“It’s Summertime, Sweet Summertime”
Singapore Makes a Big Splash with WaterFest 2007
by Laura Reid

Nothing seems to slam the door faster on summer than the start of the new school year. Once schools resumes, winter seems to be just around the corner.

But it’s a different story in tropical Singapore where summer runs year round. So, don’t put away your board-shorts and your sun-screen—the 3rd annual WaterFest gets underway on Saturday, August 25 at Marina Bay.

A six-week celebration of Singapore’s water-ways and sports, WaterFest will combine great spectator events with hands-on, feet-first and into-the-brink participation fun at locations across Singapore, including East Coast Park, Sentosa Beach and Bedok Reservoir.

Expect the action to be fast, fun and highly competitive as ironmen, wakeboarders, sailors and swimmers hit the waters around Singapore. Among the competitive events scheduled this year: the WaterFest Urban Race, the Standard Chartered Masters Swimming Series, the SMU Western Circuit Sailing Regatta, the AVIVA Ironman 70.3 Singapore, the Singapore Biathlon Challenge, the Beach Ultimate Frisbee Hat Tournament, and the FINA 10km Swimming World Cup.

However, WaterFest won’t be just for extreme and elite athletes. Armchair athletes will have lots to do, too. Singapore plans to debut its latest technical achievement in the form of a new floating stage near the Esplanade on Marina Bay. Capable of holding 9,000 people, 200 tonnes of stage props, and three 30-tonne vehicles, the stage will be slightly bigger than a soccer field. There will be sports, live performances and music, making the floating stage Asia’s first stadium on the water.

If you’re willing to get wet, the WaterFest launch at Marina Bay on August 25th is bound to have an adrenalin rush for everyone in the family. Strap on a lifejacket and zip around Marina Bay on a jet ski. Or rip it up on a banana boat with your kids. Work up a sweat trying to kayak or get caught up in the raucousness of a dragon boat team. Test your sea legs on a pair of water skis or go for the max on a wakeboard.

Get your feet wet at WaterFest and experience the joys of summer just a little bit longer. In Singapore, to quote singer Kenny Chesney, “It’s summertime, sweet summertime.”