

HIGHLIGHTS

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At Beijing Expo**



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We want to hear from you!

Tell us about your projects, executive appointments, awards and accolades, latest promotions, charity and community outreach programmes, etc.

If you have interesting photos to go along with them, all the better!

Email your stories and pictures to Group Corporate Affairs at hi-life@cdl.com.sg

Copthorne Solway Park Launches Wings Over Wairarapa Airshow



A Royal Air Force Avro Anson, a maritime reconnaissance and flight-training aircraft which was used during WWII until 1968.



RAF Supermarine Spitfire in desert camouflage at 'Wings Over Wairarapa'. This single-seat high-speed fighter aircraft was the only British fighter that was in continuous production throughout the Second World War.

M&C New Zealand's Copthorne Hotel & Resort Solway Park recently hosted the launch of Wings Over Wairarapa air show to an appreciative crowd of over 100 business people.

The air show itself will be held during the Wellington Anniversary weekend of 16 to 18 January 2015. It will be held at Masterton's Hood Aerodrome, and will carry the theme, "Experience 100 years of aviation". The weekend event will feature vintage aircraft from the First and Second World Wars, as well as stunning displays by contemporary aircraft as well as offer a glimpse into the future of aviation.

Organised by Wings Over Wairarapa Community Trust Board, the air show is a biennial event that started in 1999 by the Sports and Vintage Aviation Society. The 2013 event was attended by more than 24,000 people over three days from New Zealand and all over the world.

Jerry Crump, General Manager of Copthorne Hotel & Resort Solway Park, and a Wairarapa Community Trust Board Member, is excited about the 2015 air show and the tourism benefits that it will bring to Wellington in New Zealand.

Tickets for the air show are currently available at www.ticketdirect.co.nz and www.wings.org.nz, with an early bird discount of 15% until 1 September 2014.

Snapshots Of Our “Heritage In Green” For S’pore UNESCO Bid

In support of Singapore’s bid to have the Singapore Botanic Gardens (SBG) included as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Mr Kwek Leng Joo, CDL Deputy Chairman, who is an avid photographer, has captured a series of photographs to showcase the beauty and heritage of the Gardens. Mr Kwek hopes to do his part for the Gardens by helping to raise public awareness of the UNESCO bid which requires community engagement.

Established in 1859, SBG is a much loved green oasis which has played an integral role in Singapore’s social, economic and scientific developments over the past 155 years. The Gardens has provided a green sanctuary for urban dwellers and served as a second home to many nature lovers, joggers, couples, families and students. It has also etched out an indelible spot on Singapore’s social landscape, having been an integral part of countless momentous occasions and personal experiences of generations of visitors.

Aptly titled “Heritage in Green”, the photography exhibition was first held at the Gardens in conjunction with the official opening of the CDL Green Gallery and SBG Heritage Museum in November 2013.

As a nature lover and a keen supporter of heritage conservation, Mr Kwek has frequented the Gardens since he was nine years old. Familiar with every nook and corner, he captured the lush beauty and historical features of the Gardens in a very personal way.

Mr Kwek shared, “I asked myself, if this was the last visit I ever made to the Gardens, what areas would I wish to capture as my cherished memories?” Through his photos, he hopes to share about the rich heritage and diverse botanical collections of the Gardens with more Singaporeans and tourists alike.

The “Heritage in Green” exhibition ended its run at City Square Mall in April, and will move on to exhibit at buildings such as 7 & 9 Tampines Grande (30 April to 30 May 2014) and Fuji Xerox Towers (July 2014).

Part of Mr Kwek’s photo collection on the Gardens is also currently featured at the “More Than A Garden” exhibition at the National Museum of Singapore (Stamford Gallery) till 11 May 2014.



The location where the Bandstand sits on today is known as the Bandstand Hill, a raised flat area where military bands performed during full moon. There was no structure till the current Bandstand was built in 1930. It continues to be one of the landmark features of the Gardens, surrounded by a ring of low shrubs which gives way to a large flat area of mown grass encircled by yellow rain trees, setting a perfect and picturesque backdrop for potential photo and painting opportunities



Established in 1879, today’s Palm Valley is home to over 220 species of palms, and is perhaps the most strikingly beautiful element of the Gardens’ landscape. Families and friends regularly gather for picnics in this green sanctuary under the shade of the elegant palm trees.

Thai New Year (Songkran) Ceremony At Grand Millennium Sukhumvit



To celebrate the Songkran Festival is held every year to celebrate the Thai New Year. This year’s event, which falls on 13 April, will see Thai people celebrate this festival with water as they believe that water will wash away bad luck. Traditionally the ceremony starts with the bathing rituals for Buddha image for good luck and prosperity, followed by a ‘Water pouring ceremony’ – pouring floral scented water onto the hands of elder in family or senior management at work place to symbolizes the cleansing of past misfortunes and perform the respects.

In honour of Songkran Festival, the associates of Grand Millennium Sukhumvit arranged for General Manager Thomas Christiansen (pictured left, seated) to take part in a traditional Thai‘Water pouring ceremony, and bless him with a prosperous New Year.

Ecuadorian Food Festival Opens At Millennium Seoul Hilton

Millennium Seoul Hilton’s international buffet restaurant, Orangerie, hosted a launch party on March 4, 2014 for its month-long Ecuadorian Food Festival.

Ecuadorian Ambassador Nicolas Fabian Trujillo Newlin was at the event, along with ambassadors and senior officials from the embassies of Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Millennium Seoul Hilton’s General Manager Eric Swanson was also part of the festivities and joined the guests to celebrate the culture of Ecuador while enjoying exotic and delicious foods created by Ecuadorian Chef Maria Ruth Moreno.



General Manager Eric Swanson (extreme right) with embassy representatives at the Ecuadorian Food Festival hosted by Millennium Seoul Hilton

Work

Singapore Prime Minister at Millennium Mayfair



Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong was at the opening of Temasek’s Europe Office, which was held at the Millennium Hotel London Mayfair in March 2014.

Dignified guests at the event such as Hong Leong Group Chairman Kwek Leng Beng, were treated to traditional Singapore cuisine as they listened to speeches from Mr Lee and the Temasek management.

Temasek is an investment company based in Singapore.

M&C Leaders Meet At Biltmore In The US

The very first Millennium Hotels and Resorts North America Key Manager's Meeting was held at Millennium Biltmore Hotel Los Angeles 8 to 11 April. This much anticipated meeting was attended by the global leadership team from the corporate offices of Singapore and the UK, as well the corporate office and hotel managers in the US.

Some of the topics that were discussed include introductions of newly appointed key regional leaders and their business outlook for M&C for the year. Other items on the agenda also covered quality performance, business strategies, and the overall growth for the M&C brand.

All of this underscores a highly exciting future for the Group.

The Millennium Biltmore, famed for its excellence, played host for the event. The event culminated with an elegant finale dinner in the historic Emerald Room, with original that was used when the hotel first opened in 1923. What a treat!



The M&C leadership team with CEO Wong Hong Ren, standing second from the left in the first row.



The team enjoyed an elegant dinner in the Emerald Room of the historic Millennium Biltmore, with original china that was used in the hotel's opening in 1923.

