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All Hands On Deck!



Mir at ASL Shipyard

Mir undergoes massive repairs to her deck to prepare for a better future full of hope and continued conservation work in remote island communities. **By Abigail Alling**



Mir's arrival to ASL Shipyard



Captain Mark removing the turnbuckles



The volunteer team helping to remove the deck of Mir

The time had come again for our crew to head into another dry-dock – this time to replace the entire deck of our beloved 101-year old vessel *Mir*. This daunting task has been on our minds for one year ever since we returned to Raffles Marina after the Red Sea / Indian Ocean Voyage.

During that adventure on the high seas, we discovered that the old deck was in trouble. With rain, it leaked; but with waves rolling over the deck, it poured. So the inevitable had to happen. In the next six months we will replace the old wooden deck with a steel deck below and teak deck above. That means replacing all hatches and cowl vents, re-fitting masts and rigging, and reconfiguring deck boxes and accessories.

As a charity organisation, we knew we had a chance to accomplish this Herculean feat when our friends at Seagull Marine Pte Ltd started the project by giving us overall assistance and steel for the deck. With this generous offer and the ongoing support from friends

at Raffles Marina and Deepblue Pte Ltd, the last major piece of the puzzle fell into place when a good friend from the shipping business secured the help of ASL Shipyard on our behalf. We dry-docked our last ship at this impressive industrial shipyard in 2001, and were thrilled to learn that we could do this project at their dockyard as well as have the support of their professional team to install the deck.

On the heels of this wonderful news, the impossible happened – our Maltese friend, Joe Mallia, agreed to join us for five months to oversee the teak deck construction. Wow! With our network of Singapore friends and supporters cheering us onwards, a space to do the work at ASL Shipyard, and the steel deck and woodworking now in capable hands, Captain Mark flew into motion organising not only our own crew but a bright-eyed team of nine that jumped in on the weekends to help dismantle *Mir*. Before we knew it, there was no turning back and *Mir* seemed to dance at dock in anticipation of her new makeover.

What a relief, what a gift! Finally, you could see in all our eyes, that we had a future again. Soon we would sail the South China Sea onboard a watertight lovely vessel. This time, though, *Mir* will be entirely reborn from her wooden deck into a new steel / teak millennium yacht – a blend of old and new.

We are beaming from ear to ear and wish to thank our dear friends at Raffles Marina, and all of our sponsors (old and new) including Sika, Jotun, Phoenix Solar, Mercury, Mooreast, LFA Global, Scandia Marine Pte Ltd, Cyclelect, Samson Ropes, Viking, Festool, Hayward, Jabsco, Shurflo, Bluewater Books & Charts, Venus Express, Oceanic, Diver Airman, Fish Head, Kevin & Kels and Northern Lights!

For More Information

Please join us at biospherefoundation.org and <http://mir-makeitreal.blogspot.com/>