



## PRESS RELEASE

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## **Qian Hu spearheads cutting-edge research on in-vitro breeding of pedigree dragonfish**

- *Continuing research collaboration with Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory to enhance arowana breeding using cutting-edge molecular technology will place Singapore as one of the leaders in Asian arowana research*

**SINGAPORE – 30 September 2008** – Mainboard-listed **Qian Hu Corporation Limited** (“Qian Hu”) announced today that the second phase of research on the Asian arowana, which will eventually yield “pedigree” or “tailor-made” fish, has commenced.

Asian arowana, commonly known as dragonfish, is one of the most prized ornamental fish in the world. This project will place Singapore as one of the leaders in the research of this species which will hopefully transform Singapore into a regional R & D hub for ornamental fish research in the future. Qian Hu, through its research partner Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL), will study various aspects of the breeding biology and behaviour of the species in order to improve the currently used farming methods. This

cutting-edge research has also gained support from the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB).

Since 2004, Qian Hu has been collaborating with TLL on a self-funded research project, which yielded valuable results, including information on breeding connections in ponds, pedigrees, molecular barcodes and the ability to sex adult brooders. The second phase of the project aims to improve our knowledge further by leveraging on the finding obtained through the first phase.

“The knowledge we collected so far allowed us to solve some of the mysteries that have shrouded this pre-historic fish. Now we can try to breed dragonfish in the laboratory using ‘in vitro’ fertilization techniques, using sperms and eggs collected from brooders. We can also start selective breeding, the first step towards ‘tailor-made arowana’ made by Qian Hu in Singapore,” said Mr Kenny Yap, Qian Hu’s Executive Chairman and Managing Director.

“Taking a step further, we start the long process of generating a genetic linkage map of the arowana genome. We are really pleased to be spearheading such knowledge-based, cutting-edge research in Singapore, the ornamental fish capital of the world. The results from these research projects have enabled Qian Hu to be more effective in selective breeding, and hence improve the quality and quantity of the future generations of the Asian arowana.”

“This collaboration is very important for us, as regular access to Qian Hu’s excellent broodstock allows us to study this truly interesting species and uncover fascinating details about its breeding biology. In addition, we can set up platform technologies that could be used for the study of other commercially important aquaculture species, both in the ornamental and foodfish areas,” said Dr. Laszlo Orban, the project leader from TLL.

"We are delighted to embark on the second phase of our research collaboration and we certainly look forward to accelerate the deployment of new biotechnological tools that

enhance the breeding of Asian arowana. Biotechnology plays an increasingly important role to enhance productivity and this venture marks a key milestone in the application of molecular markers for the ornamental fish industry. The TLL-Qian Hu experience is a good model for other local industries to emulate and they can leverage on the depth of the scientific capabilities in Singapore for the creation of value-added products and processes to open up new markets. We are also grateful to the SEDB for their continued support and encouragement in projects such as this," said Peter Chia, Chief Operating Officer, Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory.

#### ***About Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL)***

*Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL) was established in August 2002 by the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and Temasek Holdings to undertake cutting edge research in molecular biology and genetics in the broad fields of life sciences. Currently, there are 28 research groups working in the areas of cell biology, developmental biology, molecular pathogenesis and genome and structural biology. In addition, TLL has training programs for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, as well as students from the universities and junior colleges. More information on TLL is available at <http://www.tll.org.sg>.*

#### ***About Qian Hu Corporation Limited***

*Incorporated in 1998, Qian Hu is an integrated ornamental fish service provider – providing a spectrum of services involving distribution of well over 1000 species of ornamental fish from all around the world as well as the manufacturing and distribution of a wide range of aquarium accessories, including pet foods and medications.*

*Qian Hu (which means “Thousand Lakes” in Chinese), has received several awards from the Securities Investors Association of Singapore since 2001 for its commitment to corporate transparency. The Company also won a special mention in the Best Managed Board Awards from the Singapore Institute of Directors in 2003.*

*Over the years, the Group achieved a number of “firsts” in the ornamental fish industry:*

- *The first company in the ornamental fish industry in Singapore to be listed on the mainboard of the Singapore Exchange.*
- *The first integrated ornamental fish service provider in Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand to be awarded the ISO 9002 certification for its quality management system;*
- *The first in the ornamental fish industry to obtain ISO 14001 certification for its environmental management system;*
- *One of the first ornamental fish operations in Singapore to have successfully bred the Dragon Fish and Arapaima for commercial sale; and*
- *The first SME to receive the Singapore Quality Award in 2004.*
- *First SME to receive Singapore Corporate Award for best managed board in 2008*