Launch Of Commonwealth Towers

An overwhelming response of more than 1,500 people turned up during the first day of preview (13 April 2014) at Commonwealth Towers, the latest project by Hong Leong Holdings.

Nestled in the heart of Commonwealth district, this high-rise condominium is strategically located at the doorstep of Queenstown MRT station and is ideal for those looking at city-edge living. The project launched on 1 May 2014. As of 5 May 2014, more than half of the 400 units released have been sold.

Jointly developed by members of the Hong Leong Group – Hong Leong Holdings, City Developments Limited and Hong Realty - Commonwealth Towers sits on 130,101 sq ft (12,086.8 sqm) of land and is linked to Queenstown MRT by an overhead pedestrian linkway.

This 99-year leasehold condominium development comprises 845 units in two impressive blocks of 43-storey buildings. Buyers can choose from units offering a variety of views such as the city and Southern Ridges. With full condo facilities, this latest Hong Leong offering has 1- to 4-bedroom apartments with unit sizes ranging from 441 sq ft for a 1-bedroom to 1,302 sq ft 4-bedroom apartments. All units come with a fully equipped kitchen.

Commonwealth Towers features four sky terraces centred on lifestyle themes - wellness, relaxation and dining. Unique features of these sky terraces include a Chess Deck, a Chinese Chess Deck, and a Snakes and Ladders Game Deck. Residents can also look forward to relaxing at the Onsen Spa Suite, and the Hammock Garden. The clubhouse boasts a 50-metre lap pool, lifestyle free-form pool, hydrotherapy pool with aqua gym, as well as an outdoor fitness area. There is also a children’s party area with a wading pool and playground.

“Commonwealth Towers is located in a well-established residential estate. It is close to the upscale Tanglin precinct and a short drive to Singapore’s premier shopping district, Orchard Road. It is ideal for buyers who are discerning of location,” said Ms Betsy Chng, Head of Sales and Marketing at Hong Leong Holdings.

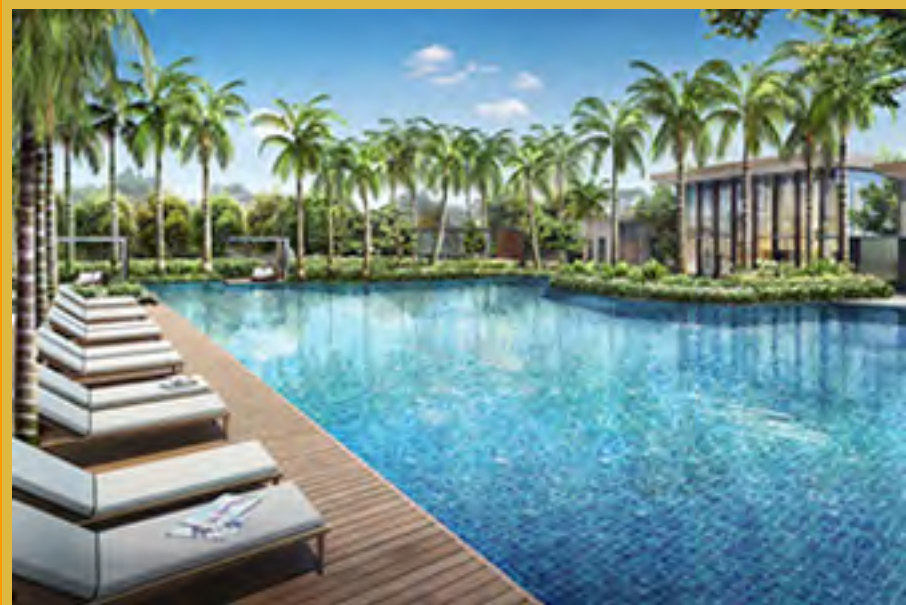
This development’s central location makes it accessible to dining and lifestyle hubs such as Dempsey Hill, Rochester Park, Marina Bay, and Sentosa. In addition, Commonwealth Towers has unique features that cater to both singles and families.

Located on Commonwealth Avenue, Commonwealth Towers is minutes away from the Ayer Rajah Expressway and the Pan Island Expressway. It is within easy access of amenities such as shopping entitites like Anchorpoint, Ikea and the upcoming mall Alexandra Central. Schools such Gan Eng Seng Primary School, Crescent Girls’ School, Tanglin Trust School and Global Indian International School are also nearby.

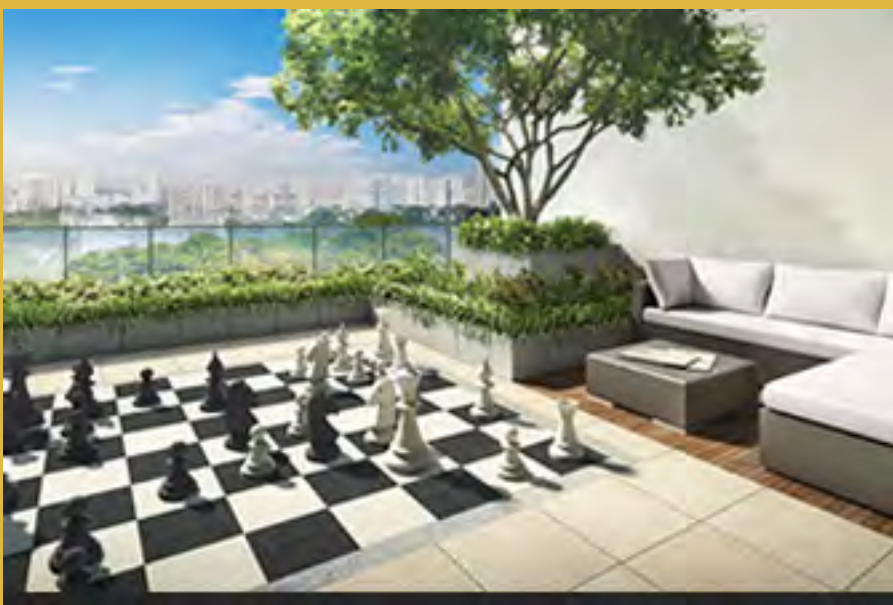
Expected TOP for the development is December 2017.



Commonwealth Towers saw an overwhelming response of more than 1,500 during the first day of its preview.



Commonwealth Towers offers full condo facilities that include a clubhouse, 50-metre lap pool, lifestyle free-form pool, hydrotherapy pool with aqua gym, outdoor fitness area, as well as a children’s party area complete with wading pool and playground.



Commonwealth Towers features four sky terraces centred on lifestyle themes and boasts unique features such as a Chess Deck (pictured), a Chinese Chess Deck, and a Snakes and Ladders Game Deck. f

Hong Leong Asia's FEDDERS At Beijing's Largest Expo



FEDDERS's booth displayed a full range of appliances such as built-in refrigerators, washing machines, and microwave ovens.



Attendees at the exhibition admiring the sleek looking MVI2 unit.

FEDDERS, a business unit of Hong Leong Asia recently showcased its impressive range of air-conditioning systems and integrated solutions at the China Refrigeration Expo 2014. The event which sees more than 40,000 professional visitors and trade buyers from over 100 countries, was held in Beijing from 9 to 11 April.

