



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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**STAR CRUISES OBTAINS PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
ACCREDITATION TO CONDUCT STCW-95 TRAINING**

Star Cruises with NCL, "*The First Global Cruise Line*" and "*The Leading Cruise Line in Asia-Pacific*", is pleased to announce that it has created history by becoming the **first shipping company ever** to be accredited by the **Panama Maritime Authority** to carry out the **STCW-95** (Seafarer's Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code) without involvement by other external training institute.

The **STCW-95** training programmes are conducted on board Star Cruises' vessels and is fully endorsed by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and used to train captains, officers and crew.

"This accreditation endorses Star Cruises present training and development programmes and is a significant achievement for a company that was only incorporated seven years ago," said Mr. Colin Au, President and Chief Executive of Star Cruises.

"Star Cruises is now internationally recognised in the shipping industry as a leader in providing comprehensive training and development programmes for ship crew," added Mr. Au.

"Training is vital in ensuring a consistent service level on our ships. As a rapidly expanding cruise line with four newbuildings on order, experienced crew is crucial in operational startups and human resource deployment in the short and long term," added Mr. Au further.

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.starcruises.com or www.starcruises.com.my which provides more information on the cruise line and the itineraries.

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