

## *Press Release*

### **Hong Leong Group Singapore Remembers Lee Kuan Yew**

**Singapore, 26 March 2015** – More than 300 staff from Hong Leong Group Singapore joined the snaking queues today to pay their last respects to Singapore's founding father Lee Kuan Yew at Parliament House.

#### **Time Off to Pay Respects**

Hong Leong Group staff – comprising City Developments Ltd (CDL), Hong Leong Holdings, Millennium & Copthorne Hotels (M&C), Hong Leong Finance and Hong Leong Asia – were given time off to pay respects to the late Mr Lee. Over 300 staff from all over Singapore assembled at Republic Plaza in Raffles Place before walking towards the Padang to join the queue.

#### **Cancellation of Events**

In a mark of respect for the late Mr Lee, hotels under the Hong Leong Group have postponed and cancelled celebratory events in Singapore. A wedding show, which was to have taken place this Sunday, has been rescheduled to take place on 24 May. W Singapore – Sentosa Cove has also postponed a celebratory event, which was to take place today (26 March), till further notice.

Some 'live' band performances at the Group's other hotels have been cancelled and ambient music has been toned down. Colourful decorations have also been taken down.

During this period of mourning, the Group's hotels are also waiving any penalty fee for postponing of events. To date, there have been several requests to postpone events. These are mostly diplomatic events organised by foreign embassies and local government agencies.

City Square Mall, Singapore's first eco-mall, has also cancelled its Earth Hour activities.

#### **Flags at Half Mast**

In a unified show of grief with Singaporeans at the loss of Mr Lee Kuan Yew, over 120 hotels globally under the Group, and in Singapore – The St Regis Singapore, W Singapore – Sentosa Cove, Orchard Hotel, Grand Copthorne Waterfront, M Hotel, Copthorne King's Hotel, including the Group's commercial buildings, are flying the Singapore flag at half-mast.

#### **Online Tributes**

This mark of respect has also translated online with the Hong Leong Group website and websites of CDL, Hong Leong Finance and Millennium & Copthorne Hotels, and social media sites sporting either black and white or greyscale tributes.

#### **Withholding Advertisements**

The hotels have withheld promotional campaigns targeting Singapore residents during the 7-day mourning period. TV monitors in the hotels will not be promoting products and services this week. The screens will instead display a tribute message to Singapore's founding father.

CDL has also pulled out all its advertisements over the weekend – usually its peak days for doing business.

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