

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Hong Leong Ushers Festive Cheer With Farm Visits For Elderly

Hong Leong Foundation's donations for 2016 total S\$1.7 million

Singapore, 8 February 2017 – Lunar New Year festivities was a welcoming breath of fresh air with a healthy dose of light exercise for nearly 60 elderly beneficiaries when Hong Leong Foundation surprised them with a tour of selected farms in Kranji. The Foundation is the charity arm of Hong Leong Group.

Taking place earlier today (8 Feb), the Kranji farm trail included stops at Hay Dairies for goat-petting and milking, mushroom sampling at a vegetable farm, and an educational workshop on quails and poultry.

The farm trail was a nostalgic experience and an eye-opener for the elderly aged 65 to 93 from Henderson Senior Citizens' Home and St. John's Home for Elderly Persons. They were accompanied by 40 staff volunteers across the Hong Leong Group member of companies including City Developments Limited (CDL), Millennium & Copthorne Hotels, Hong Leong Finance, Hong Leong Holdings, Hong Leong Asia, and Hong Realty.

Senior executives including Mr Sherman Kwek, CDL Deputy Chief Executive Officer, and Ms Michelle Kwek, General Manager of Hong Realty participated as well.

During the guided and customised three-hour tour by William Ho, whose tour operations are based at Farmart Centre in Sungei Tengah Road, many of the seniors expressed their amazement at how farming in Singapore has transformed dramatically from one of manual labour in the early 1920s to today's mechanisation by using modern technology to increase productivity.

"Our elderly have lived through and contributed much to Singapore's transformation from its post-colonial days to the modern city that it is today. Seeing their joy as they re-live happy memories and chat about their earlier days with us, is a reward in itself. And what better way to usher in the Rooster Year than with a farm tour that includes getting up close and personal with quails and chickens!" said Mr Kwek Eik Sheng, a Governor of Hong Leong Foundation. He is also Chief Strategy Officer and Head, Asset Management of CDL. He was among the volunteers at the event.

After the tour, the elderly were treated to *zi char* lunch at Farmart Centre which comprises F&B outlets, a retail area and an animal-petting farm.

Established in 1980, Hong Leong Foundation is a regular and committed supporter in many areas such as education, welfare, heritage and the Arts. Some organisations that have benefited include the Singapore Institute of Technology, Stroke Support Station, Nam Hong Welfare Service Society, Viva Foundation for Children with Cancer, the Malay Heritage Foundation, Drama Box, Dance Ensemble Singapore, and the Singapore Lyric Opera. Last year, the Foundation renewed its adoption of the Fragile Forest at the Singapore Zoological Gardens, and 24 flamingos at the Jurong Bird Park.

Hong Leong Foundation's donations for the year 2016 totalled S\$1.7 million to various beneficiaries.

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