FEDDERS has more than a century of heritage and expertise in the air-conditioning industry since 1896. The comprehensive one-stop integrated air-conditioning solutions reflect FEDDERS' growing presence in the market and reinforced its determination to grow together with China's HVACR industry.

FEDDERS' booth was divided into 4 sections - Residential, Commercial Air-conditioning, Air and Water Heating Cooling systems (FEDDERS H3 Air-conditioning Systems), and air-con systems for wine cellars. FEDDERS also displayed a full range of kitchen appliances including built-in refrigerators, oven, hob, hood, washing machines, dish washers, microwave ovens, and even air-purifiers.



From right: Mr. Philip Ting, CEO of Hong Leong Asia; Mr. Benjamin Ng, GM Sales and Marketing FEDDERS China; Mr. George Pan, GM of FEDDERS International; Mr. KC Teng, Financial Controller Airwell Air-conditioning Technology (China); Mr. Michael Chew, Acting GM of Airwell Air-conditioning Technology (China)

FEDDERS H3 System, an integrated DC inverter central air-conditioning system, is designed for high rise residential and serviced apartments. It provides floor heating, air-conditioning and domestic hot water, and helps create a warm and comfortable home environment that is sustainable and energy-efficient.

The sleek looking MVI2 unit was the key attraction and was well-received at the show. The DC Multi- Variant Inverter module (MVI2) with its energy-saving technology, operational excellence and reliable, efficient, energy-saving central air-conditioning solutions for our business partners.

During the Expo, FEDDERS also presented seminars to the public. It introduced integrated solutions for both residential and commercial usage to help relieve the everyday experiences of our busy customers.

With strong infrastructure, technology, and intelligence of the R&D team in the 150,000 square metres manufacturing plant at Taicang, FEDDERS is committed to improve and enhance human lifestyle, while protecting the environment.

Hong Leong Finance Rewards The Pioneer Generation With New Fixed Deposit Promotion

Hong Leong Finance (HLF), Singapore's largest finance company, is recognising the efforts of the country's Pioneer Generation by offering this group of Singaporeans one of the highest fixed deposit rates in town. This offer is available for a limited 65-day promotional period starting from April 15.

Singaporean depositors who are 65 years and older, will have much reason to cheer with Hong Leong Finance offering special rates of up to 1.3% per annum for fresh funds deposits of \$30,000 or more, and for tenures of 12 or 24 months.

Under the promotion's 24-month tenure, deposits between S\$30,000 and below S\$100,000 will enjoy a rate of 1.15% per annum, while deposits between S\$100,000 and below S\$200,000 will enjoy a rate of 1.26% per annum. Deposits of S\$200,000 and above will be accorded the highest rate of 1.30% per annum under the same tenure.

This promotion comes on the heels of the Singapore Government's announcement of plans to recognise the contributions of the Pioneer Generation - the founding generation of the country's nation-building. Singapore's Pioneer Generation consists of Singapore citizens who are aged 65 and older in 2014.*

"This is Singapore's first promotion that is exclusively offered to the Pioneer Generation. Customers can take advantage of our highly competitive rates for 12 and 24 months tenures that are typically popular with them," said HLF President, Ian Macdonald. "The fixed deposit rates are amongst the highest to help the Pioneer Generation grow their wealth," he added.



M&C To Open 20 New Hotels In Saudi Arabia



President & CEO of Millennium and Copthorne Middle East, Mr. Ali Hamad Lakhraim Alzaabi (left) and Vice President of Sales & Marketing, Mr. Naeem Darkazally (right) announced their plans to expand into Saudi Arabia at a press conference in Abu Dhabi.

Millennium and Copthorne Middle East and Africa (MEA) has announced that it will open 20 new hotels in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is part of a wider plan to operate 50 properties throughout the region by 2017.

The hotel group will open hotels in Riyadh, Jeddah, Medina and Makkah, as well as important second tier cities such as Hayel, Jizan, Tabouk and Baha. In total it will have over 7,000 rooms in the Kingdom which will make it top priority for the company.

“The market opportunity within the Kingdom has increased through growing domestic travel, a short supply of midscale hotels, five-star hotels in second-tier cities, especially for corporate travellers and the significant and sustained growth of religious tourism,” said Ali Hamad Lakhraim Alzaabi –President & CEO – Millennium and Copthorne Middle East.

Millennium & Copthorne Hotels MEA also announced that it had obtained a license to operate in Saudi Arabia as a branch of a foreign company and is currently in the process of establishing an office in the Kingdom in one of the major Saudi cities.

To support the aggressive KSA growth plan and to drive optimum performance from the Saudi portfolio, Mostafa Tantawi has joined the Group as Vice President of Operations, Saudi Arabia.

In his role, Tantawi will provide leadership and strategic direction for Millennium & Copthorne Hotels in Saudi Arabia. A key objective moving forward will be to deliver maximum business growth and profitability, whilst maintaining quality product and service standards across the portfolio of hotels in the Kingdom.

Currently Millennium and Copthorne Hotels & Resorts operates 17 hotels, with approximately 5,000 rooms across the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Jordan, Qatar, Oman and Iraq, with an ambitious expansion plan.

In addition to the Saudi hotels, new properties are planned to open across the region in UAE, Kuwait and Oman over the next 12 to 18 months. This is in line with the group’s business plan to operate 50 properties throughout the Middle East and Africa by 2017.

The announcement which was made on 24 March 2014 in Abu Dhabi at the Gulf Incentive Business Travel Meetings (GIBTM) exhibition, came on the back of excellent 2013 financial results featuring a 34% increase in Gross Operating Profit (GOP) year-on-year for the group’s Middle East hotels.

“In what has proved to be a highly successful year for Millennium and Copthorne properties throughout the MENA region, the hotel group witnessed impressive growth across its Middle East portfolio, which returned a 23.3% increase in total revenue and a 34.1% increase in Gross Operating Profit (GOP) compared with 2012,” said Mr. Alzaabi.

In Dubai, Millennium Hotels & Resorts benefited from the continuous upward trend in visitor arrivals and added 225 rooms to its inventory at Millennium Airport Hotel and 198 rooms to the Millennium Plaza Hotel. As a result, Total Revenue jumped by 12% for the Dubai hotels and Gross Operating Profit by 30.3%.

The group’s three hotels in Abu Dhabi, including Grand Millennium Al Wahda, which is the largest hotel in the capital with 844 rooms and serviced apartments, made a significant contribution to the overall regional figures, with a 7.6% increase in occupancy levels and 30.8% increase in Gross Operating Profit in 2013.

The financial results from the UAE capital will be further boosted by the opening of what will be the group’s flagship hotel – the 667 bedroom Millennium Bab Al Qasr, located on the Abu Dhabi Corniche, which is set to come on stream in the first quarter of 2015.



Grand Millennium Al Wahda, the largest hotel in Abu Dhabi, saw a 7.6% increase in occupancy levels in 2013.

Coco Palms – CDL's Latest Development In Pasir Ris Grove



Coco Palms, CDL's latest and final development in Pasir Ris Grove, saw a strong crowd at its preview on 3 May 2014.

