



## RWC rises from Genting HK's ashes

THE idle *Genting Dream* will restart cruising out of Singapore next month under the newly formed Resorts World Cruises (RWC), a business constructed by interests associated with billionaire Lim Kok Thay (**CW** 26 Apr), the former chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the collapsed Genting Hong Kong and Dream Cruises.

It's understood the consortium of lenders owed money by Genting Hong Kong have agreed to lease the ship to Resorts World, which overnight announced plans to operate "cruises to nowhere" from 15 Jun followed by an expansion into international itineraries taking in Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia from later in the year.

Former senior Dream Cruises executives will lead the new business, including Chief Executive Officer Colin Au and

Michael Goh, who has been named President and Head of International Sales.

It appears *Genting Dream* is just the start, with Au saying "the company will aspire to have many more ships in other parts of Asia".

"It is a reaffirmation that cruising is good for the region, and will be a growth industry."

Bookings for the new venture are now open, with Resorts World to offer cruise credits to all passengers who had made payments for *World Dream* cruise cancellations this year, who have not been refunded.

Au told the *Straits Times* that unlike the pattern at Genting Hong Kong, all passenger payments would be kept in a separate account which would only be drawn down when a cruise commences.

"The practice of all cruise companies is to use the cash for

working capital purposes...but we have changed the practice to make sure whatever funds are paid will be kept in cash, and if the cruise itinerary is not performed, then the money will be refunded to customers."

About 1,600 staff are being recruited for Resorts World Cruises, with reports saying this would include the rehiring of about 70 former employees from the sales, marketing and retail operations of Genting Hong Kong.

Resorts World Cruises is currently in talks to acquire *World Dream* and *Explorer Dream*, which are also in the hands of administrators after the spectacular collapse of Genting Hong Kong (**CW** 31 Jan).

The company's Executive Chairman, Lim Kok Thay, said Resorts World Cruises was "committed to making Singapore the leading cruise hub in Asia".



On location aboard *Pride of America*

Today's issue of CW is coming to you from Hawai'i courtesy of Norwegian Cruise Line, aboard *Pride of America*.

KAUAI is our next two-day port of call, with *Pride* overnighing in Nahwiliwili.

Hawai'i's fourth largest island, Kauai is called the 'Garden Island' for its valleys, mountains and abundance of rivers and rainforests.

The best way of experiencing its majesty is via air as much of Kauai is inaccessible by car.

While on board, dining options offer the ability to eat when and where you want, with no set times and plenty of variety available including some local Hawaiian favourites.

BOOKINGS OPEN 26TH MAY



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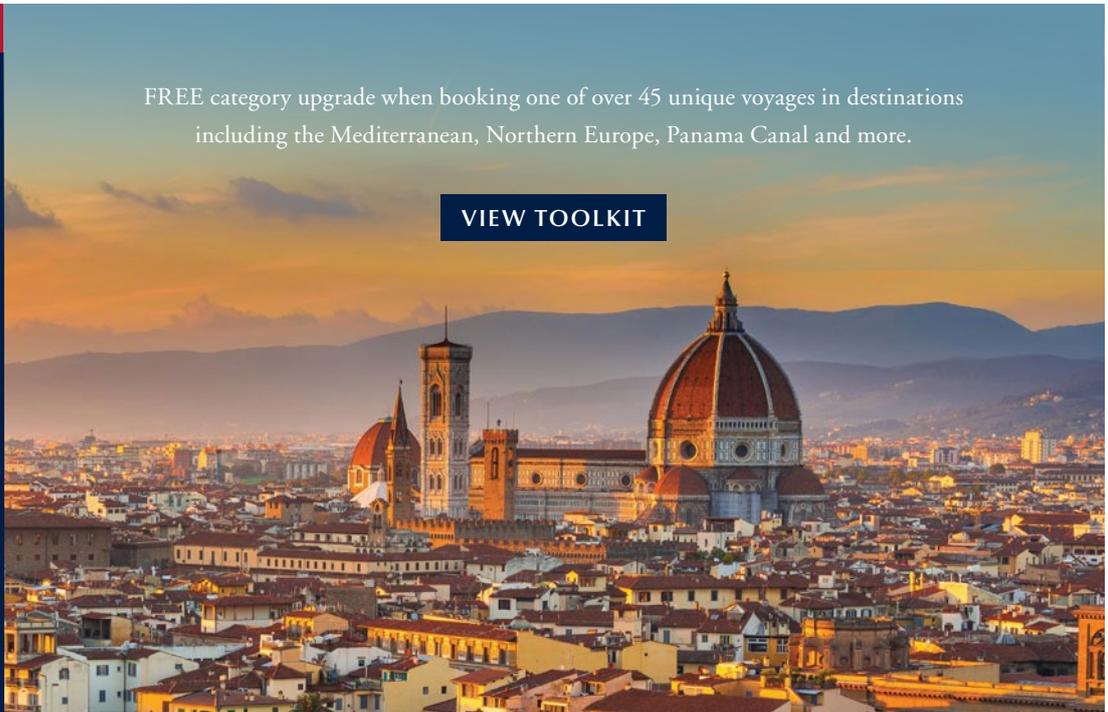
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**SCIENTISTS** are pushing for an ocean version of the International Space Station named the 'North Atlantic Carbon Observatory'.

