission is to promote preservation of coral reefs and endangered marine animals.

**JEN HAYES** is an aquatic ecologist who has collected a couple of graduate degrees in zoology, marine and fisheries biology.

**LYNN FUNKHOUSER** was inducted into the inaugural Women Divers Hall of Fame. She is an internationally published photographer, author, lecturer and environmentalist. [www.lynnfunkhouser.com](http://www.lynnfunkhouser.com)

**SCOTT TUASON** is the author of ‘Anilao’ – the book won the grand prize at the 27th World Festival of Underwater Images.

**GUNTHER DEICHMANN** [www.Deichmann-photo.com](http://www.Deichmann-photo.com) : Gunther Deichmann is an internationally multi-awarded Australian photographer. He is the author of The Dive Sites of Puerto Galera, and in 2001, he published his book on Palau, Micronesia.

**FERDIE MARCELO** is the Seacology Field Representative for the Philippines. Prior to joining Seacology, Ferdie worked for six years with the Philippine Senate where he often backstopped for the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, as well as the Committee on Education.

**DOMINGO G. OCHAVILLO** PHD is a Coral Reef Ecologist/Fisheries Scientist and he is currently the Chief Scientist (Philippines and Indonesia) for the management of the aquarium trade.

**BRAD NORMAN** PHD is a whale shark specialist; Brad was a Rolex’s laureate 2006 and also the the winner of the 2007 Peter Benchley Shark Conservation Award.

**JOE MOREIRA** is the Managing Editor of Ocean Geographic and the Chairman for the event’s forums.

## UNDERWATER PHOTO JOURNALIST AWARD (OGUPJ)

### Winner

Scott Portelli – Australia

## CELEBRATE THE SEA IMAGERY IMAGERY FESTIVAL

### Finalists

#### Group A Feature Documentary

Danny Van Belle, Belgium  
 Giesela Kaufmann, Australia  
 Jacques Tarnero, Philippines  
 Elena Konstantinou, USA  
 Steve Clark, USA  
 Ralf Kiefner, Germany  
 Johannes Leichtle, Germany  
 Denis Degrange, France

#### Group B Short Documentary

Danny Van Belle, Belgium  
 Charlie Oldfield, UK  
 Sergiani Leonardo, Italy  
 Anita & Guy Chaumette, Fiji  
 Claus Topp, Malaysia  
 Ed Snijders, Netherlands  
 Nick Martorano, Philippines  
 Leo Blanco, Spain  
 Moeava de Rosemont, French Polanesia

Colour Prints, Black & White  
 Prints Finalists  
 (refer to on site gallery)

#### Portfolio of Festival

Marchione Giacomo, Italy  
 Palbiani Denis, Italy  
 Franco Banfi, Switzerland  
 Claus Topp, Malaysia  
 Lene Topp, Malaysia  
 Giordano Cipriani, Italy  
 Clemente Aquardo, Italy  
 Charles Hood, UK  
 Jez Tryner, Ukraine  
 Marcel Eckhardt, Singapore  
 Aaron Wong, Singapore

#### Digital Portfolio Finalists

Aaron Wong, Singapore  
 Linda Johnston, Indonesia  
 Marchione Giacomo, Italy  
 Paolo Rossi, Italy  
 Antidio Rossi, Italy  
 Jez Tryner, Ukraine  
 Mikael Jigmo, Sweden  
 Jorgen Rasmussen, Australia  
 Windiarto Tjandra, Indonesia