Consisting 12 blocks of apartments, Coco Palms is designed by the well-respected AXIS Architects, who have based the development's design philosophy on sleek and modern architectural forms, balanced with wide open spaces and lush landscaping. There are also six retail units within the development which are gazetted for a variety of uses, including retail, takeaway food shops or provision of services.

Within individual units, homebuyers will be spoilt for choice with smartly fitted one and two-bedroom apartments, dual-key units, family-sized three, four and five bedroom units, to exquisite penthouses – the ultimate in luxury. Two different options of quality finishes are available alongside the well-appointed interiors.

Each unit is also designed in a variety of layouts which offer intelligent storage solutions, maximising space to suit different needs. For example, in one bedroom units, an integrated ironing board concealed in a cabinet makes it space efficient. In the two to five-bedroom and dual key residences, a choice of two unique smart storage systems are available – storage flushed with floor level or bay-window level. Both are specially designed to accommodate extra bedding and luggage without consuming additional space.

A plethora of resort-inspired facilities are available within Coco Palms with extensive water features comprising a lagoon and four pools. The Coastal Cove is the perfect place for a sojourn in the cooling waters, while the tropical landscape is exemplified in the riches of Cozy Cove – quiet inlets which offer pockets of privacy amidst the allure of water features. For a welcome respite from the day, soak in the Salt Water Pool or the Onsen-style hot bath for a renewed sense of well-being. Over at the stunning three-storey clubhouse Club Cocomo, residents can enjoy the use of the Gymnasium, Games Room and Screening Room.



The living room of the four-bedroom apartment is spacious, bright and designed with both function and comfort in mind.

A 944-unit development with six retail units for sale, Coco Palms is nestled within the serene Pasir Ris Grove enclave, minutes away from Pasir Ris MRT station and White Sands Shopping Mall. Coco Palms takes its architectural inspiration from some of the world's best and most exclusive resorts such as the Maldives, the Caribbean and Fiji. It combines home comforts seamlessly with the laid-back charms of a luxury beach resort.

CDL is familiar with the area, having launched other successful residential projects in the Pasir Ris Grove locale which include Livia, NV Residences, The Palette and D'Nest. Coco Palms is the final condominium to be launched by CDL in Pasir Ris Grove. It sits on the last plot of land that is also situated nearest to the Pasir Ris MRT station, completing CDL's vision of transforming the Pasir Ris Grove neighbourhood into a vibrant and welcoming residential enclave.



Coco Palms is a tranquil sanctuary tucked away in the Pasir Ris Grove residential enclave, and conveniently located near Pasir Ris MRT station, White Sands Shopping Mall. The upcoming Singapore University of Technology and Design and the United World College of South East Asia – East Campus are also close by.

Housed in an enviable neighbourhood that offers myriad amenities, reputable schools, good transport networks and leisure options, Coco Palms is an ideal residence for couples, families and multi-generational families looking to set up a home, while singles and investors will also value the easy accessibility and convenience the development offers. Besides being located conveniently to Pasir Ris MRT station, Pasir Ris bus interchange and White Sands Shopping Mall, there is excellent accessibility to the city with major expressways such as the TPE, PIE and ECP, as well as the upcoming Cross Island Line which starts from Changi and runs through Pasir Ris.

Coco Palms, the final residential development in the coveted Pasir Ris Grove enclave, will be launching soon.

For enquiries, please call the sales hotline: (65) 6583 1811 or (65) 9371 8285.

Finnish Dignitaries At Grand Millennium Kuala Lumpur



The Embassy of Finland recently hosted a Dinner for several Finnish Ambassadors based throughout the region. Mr Matti Pullinen, Ambassador of Finland to Malaysia hosted the event and was seen welcoming the dignitaries upon their arrival.

Pictured from left are Finnish ambassador to Singapore Mr Ari Heikkinen, Finland's Charge' d'Affaires to Myanmar Mr Jarmo Kuuttila, Finnish ambassador to Vietnam to Mr Kimmo Lähdevirta, Finnish ambassador to Thailand Ms Kirsti Westphalen, Finnish ambassador to Malaysia Mr Matti Pullinen, Finnish ambassador to Indonesia Mr Kai Sauer and General Manager of Grand Millennium Kuala Lumpur Mr Peter Gibbons.

Congratulations

CDL Announces Two Senior Appointments To Management Team

CDL recently announced new appointments to its senior management team that took effect from 14 April 2014. Mr Sherman Kwek was named Chief Investment Officer while Mr Kwek Eik Sheng was appointed Chief Strategy Officer.

Mr Grant Kelley, CDL Chief Executive Officer (CEO) said, “We welcome Sherman and Eik Sheng to CDL’s senior management team. We will leverage on their expertise and talent and I am sure they will add value to our core leadership.

“In the last 50 years, CDL has earned a reputation as a leading developer, but now the business landscape domestically and globally is changing rapidly. The new appointments will address these major trends. CDL has to stay plugged in and focused on new opportunities as Singapore becomes more intertwined with an ever expanding global economy,” he added.

Mr Sherman Kwek has over 15 years of international experience in investments, mergers and acquisitions, real estate and hospitality, and has been leading the Group’s expansion into China. As Chief Investment Officer, he will help grow the Group’s overseas portfolio, accelerate its investment programmes as well as enhance the external wing of the business.

Mr Kwek Eik Sheng has a strong record as an investment analyst and corporate planner. In his new role as Chief Strategy Officer in the CEO’s Office, he will assist in investment analysis and formulation of CDL’s business strategies.

Mr Kelley added, “The involvement of these high calibre young executives will help bring fresh perspectives to our business. They also bring to the table a new level of dynamism and long-term commitment of the Kwek family name, which is a strong credential that will advantage us as we go overseas in earnest. We will also mentor them, as we take CDL to the next phase of growth.”



Mr Sherman Kwek (left) assumes the position of Chief Investment Officer and Mr Kwek Eik Sheng (right) is named Chief Strategy Officer.

CDL Named Distinguished Patron of Heritage

CDL was conferred the highest honour, the Distinguished Patron award, at the recent Patron of Heritage Awards 2013 held on 25 April 2014. Organised by the National Heritage Board, the Awards celebrate and recognise the donations and contributions of individuals and organisations who have given generously to heritage causes.

CDL was presented the highest tier recognition for its “gift to the nation”, where it donated the CDL Green Gallery @ Singapore Botanic Gardens (SBG) Heritage Museum – Singapore’s First Zero Energy Green Gallery, as well as its contributions towards the exhibits that are featured in the SBG Heritage Museum, located at Holtum Hall in the Gardens. These were donated in celebration of CDL’s 50th anniversary, and to also commemorate 50 Years of Greening Singapore – both of which took place last year.

The CDL Green Gallery (which saw CDL and 10 like-minded partners coming together to design and construct the innovative eco-friendly building) and the SBG Heritage Museum, were opened by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in end November 2013.

The SBG Heritage Museum features interactive exhibits and panels that share little-known facts of the Gardens’ rich heritage, as well as rare artefacts including botanical books, paintings, and more. The new amenities will help to raise awareness on Singapore’s green heritage and the concept of our City in a Garden.

