



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

31 March 2003

Dear Customers and Partners,

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

You would have heard of cases of Severe acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) occurring in Singapore in the recent days. We would like to take this moment to assure you that Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre (Suntec Singapore) is committed to providing a safe and reliable venue for your event. We would therefore like to furnish you with the most updated information on the topic as follows:

Singapore Ministry of Health has taken decisive steps to ensure the safety of residents and visitors. They have instituted strict control measures, assuring the public that there is little risk of a community spread. Visitors and residents can go about their daily routines as per normal.

Having set up a task force to closely monitor the reported cases of SARS in Singapore, the Health Ministry has also taken precautionary measures to ensure that the threat of the illness is contained. Measures include implementing strict infection control procedures in the hospitals, providing isolation wards for all patients and tracing and instituting home quarantine measures for those who have come into contact with people diagnosed with SARS. As an added precautionary measure, all schools are closed from March 27 to April 6.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the disease is spread through close contact with an infected person. Close contact means having cared for, having lived or having had direct contact with respiratory secretions and body fluids of a person with SARS. Singapore's Ministry of Health has advised the public and visitors not to be alarmed, as their risk of catching SARS is low. There is no evidence to date that the disease spreads through casual contact.



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You can access the following sites for additional information:

- WHO at <http://www.who.int>
- Singapore Tourism Board at [http://www.stb.gov.sg/Travel\\_SARS.stm](http://www.stb.gov.sg/Travel_SARS.stm)
- Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts at <http://www.gov.sg> under "Announcements"

While stringent government measures to contain the illness are in place, business is continuing as usual. We will certainly keep you advised on any change in the situation. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,  
Warren J. Buckley  
Chief Executive Officer