

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Hong Leong marks Jubilee Year with a Duck Tour for the Elderly ***Its Foundation donates S\$580,000 in annual cash giveaway to over 5,000 needy***

Singapore, 22 January 2015 – Singapore’s Golden Jubilee celebrations came early to nearly 50 elderly beneficiaries when Hong Leong Foundation, the charity arm of Hong Leong Group, took them out on a Duck Tour through the city and the waters of Marina Bay.

The Duck Tour is part of the Foundation’s annual charity event which includes cash giveaways of about S\$580,000 to more than 5,000 recipients. This amount was distributed to more than 3,500 individuals who are receiving financial assistance from the Ministry of Social and Family Development’s under the Public Assistance Scheme, and about 1,550 elderly who hold the Medical Fee Exemption cards.

This is the largest annual cash giveaway it has made since 2006. The monetary giveaways are in addition to other donations that Hong Leong Foundation makes to organisations and other beneficiaries.

“Reaching out and helping the less fortunate in our society remains one of the key priorities for our Foundation. In the past 35 years, we have worked on various community projects and encouraged staff involvement in our initiatives,” said Mr Sherman Kwek, a representative for Hong Leong Foundation and City Developments Limited’s Chief Investment Officer who was among the 35 staff volunteers and management from Hong Leong’s member companies at the event today.

“This year being Singapore’s Golden Jubilee, it seems a fitting and opportune time to do something special for our pioneer generation. The Duck Tour gives them the opportunity to reminisce and revisit the old and new sights of this fantastic country that we grew up in and call home,” he said.

It was a memorable time for the elderly between the ages of 66 and 100 from St. John’s Home for Elderly Persons and St. Andrew’s Cathedral Home for the Aged. They toured the city in an hour-long land and sea journey aboard a remodelled amphibious war craft that has been converted for the highly popular tours. Some landmarks visited include The Esplanade, Asian Civilisations Museum, and the Cenotaph, Singapore’s first major war memorial.

After the tour, the elderly were treated to lunch at M Hotel Singapore, and entertained with performances by the staff volunteers.

Since its establishment in 1980, Hong Leong Foundation is a regular and committed contributor to education, welfare and the arts. Some organisations that have benefited include the Assisi Hospice, Nanyang Technological University, NUHS Fund Limited, Shan You Counselling Centre and Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music.

Last year, the Foundation earned its eighth consecutive Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for its support towards organisations such as TheatreWorks, Toy Factory Productions, and Singapore Lyric Opera.

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