“I’m sure many are aware of Singapore’s bid to have the Gardens inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We have submitted our nomination, and believe we have a good case. But regardless of the outcome, what’s important is that Singaporeans feel a connection to the Gardens’ rich heritage, and appreciate how it has intertwined with our national history and development. So I am glad that patrons like CDL have stepped up to support this,” said Mr Lawrence Wong, Acting Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, at the Patron of Heritage Awards 2013 Ceremony.

CDL’s support towards the CDL Green Gallery and exhibits in the Museum came up to a total value of over S\$2 million, in cash and in kind.



The CDL Green Gallery showcases two innovative green features incorporated for the first time in Singapore – Hempcrete, an eco-friendly biomaterial, and a prefabricated modular construction system which is easy-to-build and has a lower environmental impact.

Hua Ting Wins Double Awards At World Gourmet Series



From left: Senior Restaurant Manager Irene Yue, General Manager Riaz Mahmood and Masterchef Lap Fai with their proud double achievements.

Orchard Hotel’s famed Hua Ting Restaurant has once again emerged as a double winner - Asian Cuisine Chef of the Year, and Asian Cuisine Restaurant of the Year - at the World Gourmet Series Awards of Excellence 2014.

Organised by Peter Knipps Holdings and supported by Singapore Tourism Board, the annual awards recognises excellence in individuals and establishments in the F&B industry from Singapore and the region. To be crowned Asian Cuisine Chef of the Year and Asian Restaurant of the Year, all nominees and finalists had to go through three rigorous rounds of selection by the public, F&B professionals and jury members.

“These two awards bring us all at Orchard Hotel great pride, and I am confident that Hua Ting Restaurant and Masterchef Lap Fai will continue to provide memorable dining experiences for our discerning customers locally and from all over the world. We are very thankful to all our loyal supporters who voted for us,” said Mr Riaz Mahmood, General Manager of Orchard Hotel Singapore.

“After 17 years with Hua Ting Restaurant, it is a true honour to be receiving the Asian Cuisine Chef of the Year award for the second time, in conjunction with Hua Ting’s Asian Restaurant of the Year,” exclaimed an elated Masterchef Lap Fai. Hua Ting has prepared two 6-course Set Menus to celebrate these double honours. For more information, please [click here](#) for Meals & Deals.

Millennium Sirih Jakarta Wins 2 Expedia Awards



From left: Director of Sales & Marketing Mudita Batubara; Expedia Director of Market Management for Indonesia, Malaysia, and Filipina Michiel Ovaa; Expedia Vice President Traci Mercer; E-Commerce Executive Endahnur Intany; General Manager Manny Mercado; and Expedia Senior Director David Hamblin.

Indonesia Expedia annually gives awards to various hotels in Jakarta, which is divided into several categories. This year, the award ceremony was held on Mutiara Ballroom, Millennium Hotel Sirih Jakarta.

From several categories of awards given by Expedia Indonesia, Millennium Hotel Sirih Jakarta was awarded as "Top Room Night Producer 2013" and "Partner Engagement Award 2013" for the 4-star category hotel.

The award was given by Mr. David Hamblin, Senior Director of Expedia Indonesia and Mr. Michiel Ovaa as Director of Market Management for Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines from Expedia and received by Mr. Manny Q. Mercado, General Manager of Millennium Hotel Jakarta

Heritage Hotel Manila Bags Green Ratee Award

Heritage Hotel Manila recently received a Green Ratee Award from the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), an attached agency of the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) whose mission is to catalyze a climate change-sensitive Integrated Water Resource Management in the Laguna de Bay Region, where the hotel falls under its jurisdiction.

A total of 44 establishments including The Heritage Hotel Manila received the award. The Green Ratee Award recognises establishments that comply with the law and uses environmentally equipment.

The hotel shall continue to do its share in preserving ecological balance and maintain conservation of valuable resources through its projects and daily operations.



From right: Heritage Hotel Manila's Chief Engineer Domingo Naz Jr. and Mr. Richard Khan receive the Green Ratee Award Trophies together with LLDA General Manager, Sec. Nerius Acosta (rightmost)

Grand Millennium Sukhumvit Receives Rakuten’s Silver Award



Grand Millennium Sukhumvit has been awarded the 'Silver Award' from Japan's leading online travel portal, Rakuten Travel. The 'Rakuten Travel Award' recognizes those hotels which have outstanding business growth.

Ms Jirapa Kokaphan, Director of Revenue & Yield received the award on behalf of the hotel at the Rakuten Award Ceremony, which took place at The Okura Prestige Bangkok.

“We are delighted and honored to have been awarded by Rakuten Travel the Silver for the first year. This award serves as a testament to Grand Millennium Sukhumvit 's continuous effort in promoting in Japan's market and providing outstanding services, it also serves as a great encouragement for the hotel's team,” said Ms. Kokaphan.

Play

Grand Millennium Sukhumvit Celebrates 6th Anniversary

Grand Millennium Sukhumvit celebrated its 6th anniversary with a full day of activities at the hotel on April 18. The hotel's management and staff came wearing floral and bright coloured clothing to celebrate the special day and welcome another bright year of success!

The special day started with a traditional Buddhist monk blessing ceremony, followed by a lunch buffet at the hotel’s Junior Ballroom for staff.

As part of the lineup of activities, a fund-raising element was added to the festivities, to support the non-profit organization that helps the poor, underprivileged, and needy people in remote areas of Thailand. This effort involved encouraging every department of the hotel to create their own fund raising activity including garage sales, carnival games and giveaways; such as Lotto & Lucky Draws, Can knockdown, Disc Drop game, Fish in the pond, Lucky Ping-Pong. .



General Manager Thomas Christiansen (seated in the middle) and the hotel’s associates in a group photo to celebrate the hotel’s 6th anniversary.

Celebrity Spotting



Singapore actress Pan Ling Ling with Orchard Hotel Singapore’s Director of Marketing Communications Amy Ang. The actress was at the hotel for a press conference.



Millennium Hongqiao Hotel Shanghai’s Marketing & Communication Manager Ms Cecile Gao (third from the left) with Taiwanese Actor from “Comic Boyz” Shone An (second from the right). The hotel was one of the invited guests to the Shanghai Fashion Week Show.



(from left to right) Taiwan-based Singaporean artiste Stephanie Sun with General Manager Peter Gibbons and Director of Sales & Marketing Trudy Moreno. The songstress was at the Grand Millennium Kuala Lumpur to promote her new album Kepler.

Orchard Hotel Supports Secretaries' Week



Administrative Professional of the Year, Lina Tan (in grey cardigan) and her team from TTG Asia celebrated her win with authentic Straits Chinese cuisine at Orchard Café, with Gold 90.5 FM DJs Tim (extreme left) and Lavina (extreme right).

During Secretaries' Week, Gold 90.5 FM, a broadcast radio in Singapore that plays classic and retro music, recently ran a search for Administrative Professional of the Year Award for nearly two weeks. The contest was broadcast on-air and online.

The winner of the contest receives a 2D1N weekend stay at Orchard Hotel Singapore's Deluxe Room with breakfast for two, as well as gets to treat 9 of his/her colleagues to a scrumptious 'Straits Cuisine' lunch buffet at Orchard Café.

Lina Tan from hospitality publication, TTG Asia, emerged the triumphant winner.

