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THE GREEN CORRIDOR
Preserving Singapore’s Railway Lands

CASTLE STAYCATION
Royal holidays in Ireland

EUROPE’S BEST BOAT SHOWS
Cannes and Monaco showcase the cream of the crop

MOVIES ON THE LAWN
More details inside
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

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 re-configuring 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
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/
teat 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, Cylect,
Samson Ropes, Viking, Festool, Hayward,
Jabsco, Shurflo, Bluewater Books &
Charts, Venus Express, Oceanic, Diver
Airmen, Fish Head, Kevin & Kels and
Northern Lights!

For More Information

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