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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

**April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2000**

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**INAUGURATION OF STAR CRUISES' JETTY AND CRUISE TERMINAL**  
**IN PHU QUOC ISLAND, VIETNAM**

Star Cruises with NCL, "*The First Global Cruise Line*" and "*The Leading Cruise Line in Asia-Pacific*", is pleased to announce the inauguration of the **Star Cruises Terminal and Jetty, Phu Quoc Island, Vietnam** on **April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2000**, coinciding with the opening of the 3-star **Saigon-Phu Quoc Resort** on the same day.

Present to witness the historic event were Mr. Vu Hung Viet, Vice Chairman of Ho Chi Minh City People Committee, Mr. Lee Minh Dung, Vice Chairman of Phu Quoc District People Committee, Mr. Nguyen Van Chi, former Vice Chairman of Ho Chi Minh City People Committee, Mr. Do Van Hoang, Managing Director of Saigon Tourist, Mr. Lam Hong Trung, Director of Kien Siaong Tourist, and top officials of the Vietnam's National Steering Committee.

The **Star Cruises Jetty and Terminal** comprise a jetty with a length of 30m and width of 8m, link bridge to the terminal building, concrete walkway and umbrella-shaped shelter.

"Since its inception only seven years ago, Star Cruises has proactively sought and cooperated with local governments and authorities to develop port and cruise infrastructures wherever our ships ply," said Mr. Colin Au, President and Chief Executive of Star Cruises.

"The construction of the jetty and cruise terminal is a realisation of this aspiration given the fact that proper cruise infrastructure is vital for the development of cruise tourism," he added.

“Phu Quoc Island will now feature prominently on the cruise map of South East Asia. This will augur well for the development of tourism in Vietnam, particularly Phu Quoc Island as there are tremendous economic spin-offs from disembarking passengers who spend on shopping, leisure and sight-seeing,” Mr. Au added further.

Since October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1999, **SuperStar Aries** has been calling weekly at Phu Quoc Island from Laem Chabang (Bangkok). For the year 2000, she will be making over 50 calls to Phu Quoc Island bringing in approximately 38,000 passengers annually.

With this increase in passenger traffic, a seamless sea-to-land and vice versa transfer for passenger embarkation and disembarkation is crucial in ensuring passenger comfort and convenience.

Star Cruises’ commitment in developing cruise tourism in Vietnam is also reflected by the fact that both the **SuperStar Aries** and **SuperStar Leo** call at a total of five destinations and islands in Vietnam, namely **Ho Chi Minh City, Phu Quoc Island, Halong Bay, Con Son Island** and most recently **Danang**.

#### **MORE ON PHU QUOC ISLAND**

The beautiful **Phu Quoc Island**, with an area of 1,320 sq. km. is blessed with some of the most scenic and unspoiled beaches. Its turquoise waters offer incredible view of underwater marine life and snorkelling opportunities. Duong Dong, the main town on the island is a scene of colourful markets with its fresh seafood and fruits, local arts and handicrafts, while Duong Dong harbour is donned with bright blue and red fishing boats. Quaint fishing villages also surround the island, which is also famous for its production of fish sauce.

#### **MORE ON STAR CRUISES**

Following the acquisition of NCL Holdings this year, Star Cruises became *“The First Global Cruise Line”* in addition to *“The Leading Cruise Line in Asia-Pacific”* with a fleet of 20 ships and over 21,000 lower berths. Star Cruises with NCL is the joint-third largest cruise line in the world. By 2004, with the five ships currently on order, Star Cruises with NCL will have 25 vessels with about 35,000 lower berths.

Star Cruises also has one of the youngest and most modern cruise fleets in the world with the highest safety standards. Star Cruises is the only cruise line to own a US\$5 million world-class ship simulator in its operational headquarters in Malaysia and together with the Danish Maritime Institute, trains all Star Cruises' officers in addition to a further 500 officers for Maersk Sealand and other shipping lines each year. Star Cruises is the winner of the Third Annual "Salute to Youth and Training 2000" awarded by Lloyd's List and International Maritime Industry in London in March, 2000.

Presently, Star Cruises' 12 ships are based throughout Asia-Pacific with Singapore, Port Klang (Malaysia), Phuket, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Taipei, Kobe, Fukuoka, Pusan and Dubai as ports of embarkation. Star Cruises' award-winning fleet has the best services afloat with the highest crew-to-passenger ratio reflecting the high standards of the hospitality industry in Asia-Pacific.

Star Cruises has offices in Asia (China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand); Australia (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth), Europe (Austria, Germany, Sweden and United Kingdom) and the United States of America. With a number of branches in some countries such as China, India and Australia, Star Cruises is represented in 25 locations worldwide.

The NCL group operates a fleet of eight ships under two brands. **Norwegian Cruise Line**, with six ships, offers mainstream cruises in the Caribbean, Alaska, Europe, Bermuda, and the Exotics. **Orient Line**, with two ships, offers destination-oriented cruises in Europe in the summer months and worldwide, as far as Antarctica, in the fall-through-spring. Both NCL and Orient Lines market primarily in North America but also extensively in the UK, Europe, South America, and Asia.

Star Cruises' completely new web-site is at [www.starcruiises.com](http://www.starcruiises.com) or [www.starcruiises.com.my](http://www.starcruiises.com.my) which provides more information on the cruise line and the itineraries.

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