On April 25, Orchard Café played host to Lina, her team, and Gold 90.5 FM DJs Tim and Lavina. Everyone had a fun afternoon while chowing down on the authentic Straits Chinese buffet.

Meals & Deals

Double Honours At Orchard Hotel



Hua Ting is presenting two 6-course set menus to celebrate Hua Ting's double honours.

In celebration of these double honours, Hua Ting's Masterchef Lap Fai is presenting two 6-course Set Menus, where diners can relish a sensory experience that excels in both visual and taste aspects. Some of his master creations include Lobster with Hawthorn Berries Jelly, Crispy Hokkaido Scallop, Sautéed Superior Bird Nest with Egg White in Thick Chicken Broth, Poached "Long Hu" Garoupa in Superior Duck Broth, Pan-fried Kurobuta Pork Cutlet with Garlic, Braised Angel Hair Noodles with Seafood & Truffle Sauce and more.

Make your reservations at (65) 6739 6666 or email huating.ohs@millenniumhotels.com for more information.

Savour An “European Journey” With Hotel Nikko Hongkong



Experience a Southern European culinary journey at Hotel Nikko Hongkong's Lobby Lounge with a variety of Pizzas and Tapas. From live-baked pizzas made a-la-minute (please indicate “right or left” depending on story layout) Spanish grilled sardine with capers, stir-fried gambas with garlic on bread, and Moorish lamb kebab, this authentic Italian an

The Spanish afternoon tea buffet is sure to satisfy all palates. From 18 April 2014, “Tantalizing European Journey” Afternoon Tea Buffet is available from 3:00pm to 5:00pm on weekends and public holidays, at HK\$250 per adult and HK\$208 per child.

For reservations, please call (852) 2313 4210, or book online at www.hotelnikko.com.hk or drop by on the mezzanine floor of Hotel Nikko Hongkong, 72 Mody Road, Tsimshatsui East, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Mother’s Day Specials

Millennium Harbourview Hotel Xiamen

Show your mother how much you love and appreciate her with a buffet treat at Millennium Harbourview Hotel Xiamen. The hotel will be offering a special promotion on its Lunch and Dinner Buffets on Mother's Day.

Bring your mother for either the lunch or dinner buffet and one person will eat for free for every two diners who eat at the Harbour Café. Guests will also receive a bouquet of carnations and will get to enjoy 15% off at the hotel's Loong Yuen Chinese Restaurant. Advance bookings are required for this promotion.

For reservations, please call: (86 592)2023333-6616



JW Marriott Hong Kong



JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong presents an array of delicious culinary offerings from four distinctive venues as part its hotel-wide Mother's Day celebration on Sunday, 11 May. From a stylish Jazz lunch at Flint Grill & Bar, specially-crafted set menus at Man Ho Chinese restaurant to sumptuous buffets with special highlights at Marriott Café and The Lounge, each venue offers a splendid choice to treat mum to an indulging experience. You can also treat your mum to a slice of Dolce 88's exclusive Berry and Yuzu Charlotte cake, available from 1 to 31 May.

For more information, please visit <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/hkgdt-jw-marriott-hotel-hong-kong/>

The St Regis Singapore

Mothers will be able to indulge in a variety of culinary treats this Mothers' Day at The St Regis Singapore. Chinese restaurant **Yan Ting** is offering a special lunch and dinner set menu. Tuck into dishes like Double-boiled Fish Soup with Mushrooms and Fresh Ginseng, Stir-fried Goose Liver and Beef Tenderloin with Bell Peppers, and Stir-fried Wagyu Beef with Bell Peppers. Lunch and dinner buffets are priced at \$128++ and \$168++ respectively.

Brasserie Les Saveurs is offering The St. Regis Champagne Brunch on 11 May, from 12 pm to 3 pm, with complimentary hour of aperitifs from 11am to 12 noon starting at \$195++ per person.

Also on 11 May, **LaBrezza** will be offering the Prosecco Brunch from 12 noon to 3 pm starting at \$78++.

For enquiries and reservations, please contact +65 6506 6888 or visit <http://www.stregissingapore.com/dine>.



The St. Regis Champagne Brunch at Brasserie Les Saveurs will be available on Mother's Day.

Grand Copthorne Waterfront



Pamper mum at **Café Brio's** with a sumptuous buffet. Refresh her palate with prosciutto ham wrapped with cantaloupe melon, Chinese barbecue platter and seafood on ice such as chilled tiger prawn, snow crab leg, Canadian oysters and assorted sushi and sashimi. Entice her with grilled jumbo king prawn with asparagus in mild spicy tomato sauce, foxnut steamed eggs with crab claw, Nyonya laksa and Beef Wellington.

Treat her to our barbecue delights including beef mignon, sambal stingray, crabmeat and banana otah otah. squid and more. Round off the meal on a sweet note with desserts such as mini egg tarts, Florentine almond cake, durian swiss roll and more.

Available on 3 to 4 May and 10 to 11 May, at \$68++ for lunch and \$78++ for dinner.

For more information, please call +65 6233 1100 or email dining.gcw@millenniumhotels.com

Copthorne Kings Hotel

Princess Terrace will be celebrating Mother's Day with Braised Duck and Sea Cucumber with Oyster Sauce, a special highlight at the buffet line in addition to 60 other authentic Penang favourites.

Available for lunch at \$43.80++ and \$48.80++ for dinner.

If your Mum's palate is inclined towards Oriental cuisine, captivate her at Tien Court with an exquisite Mother's Day set lunch or dinner at **Tien Court**, with a complimentary bowl of Bird's Nest Soup (limited to 1 bowl per table of 4 diners).

Highlights include Braised Shark's Fin Soup with Crabmeat, Crispy Fried King Prawn Coated with Salted Egg Yolk, Poached Cod in Superior Broth with Dried Tangerine Peels and Coriander.

Available at \$68++ per person from 1 to 11 May. For reservations, please contact +65 6733 0011 or visit <http://www.millenniumhotels.com.sg/copthornekingssingapore/>



Ladies Night At Millennium Harbourview Hotel Xiamen



Ladies can look forward to the VIP treatment when they dine at the Harbour Café at Millennium Harbourview Hotel Xiamen. As part of a new Lady's Night promotion, every two female diners will get a free dinner when they make an advance booking. This promotion is valid only on Monday evenings for the French Feast buffets.

Advance booking is required.

For reservations, please call: (86 592)2023333-6616

A Taste Of Sweden In Hong Kong's JW Marriott

The Lounge at the JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong is proud to welcomes Guest Chef, Daniel Krondahl from Courtyard by Marriott Stockholm, Sweden. Diners can look forward to an exciting line up of delicious Swedish dishes to the lunch and supper buffets, from 19 to 31 May. Swedish cuisine is known for its simple and healthy dishes. Some of his tasty specialities include meatballs (köttbullar), seafood smorgasbord and roasted pork ribs (revbensspjäll).

For more information, please visit <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/hkgdt-jw-marriott-hotel-hong-kong/>



Spring Delights At Grand Copthorne Waterfront Singapore



Mediterranean octopus carpaccio

From 7 April to 14 June, Pontini's Head Chef, Daniele Sarno's refreshing Spring creations will be available with Mediterranean octopus carpaccio, corn lettuce salad, orange and capers, risotto with green asparagus, saffron and soft Italian "Crescenza" cheese, pan-roasted wild caught cod fillet, pea puree, Italian pancetta and marinated baby mushroom and 65 degrees sous-vide organic suckling pig, celeriac and apple puree, baby root vegetables and Italian fig moist.

