

Nauticam Experience Day at Onderwaterhuis.nl

by Patrick Kranenbroek

On Saturday, October 25, Onderwaterhuis.nl hosted a special day dedicated to Nauticam: the Nauticam Experience Day. None other than Mr. Edward Lai, the founder and CEO of Nauticam, was present at this inspiring event.

Under great interest from underwater photographers and videographers from the Netherlands and Belgium, two well-attended sessions were organized featuring multiple presentations.

Photography Presentation

The first presentation was given by underwater photographer Faycal Chabini. Faycal had put together a beautiful photo presentation and explained the path he had followed.

Starting with a GoPro to take snapshots underwater, he gradually expanded his camera setup as he photographed more. The real work began for Faycal when he purchased a Canon EOS R5 II with a Nauticam underwater housing. He then added more lenses, including various wet

lenses such as the Nauticam FCP, MFO-1, and MFO-3.

Faycal has captured stunning photos all over the world, and the entire audience enjoyed these magnificent images.

Design of Nauticam Lenses

After a short break, it was Mr. Edward Lai's turn. Mr. Lai first presented the different techniques and calculations he uses in designing lenses and explained how even a small adjustment in a lens can ultimately affect the final result.

Nauticam was already a specialist in designing underwater housings for cameras, but he had no experience designing lenses until Alex Mustard asked him for a solution to switch lenses underwater. "Can you make a macro lens that I can attach to my port?" was Alex Mustard's request. "I don't know, but I can try," was Mr. Lai's reply.

And so, he designed the wet lens SMC-1, a lens with exceptionally strong magnification and excellent



contrast. Alex Mustard used it to photograph a nudibranch, capturing the rhinophores in perfect sharpness. He submitted this photo to the Wildlife Photographer of the Year contest in 2014, and it was immediately Highly Commended.

Alex continued to stay in contact, and through his ideas and





collaboration with Mr. Lai, many more lenses were developed at Nauticam. Today, this has resulted in an extensive range of both macro and wide-angle lenses from Nauticam.

The recently introduced MFO-3 was also featured. This lens had been eagerly anticipated, and attendees took full advantage of the opportunity to test it in the demo aquarium.

On the Film Set

The third presentation was a video presentation by Belgian filmmakers Tommy Vuylsteke and Pieter Germeys from BLUE Motion Pictures.

The presentation focused on their collaboration, but more importantly, on the collaboration of 150 professionals involved in a film. Tommy and Pieter demonstrated how footage is captured in an indoor tank and how it appears in the final film.

They also explained the Nauticam equipment they use and why they keep duplicate sets of all



components. In their early years, they occasionally faced leakage issues with housings, but since switching to Nauticam underwater housings, they have had no problems with waterproofing.

Pieter and Tommy shared their preparations for a film shoot and how they ensure that camera equipment is assembled a day in advance.

The audience in the practical room at Onderwaterhuis.nl was fully attentive and enjoyed the stunning footage.

Over snacks and drinks, attendees continued

to discuss the session in the Onderwaterhuis.nl showroom. Various wet lenses could be tested in the aquarium, and Mr. Lai and the specialists from Onderwaterhuis.nl were available to answer any questions about Nauticam lenses.

It was a fun, inspiring, and informative day.

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