



Singapore casino considering alternatives to whale shark exhibit

新加坡賭場鯨鯊展可能告吹

A Singapore casino developer said it was considering **alternatives** to its plan to exhibit whale sharks, the world's largest fish, which had run into strong opposition from animal welfare groups.

"We have started to explore plans for an alternative to a whale shark exhibit," Krist Boo, the spokeswoman for Resorts World at Sentosa, told AFP.

Resorts World at Sentosa, one of two casino resorts being built in Singapore, had planned to import the whale sharks for its Marine Life Park (MLP) which is set to become the world's biggest oceanarium upon completion.

The park however said its move was not due to pressure by the seven animal welfare groups which have launched an online **petition** that has gathered more than 9,000 signatures.

"The MLP team does not **take** its responsibilities to both conservation and Singapore **lightly** and as such, we spent the past two years doing much **groundwork**," it said in a statement to AFP.

"We strongly believe that our action must be governed by the conservation of this species rather than what is dictated by fleeting public opinion."

Alternative options to the whale shark exhibit being considered by the MLP were shown to the various animal welfare groups last month, it said.

"This proposal is still in the process of being refined for a

further round of review," the MLP said.

Any changes to the planned whale shark exhibit would have to get the final approval of the Singapore government.

Animal welfare groups welcomed the move by Resorts World at Sentosa to consider alternatives to exhibiting whale sharks, which can reach lengths of 12m, about the size of a bus.

"I think it's very progressive in that they are considering other alternatives," said Louis Ng, executive director and founder of the Animal Concerns Research and Education Society group.

Jaki Teo, the campaign coordinator behind the online petition (www.whalesharkpetition.com), hoped the authorities would consider the concerns raised by animal welfare groups about the whale sharks.

"A lot of the concerns are about the fact that they are not suited to be held in captivity," she said. (AFP)

新加坡賭場開發商表示，他們正考慮更換原先計畫展出的鯨鯊展，鯨鯊是全世界最大的魚種；若干動物福利團體強烈反對展出鯨鯊。

「聖淘沙名勝世界」女發言人克莉絲特·巫對法新社表示：「我們已經開始尋求鯨鯊展的替代方案。」

「聖淘沙名勝世界」是新加坡興建中的兩處賭場度假村之一，該賭場原先計畫替附設的海洋生物館引進鯨鯊，這間海生館開幕

後可望成為全世界最大的海洋生物館。

然而，該海生館否認他們這樣做是受到來自七個動物福利團體的壓力：這些團體日前在網路上發起了一項請願活動，結果獲得超過九千位網友連署。

該賭場發給法新社的一份聲明中說：「海生館不會草率看待其對保育及新加坡的責任，我們過去兩年來做了非常充分的準備。」

「我們堅信，我們的計畫必取決於對該物種的保育，而不是順應民衆一時的意見。」

聲明指出，海生館正在考慮的鯨鯊展替代方案，上個月已送交數個動物福利團體參考。

海生館表示：「這項提案仍在修訂以待進一步審核。」

這場規劃中鯨鯊展的任何變更都需得到新加坡政府的許可。

動物福利團體很高興「聖淘沙名勝世界」考慮以其他方案替代鯨鯊展：鯨鯊身長可達十二公尺，體積約等於一輛公車的大小。

關愛動物研究教育協會執行長暨創辦人路易斯·吳說：「我認為他們開始考慮其他替代方案，是一大進步。」

這場線上連署 (www.whalesharkpetition.com) 活動策劃人賈姬·張希望有關當局能顧及動物福利團體對鯨鯊的關注。

她說：「我們最大的顧慮是牠們並不適合被人類豢養。」

(法新社/翻譯：袁星塵)

A shoal of 50,000 sardines swim around a sand tiger shark in a large fish tank at the Hakkeijima Sea Paradise Aquarium in Yokohama, in Kanagawa prefecture, suburban Tokyo on March 19, 2009. PHOTO: AFP
三月十九日，東京近郊神奈川縣橫濱市八景島海島樂園的一個大型水族箱中，五萬隻沙丁魚群在一隻虎頭鯊旁由游來游去。
照片：法新社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **alternative** / ɹl t n t v / n.

替代方案 (ti4 dai4 fang1 an4)

例: The committee looked at several alternatives before deciding to build the power station.

(委員會在決定興建該發電廠前，參考了數個選擇方案。)

2. **petition** / p t n / n.

請願書 (qing3 yuan4 shu1)

例: Over 1,000 people signed the petition to increase the speed limit on the highway.

(超過一千人連署請願要求提高高速公路的速限。)

3. **groundwork** / gra nd,w k / n.

基礎 (ji1 chu3)

例: It's important to lay the groundwork before starting a big project.

(開始執行一個大計畫之前，做好準備很重要。)

OUT LOUD 對話練習

Ashlyn: I'm going to the aquarium at the weekend. Do you want to come?

Ernest: No thanks. I don't think it's humane to keep animals in captivity.

Ashlyn: Don't worry about it. They are well fed and there are no predators. They have a better life in captivity.

Ernest: I can't believe you're **taking this so lightly**. It's an important issue.

愛希琳: 我這週末要去水族館。你要一起來嗎?

厄尼斯特: 不了，謝謝。我覺得人工圈養動物是不人道的。

愛希琳: 別擔心，牠們每天都被餵得飽飽的，而且沒有掠食者的威脅。牠們被圈養反而生活得更好。

厄尼斯特: 我不敢相信妳如此輕率地看待此事。這是一個很嚴肅的議題。

LANGUAGE POINT 重要片語

take lightly 輕率以待

If you **take something lightly**, you don't attach much importance to it. The expression is often used negatively, as in, "We **don't take this lightly**."

Examples: "We **don't take** accusations of corruption **lightly** and will take legal action against anyone who makes the accusations."

若你「take something lightly」，就表示你並沒有認真看待此事。這個說法常用在否定用法，如：「我們不會輕率看待此事」。

例如：「我們不會草率看待貪污的指控，還將對控訴者採取法律行動」。