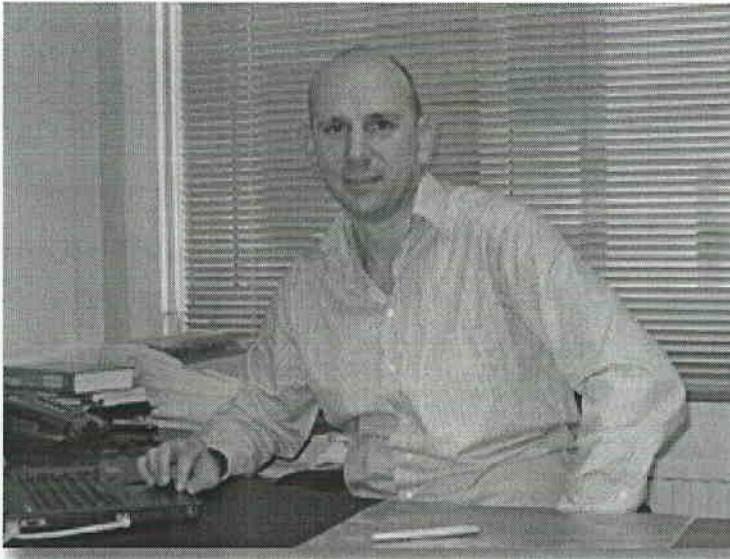


# Singapore still world's top exporter of ornamental fish

By Richard Soemita



*Exports hit S\$ 98 mio and growth up 9%*

Singapore cemented its position as the ornamental fish capital of the world last year with exports hitting a record high of US\$ 64 mio. That is a 9% rise from 2005.

During the month of May, the biennial international aquarium fish exhibition, the Aquarama, was held in Singapore where 200 companies from 27 countries were showing off their wares to their 25,000 members and 6,000 trade visitors. Main reason why this exhibition is held here is because Singapore is the world's leading exporter of ornamental fish, reaching 82 countries.

Asia is the main supplier of ornamental fish, making up more than 60% of global exports. The global industry (including fish, accessories and fish feed) is estimated to be worth more than US\$ 14 billion. The industry has seen its international trade growing at an average rate of 14% a year since 1985.

One of the visitors of the Aquarama was Marc Verhaart from ZooLogistics, based in Holland (Hoofddorp). During my summer holidays in Holland, I met Marc again for an interview.

## ZooLogistics

ZooLogistics arranges transport of all types of animals, from exotic zoo animals, tropical fish, embryos to pets. ZooLogistics has the tools to ensure both smooth and professional transport according to the applicable regulations. But main thing is that they keep the welfare of the animals during transport as a top priority.



The company is recognized by major airlines as a reliable partner resulting in a 'Preferred agent status' with most airlines.

How does ZL do the Handling & Shipping:

- pick up and deliver your pet throughout The Netherlands
- offer boarding at an international Animal Hotel near Amsterdam
- supply the correct IATA accepted kennels in 6 standard sizes or custom build ones
- arrange shipping to the requested destination on all airlines that accept pets
- help you through the maze of rules and regulations that might be applicable in your specific case, thereby taking away some stress, because you don't have to investigate it all by yourself anymore.

## Pets

One of ZL's specialties is the transport of pets. There is even a Pet Travel Scheme from Amsterdam to the UK. In addition to transport, temporary stay of your pet cat or dog can be arranged in an animal hotel near Schiphol airport.



The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) is the system that allows pet dogs, cats and ferrets from certain countries to enter the UK without quarantine as long as they meet the rules. It also means that people in the UK can take their pets to other EU countries, and return with them to the UK without the need for quarantine.

## The company

ZooLogistics was founded in May 2006 as a separate division of ML Milestone Logistics as a result of the growing need for a specialist agent, handling pet shipping on Amsterdam Airport.

ZooLogistics is led by Marc J.H. Verhaart, who is active in the airfreight industry for more than 17 years. Since 1995 he specialized in animal transport by air and was deeply involved with setting up the Pet Travel Scheme operation from Amsterdam airport for both BMI and KLM.

The inbound traffic from Singapore is about 10% of the business and from October 2006 ZL has already handled more than 300 shipments for tropical fish ex Singapore.

Marc emphasized the importance of the Aquarama in Singapore but also enjoyed the night life and atmosphere in Singapore which is an other reason for visiting this event. ■