Prices start at S\$78++ for a 3-course set menu without wines.

Guests can also look forward to an Executive Set Lunch Dessert for an additional \$6 everyday.

For more information, please contact +65 6233 1100 or email dining.gcw@millenniumhotels.com

Dining Delights At Copthorne King's Hotel

Whet your appetite at Princess Terrace with new Penang delights by Chef Lim, Por Tit and his team including sambal cucumber and lady's finger, grilled hardtail stuffed with chilli, wok-fried slipper lobster, sambal prawn, curry noodles, fried tang hoon and more.

For reservations, call +65 6318 3168 or email princessterrace@millenniumhotels.com

Alternatively, walk over to Starscafé and enjoy sweet treats from Starscafé's High Tea Set with friends. For only S\$15++, you can enjoy high tea with a pot of TWG tea or a cup of coffee.

For reservations, call +65 6318 3186 for email foodbev.cks@millenniumhotels.com



Crab-a-licious At M Hotel

Want to get your hands on some luscious crabs? Head down to Café 2000 at M Hotel for a sumptuous Crab Fiesta during the month of May.

Be spoilt for choices from a range of crab and crustacean dishes such as Crabmeat Timbale on Egg and Caviar, Avocado & Mango Crabmeat Salad, Chili Crab, Crab Rendang Palembang, Stir Fried Crab with Salted Egg Yolk, and Boston Lobster. Other hot varieties such as Mediterranean Style Australia Black Angus Sirloin, BBQ Baby Back Ribs, and Roast Prime Rib are also available.

Prices are \$55++ for dinner (Sunday to Thursday), and \$68++ for dinner on the weekends. For more information, please visit <http://www.millenniumhotels.com.sg/mhotelsingapore/dining-specials/cafe2000-dinner.html>



Dumpling Delights At Yan Ting



Yan Ting at The St. Regis Singapore will be presenting a selection of exquisite rice dumplings in celebration of the upcoming Dragon Boat Festival on June 2.

Handmade by Chef Mak and his team of masterchefs, these delightfully aromatic and abundant dumplings are perfect for sharing and gifting to friends and family from 19 May to 2 June 2014.

From the Glutinous Rice Dumpling with Abalone and Golden Dried Scallops (\$25.80+) with premium ingredients such as South African abalone, dried scallops, chestnuts, roasted duck, and salted egg yolk (left), to the Glutinous Rice Dumpling with Golden Dried Scallops and Pork Belly (\$12.80+) for meat lovers, and the Vegetarian Sweet Glutinous Rice Dumpling with Lotus Seed Paste (\$5.80+) for the health conscious, there is a dumpling for everybody.

For enquiries and reservations, please contact Yan Ting at (65) 6506 6887, email yanting@stregis.com or visit www.yantingrestaurant.com.

Have Fun, Go In May And Stay At Millennium Jakarta!

Book from now till 30 May 2014, and stay during 1 – 31 May 2014.

Have Fun, Go May Privileges:

- Complimentary breakfast for two at Café Sirih
- Free extra bed no breakfast (based on availability)
- Internet access up to 2 devices • Free entry to National Museum **
- A unique children gift on arrival
- 50% discount at Lobby Lounge for Coffee/Tea and snack selection • 50% discount for additional breakfast
- Stay voucher worth IDR. 100.000,- for your next stay
- Scheduled shuttle service to shopping mall

For more information, please contact:
reservations.msj@millenniumhotels.com
or phone +62-212303636 Ext. 1733 / 1616.

A promotional advertisement for Millennium Hotel Jakarta. The main image shows a family of four (a man, a woman, and two children) smiling and waving while riding a roller coaster. The Millennium Hotel logo is in the top left corner. Below the main image, the text "Have Fun Go May!" is written in a stylized font. To the right of this text are two circular inset images: one showing a hotel room and the other showing a plate of food. At the bottom, there is a section titled "Save 40% OFF Best Flexible Rates" with a paragraph explaining the offer: "Whether you are traveling for business or pleasure, you do the planning and we will provide the savings. Enjoy 40% OFF our Best Flexible Rates with special privileges when you book direct with us."

Rest & Relax At The Waterfront



A relaxing family getaway awaits you at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Singapore! Be our guest and take the chance to cycle or stroll along the riverfront and enjoy the picturesque view and tranquil surroundings. Bond with your children through fun activities such as Bokwa or KpopX Fitness.

Package includes:

- A night's stay in our Waterfront or Executive Suite
- Club Lounge access - River taxi ride for 2 persons to the Marina Bayfront
- S\$50 dining voucher to be utilised at Café Brio's or Pontini
- Complimentary session of Bokwa or KpopX Fitness workout with a qualified instructor

Call +65 6233 1122 or email rsvns.gcw@millenniumhotels.com

Create Happy Memories With M&C Loyalty



CLUB RETREAT IN TAICHUNG

Relax and enjoy **15% OFF BEST FLEXIBLE RATE** and **COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST** when you book our Club rooms at Millennium Vee Hotel Taichung.



NEW OPENING SPECIAL AT THE CHELSEA HARBOUR HOTEL

Receive **DOUBLE POINTS** when you stay at our new all-suite hotel in London.



YOUR SMARTEST CHOICE IN PENANG

Kick back and relax at Copthorne Orchid Hotel Penang with **COMPLIMENTARY ROOM UPGRADE** and **15% OFF F&B**.



DOUBLE POINTS IN NEW ZEALAND

Receive **DOUBLE POINTS** when you stay at our New Zealand hotels. Double the joy, double the fun!



DOUBLE UP IN CHICAGO

Enjoy **DOUBLE POINTS** when you stay at Millennium Knickerbocker Hotel Chicago and receive **TWO COMPLIMENTARY WELCOME DRINKS**.



SPRING IN NORTH AMERICA

Stay 2 nights and **ENJOY 50% OFF** your third night when you stay at our participating hotels across United States. Jump into the warm-weather travel season with our Spring Blooms package now!

To learn more about these leisure offers, please visit <http://www.mncloyalty.com/>.

W Hotel Helps Raise S\$750,288 For Charity



Two Michelin-star Spanish Masterchef Sergi Arola (right) prepared a gourmet extravaganza with W Singapore-Sentosa Cove's team led by Director of Culinary, Matthew Woolford (left), for the World Gourmet Summit Charity Gala held at the hotel.

W Singapore – Sentosa Cove recently helped raise S\$750,288 for charity at the World Gourmet Summit Charity Gala Dinner held at the hotel.

Together with two Michelin-star Spanish masterchef Sergi Arola, the hotel's culinary team led by Director of Culinary Matthew Woolford, prepared a gourmet extravaganza of an elegant five course feast for over 340 guests at the Great Room.

The guest of honour at the gala was Singapore Minister for the Environment and Water Resource Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan.

Proceeds from the event were donated to the Singapore Community Chest, a non-profit organization that supports other charities that serve the needy.

