

October 18, 2011

THE LEADER IN RESOURCE RECOVERY

MEDIA RELEASE

International marine adventurers visit Cairns

Led by internationally renowned skipper Philippe Poupon and his wife, Geraldine Danon, the Fleur Australe, a 20-metre sailboat currently on a three-year maritime expedition from the North to the South Pole, recently arrived in Australia to raise international awareness about the effects of climate change.

Poupon and Danon spent three days in Cairns observing how the actions of the community and local farmers can save the fragile ecology of the Great Barrier Reef, and at the same time reduce local emissions of greenhouse gases.

SITA Australia (SITA) General Manager - Strategy & Sustainable Development, Simon Lee hosted the intrepid travellers on their Cairns visit to help them understand how Australians are addressing some of the inter-related environmental issues facing our soils and oceans.

“During their Australian stop-over, Poupon and Danon have committed to raising the profile of initiatives being taken to preserve our environment, particularly those associated with the health of our oceans,” explained Mr Lee.

“In Cairns we visited the **Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre** and **Salmec Harvesting** at Popalardo's Farm, where our visitors learnt about how nutrient run-off from farming practices using chemical fertilisers is affecting local water systems and ultimately the animals that live on the Great Barrier Reef, as well as the reef itself,” said Mr Lee.

After reviewing compost applications along **Thomatis Creek** and its positive effect on reducing nutrient run-off, the group toured the **SITA Advanced Resource Recovery Facility**, where compost is produced from local urban-generated waste. The compost is used to replace chemical fertilisers on local sugarcane farms in the region, thus having a positive impact on the health of the Great Barrier Reef's ecology.

In her online narrative, Ms Danon expressed her interest in learning about urban-generated compost, “...natural fertilisers improve not only sugar cane yields, but also soil health. Another benefit of the organic method is healthier sea water, which was being contaminated by chemical fertilisers in the runoff from torrential rains in the region.”

“Compost...is now proving effective for all types of cultivation. This is a big market, and one that is moving in the right direction, because it is natural and does not pollute streams or ocean water,” Ms Danon explains on the Fleur Australe website (fleuraustrale.com).

SITA's involvement in this awareness raising adventure stems from GDF SUEZ sponsoring the Fleur Australe expedition. SITA is an Australian environmental business unit of the global utility services provider. The sailing boat and its crew are receiving logistical support from GDF SUEZ subsidiaries at every port of call where the Group is active.

The Fleur Australe will end its voyage in Antarctica at the end of 2013.

Poupon and Danon are accompanied by their four children (Nina, age 15; Lou, age 11; Laura, age 5; and Marion, age 3).

Contact: **Simon Gardner Lee** – General Manager, Strategy & Sustainable Development
simon_lee@sita.com.au / 0419 561 197 or 02 8754 0105

SITA AUSTRALIA (SITA) is a SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT and Sembcorp Industries joint venture, providing weekly services to over 43,000 commercial and industrial clients and more than 3.7 million residents across Australia. SITA's services include domestic, commercial & industrial waste collection; waste assessments; resource recovery and recycling options; processing of organic materials into compost; renewable energy facilities; hygiene services; waste treatment; and product destruction. More information on SITA's services can be obtained by calling 13 13 35 or visit www.sita.com.au

SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT Natural resources are not infinite. Each day, SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT (Paris: SEV, Brussels: SEVB) and its subsidiaries deal with the challenge to protect resources by providing innovative solutions to industries and to millions of people. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT supplies drinking water to 90 million people, provides wastewater treatment services for 58 million people and collects the waste produced by 46 million people. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT has 78,700 employees and, with its presence on a global scale, is the world's leader exclusively dedicated to environmental services. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT, a 35.4% GDF SUEZ affiliate, reported sales turnover of 12.3 billion euros at the end of financial year 2009.

SEMBCORP INDUSTRIES is a leading energy, water and marine group operating in 19 countries across six continents worldwide. With facilities with 5,600 megawatts of gross power capacity and over six million cubic metres of water per day in operation and under development, Sembcorp is a trusted provider of essential energy and water solutions to both industrial and municipal customers. It is also a world leader in marine and offshore engineering, as well as an established developer of integrated townships and industrial parks. The Group has total assets of over S\$10 billion and employs over 8,500 employees. Listed on the main board of the Singapore Exchange, it is a component stock of the Straits Times Index and several MSCI indices