



## **PEACE BOAT CALLS AT SARS-FREE SINGAPORE**

The Peace Boat "The Topaz" called at the Singapore Cruise Centre (SCC) on Wednesday, 25 June 2003 with over 800 passengers. Built originally in 1956 but refurbished in 1998, the 31,482 GT ship arrived from Danang, Vietnam for a one-day stop-over in Singapore en route to Cochin, India.

The Topaz carries an international mix of passengers from some 17 countries. About half of the passengers disembarked for city tours and shopping sprees, while the remainder decided to explore Singapore on their own. Although Singapore was declared SARS-free since 1 June 2003 by the World Health Organisation, all the local agencies like the Maritime & Port Authority (MPA), Singapore Tourism Board (STB), the Immigration Checkpoint Authority (ICA) and the Ministry of Health are working very closely to ensure that health standards are maintained at the highest level.

Ms Kumi Watanabe and Ms Risa Takeuchi arrived in Singapore from Tokyo a week ahead to meet up with SCC, the local port agent and their inbound tour representatives from Vacation Singapore DMC Pte Ltd. Together with the port agent, Harpers Shipping Pte Ltd and the organisers Japan Grace Co Ltd, the SCC ensured that the visit of the passengers and crew were hassle-free.

For more information about the Peace Boat, check out their Internet Website at this URL: <http://www.peaceboat.org/english/index.html>