

The first 16 speakers at the **2nd Superyacht Conference** in Singapore have been announced. They come from 11 countries including Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, China, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, India, Myanmar and Spain. In total, there are likely to be more than 30 at the conference to be held from the 12th to the 14th of October.



The conference programme will include topics such as superyacht construction in Asia, market entry strategies, Asian buyer preferences, superyacht ownership and visiting traffic levels, captains and owners interactive panel discussions, destination focus, regulations and permits across Asia and superyacht build, refit and repair yards

Simon Turner, conference director, said, "we are delighted to have such vast experience contributing to the conference content at this early stage. Many more industry professionals are likely to join."

Some 250 participants are expected, up from 150 from more than 30 countries last year (13-14.Oct. 09). The conference will once again be held at the One 15 Marina Club which is the conference sponsor and a member of the Singapore Superyacht Association.

More details of the programme and speaker list can be found at [www.asia-superyacht-conference.com](http://www.asia-superyacht-conference.com)



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## Money for heritage divers



A small team of enthusiastic local wreck divers have been awarded a grant of around HK\$92,000 by the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust for underwater heritage studies. The divers of the Hong Kong Underwater Heritage Group are all friends who started diving for fun, then

moved on to wrecks and now marine archaeology.



Professional marine archaeologist, Dr Bill Jeffery, has been giving the group training in how to investigate and record underwater sites. "The plan is to start a database of

shipwreck and other sites of historical interest in Hong Kong waters," says Jeffery. "As there is nothing available locally, we will begin the work of compiling one through analysing and consolidating data for almost 300 Hong Kong sites in a wrecks database from the



United Kingdom's Hydrographic Office (UKHO).

"We will also investigate literature, old maps and newspapers, and will seek knowledge about other sites of archaeological interest from divers and seafarers, as well as through interviews with government representatives and scholars of the field. All these sites will be catalogued and presented as a spatial database, using acquired digital maps.

"We weren't expecting this level of intensity," explains group member, Marco Li, who is an engineer with a high technology instrumentation business when he is not diving for shipwrecks.

"It's every weekend," says Lydia Ho, his colleague in the group.

About 60 dives are planned over the next year and a half and a licence to dive specific sites has been obtained from the Antiquities & Monuments Office (AMO).

A website has been established outlining the group's aims and progress to date. Later there may even be two sites — one purely for wrecks, the other for other areas of marine archaeology.

To contact the Hong Kong Underwater Heritage Group, call 9074 1784 or email [enquiries@hkuhgroup.com](mailto:enquiries@hkuhgroup.com)



Since January, the **El Niño** phenomenon has weakened. Sea surface temperatures of the central and eastern equatorial Pacific returned to normal in May. The latest forecasts by a number of climate models around the world indicate that sea surface temperatures will continue to decrease in the next couple of months. The possibility of a La Niña developing in the second half of 2010 cannot be ruled out.

El Niño and La Niña refer to the warming and cooling of surface waters over the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean which affect atmospheric circulation and regional climates worldwide. Visit <http://www.hko.gov.hk/lrf/enso/enso-front.htm> for more information.