Saving Endangered Kiwis

New Zealand's Copthorne Hotel Auckland HarbourCity recently sponsored the Motutapu Restoration Trust, a conservation organisation of Motutapu Island, to save 16 endangered kiwis, the country's iconic bird.

Motutapu Island is one of the many beautifully serene islands within Auckland's Hauraki Gulf. Covering a total area of 1509 hectares, it is situated northeast of central Auckland City and is only a 30 minute ferry from downtown Auckland - easily accessible to tourists and local New Zealanders.

With the help of this sponsorship, New Zealand's Department of Conservation released 16 kiwis onto the island sanctuary. On a day steeped with celebration and tradition, guests including Copthorne Auckland HarbourCity General Manager Tim Reynolds, and M&C New Zealand Human Resources Director Kim-Marie Rixson, were welcomed onto the island by the local Maori and took part in release of the kiwis.

Prior to the release, volunteers spent many hours preparing the island sanctuary. Natural habitats were planted and pests were eradicated to ensure the kiwis are given every chance to breed, self-sustain and thrive in Motutapu.

There was a population of 5 million kiwis 80 years ago. Today, that number has plummeted to just 50,000 to 60,000 birds. This programme aims to increase those numbers again.



With the help of Copthorne Auckland HarbourCity, New Zealand's national bird, the Brown Kiwi, is expected to thrive after its release in Motutapu Island in the Hauraki Gulf.

Happiness With ONE UN New York



The Happy Sales & Marketing team, from left: Katherine Murillo, Maleta Edwards, Cinthia Dominguez, Acts of Happiness volunteer, Dan Paradiso, Jenny Rodriguez, Candice Lewis, Meredith Hasday, and an Acts of Happiness volunteer (in the centre).

ONE UN New York took to the streets March 20th in the name of Happiness. In recognition of the United Nations declared International Day of Happiness, the hotel partnered with an organization named Acts of Happiness to erect a wall in front of the hotel’s main entrance for guests, associates, and the public to post their happy thoughts on.

In addition to the wall, the Sales team donning ONE UN logoed apparel spread good will by handing out treats on the corners of the block creating many smiles from the busy sidewalks catering to the UN and Diplomatic community!

In addition to the personal grassroots efforts of the sales team the news spread through website postings, radio, social media (Acts of Happiness and ONE UN), direct local client emails , and Grand Central Partnership/East Midtown Partnership client email blast communications.

Environmental Awareness Month With JW Marriott Hong Kong

Marriott International designated April as "Environmental Awareness Month," inviting more than 3,000 hotels worldwide, along with their associates and guests, to engage in initiatives which will help to preserve their natural surroundings and reduce resource consumption.

At the JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong, our Green Committee introduced a used clothes recycling programme throughout the month where associates can donate their old clothes and handbags in good conditions to the local charities.

In the second week of April, an “eco-friendly booth” consisting of mini games and quizzes along with prizes was set up at the staff cafeteria as well. The hotel will continue to actively support and undertake initiatives to raise awareness and enhance sustainability efforts to protect our environment.

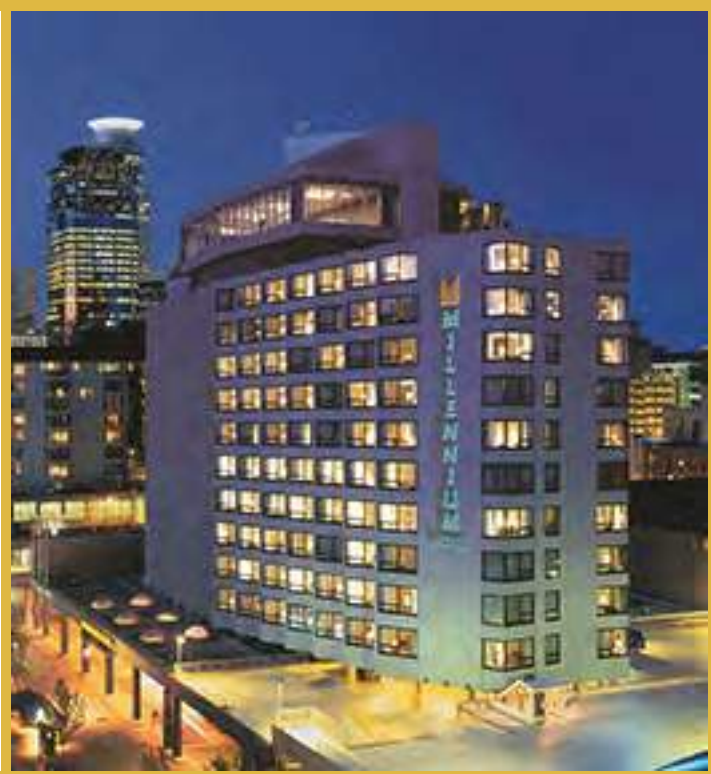


An “eco-friendly booth” consisting of mini games and quizzes was set up at the staff cafeteria of JW Marriott Hong Kong.

Getting To Know You

In each issue, we cast the spotlight on one of the business sectors that make up the global world of the Hong Leong Group

M&C SPRUCES UP PORTFOLIO AND EYES EXPANSION



Millennium Hotel Minneapolis

Following the March 2014 acquisitions of Novotel New York Times Square, the Boscolo Palace Roma in Italy, and the Wyndham Grand London in Chelsea Harbour, *The Hotel Insider*, an American hospitality magazine, recently sat down with Colin Wang, Regional General Manager, North America, to get an inside perspective on what to expect from Millennium & Copthorne Hotel's expansion plans – at least from the U.S. perspective.

Below is an excerpt from the interview.

Are these renovations part of a broader re-branding strategy?

This is not a branding exercise for us. You have to work to keep your hotels in good shape, and we are making that investment. We put \$22 million into the Millennium Hotel Minneapolis last year and \$30 million into ONE UN New York, and we are going to continue to make investments across the brand.

You have an interesting mix of urban hotels and resort properties. What are Millennium's expansion plans?

We are in good markets now, like Boston, Los Angeles, New York and Chicago. But we are missing hotels in key gateway cities such as San Francisco, Miami and Texas. Those are all good markets we want to be in. Our goal is to expand primarily through conversions, but should any good opportunities come up in resort markets, our ownership will evaluate them as well.

Who do you consider your competition?

It varies by market. We are very unique. No two of our hotels are alike, so that makes our market competition very wide. For instance, the Millennium Biltmore Los Angeles is a historic property that dates to 1923. Right now we are putting together some mock-up renovated guest rooms for it. But with a historic property, you have to proceed very carefully, otherwise you hurt its historical charm.

You just acquired the 480-room Novotel Times Square last month for \$236 million. Are you going to rebrand it under the Millennium name?

We are not rebranding that hotel, because it is currently under a long term arrangement lease. Right now that hotel, with its great location, will be a fantastic addition to our portfolio.

As part of your expansion efforts, are there any plans to expand the sales force?

Right now I think our sales force is in good shape. We have our own in-house sales people at each hotel, as well as regional teams. The recent renovations and investment in the portfolio, which we will continue to roll out over the next 12 to 18 months, have generated a lot of excitement within our team.



ONE UN New York



Novotel New York Times Square

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