The initiative was discussed at a science conference in Halifax in Canada this week, CBC reports.

"The North Atlantic Carbon Observatory is a structure that allows nations to invest in ocean observation as a consortium, the way they do in the International Space Station or with some international telescopes," said Ocean Frontier Institute Chief Executive Officer & Science Director Anya Waite.

The North Atlantic, and Labrador Sea, off the east coast of Canada, are in particular some of the largest carbon sinks on the planet, where carbon dioxide from the atmosphere is absorbed and stored deep in the ocean.

Understanding its role in mitigating greenhouse gases is behind the proposed carbon observatory, and one of the themes at an Ocean Frontier Institute conference underway in Halifax this week.

## Aqua webinar

**JOIN** Aqua Expeditions for its *Aqua Blu* global webinar on 31 May at 9am AEST.

The online educational session will cover Aqua's long-range explorer yacht and its destinations, including the Maluku Islands, Komodo National Park, Raja Ampat, and more.

The webinar will be hosted by Global Director of Sales, Milly Alva Haimberger - register [HERE](#).

## Third Mekong ship for Pandaw

**PANDAW** Cruises has announced new 2023 dates for its Laos Mekong expedition, activating a third ship, *Sabaidee Pandaw*, from Jan.

The 10-night Laos Mekong cruise sails on faster waters than most river cruises, cutting through rocky gorges, and towering mountains & forests.

The cruises make stops in tribal villages, and spend a number of days among the Buddhist shrines of Luang Prabang.

Despite Pandaw initially only offering two ships, demand for the cruise line's Laos Mekong expedition has been high, with both vessels now almost full.

## Blue skies ahead for cruise



**THESE** Australian cruise industry specialists are currently enjoying Hawaii, courtesy of Norwegian Cruise Line which is hosting a special *Pride of America* famil this week (**CW** yesterday).

The unique vessel carries the American flag, meaning it's allowed to operate inter-island voyages, with the year-round seven-night itinerary departing from Honolulu each Sat allowing passengers to experience four different destinations and five ports on their holiday, with no sea days.

While a host of shore excursions are on offer, guests are also spoilt for choice on board with a genuine Hawaiian culinary experience including two main

dining rooms, a generous buffet and a variety of casual cafes and "on-the-go" choices.

A favourite option is the Cadillac Diner - a complimentary inclusion for all guests - featuring a wide selection of good old American comfort food including burgers, chicken wings and milkshakes, set among classic vehicles.

**Pictured** enjoying the stunning Hawaiian sunshine are Greg Wilson, CruiseCo; Josh Duncan, Flight Centre; Michael Middleton, Ignite Holidays; Gareth Evison, Imagine Holidays; Jess Wagner, Flight Centre; Norwegian Cruise Line Director of Sales ANZ, Damian Borg; & John Williams and Lori Thornton from Our Vacation Centre.



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