



NOVEMBER 2023
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A Hong Leong Group
E-Newsletter

highlights



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Angeles**



live



Celebrated Sydney Chef Josh Niland To Open Restaurant At The Singapore Edition Hotel

Famed Sydney Chef Josh Niland is opening his first overseas venture, a 'seafood-focused steakhouse' this month. He is pictured here with his wife, Julie Niland who is also his business partner. (Photo credit: Rob Palmer)

Acclaimed restaurateur and award-winning Chef from Sydney, Australia, Josh Niland will star at the helm of the signature restaurant at The Singapore Edition hotel which opens this month, November 2023. As Niland's first restaurant outside of Australia, the yet-to-be-named establishment will be centred around a "fish steakhouse" concept with ethically sourced seafood.

From cut-to-order fish to crown roasts and cutlets, the restaurant will offer gastronomes an opportunity to experience Niland's "fin-to-scale" philosophy – one that shot the seafood specialist to fame back in 2016 – while tapping into the finest ingredients from world-class producers.

For the uninitiated, Niland's resume is impressive. He clocked in at some of Sydney's best restaurants and even the legendary three-Michelin-starred restaurant The Fat Duck by Chef Heston Blumenthal in London. In 2016, he and his wife Julie Niland – who's also his business partner – went on to open their first restaurant, Saint Peter, which is now considered one of Australia's finest dining establishments. The couple also opened their second restaurant, Petermen, right on Sydney's Northern Shores earlier this year.



Josh Niland's new "fish steakhouse" concept at The Singapore Edition will feature ethically sourced seafood dishes such as the Garfish & Achiote Vinaigrette (left photo) and the 21-day dry-aged Yellowfin Tuna rib (right photo).



live

As for the Singaporean outpost, diners can expect plates that aren't far from the signature Saint Peter DNA. It will certainly showcase Niland's unorthodox approach to honouring the entire fish in the same way that a butcher prepares, cuts, dry-ages and cooks with meats. However, it is likely that Niland will tease the palate with Singaporean influence and ingredients here.

Singapore is the location for The Edition's first hotel in Southeast Asia. It will debut a 204-room property nestled at the pulse of the upper Orchard Road shopping district coupled with five restaurants and bar venues, a rooftop pool, spa, and fitness centre, as well as over 681 square meters of indoor and outdoor meeting space for events.



live



Save Endangered Kiwis With The Kiwi Art Trail In New Zealand

M Social Auckland team taking a pose with its kiwi friend, the “Manuka Spirit” located outside the hotel. The sculpture is created by artist Rachel Silver.

New Zealand recently celebrated the 2023 Kiwi Art Trail (9 Oct to 3 Nov) with a collection of 20 painted kiwi sculptures by well-known and emerging New Zealand artists, in downtown Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, creating a free, family-friendly public art trail for all to enjoy around Commercial Bay, the Viaduct, Wynyard Quarter, and Silo Park.

And M Social Auckland was in the middle of all the action to support and celebrate the festivities.

According to legend, millions of years ago, kiwi sacrificed their wings and bright plumage to live on the forest floor and protect the ‘ngahere’ (or forest).

Organised by conservation group, Save the Kiwi, the Kiwi Art Trail helps to raise awareness about the plight of kiwi and what we can do to help. All proceeds from The Kiwi Art Trail support generations of kiwi at the Gallagher Kiwi Burrow, a specialist kiwi incubation, hatching, and brooding facility located in Wairakei, just out of Taupō. The kiwi chicks are then released into the wild when they mature into adults.



live



“Fabulous!
Amazing Food
And Experience
At SanSara.

A Must Try!”

The colourfully dressed guests from the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce (SICCI) and High Commission of India enjoyed themselves tremendously at SanSara's opening launch party. They were graciously hosted by Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR) Group SVP Commercial & Digital Transformation, Mr Saurabh Prakash (seated 2nd from right), MHR SVP Global Operations & Partnership Mr Andy Tan (standing 2nd from right) and Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel General Manager Mr Andrew Tan next to him.

Barely over a month old since its soft launch on 28 September, SanSara North Indian Restaurant at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel has been receiving rave reviews on [Tripadvisor](#) with comments like, “Delicious Desi Food!”, “Best Indian food in all of Singapore!” and “Wholesome North Indian Food served by amazing staff”.

According to Tripadvisor, SanSara is currently ranked #408 of 14,736 restaurants in Singapore based on just 33 reviews. Quite a feat for a month-old restaurant!

But perhaps the review by [Mr Kiran Singh](#) from New Delhi, India, best sums it all up. He wrote, “The food at SanSara was just fabulous! The attention to detail, the taste, the presentation, the variety - everything was just perfect. The chef attended to us really nicely explaining the dishes and ingredients that went in. Having tried several Indian restaurants in Singapore, SanSara was really a notch above with its authenticity and taste. Will surely be going there again!”

To mark an early celebration of the Diwali or Deepavali Festival Of Lights, the intimate 60-seater SanSara officially opened on 20 October with an Indian traditional candle lighting ceremony, an Indian dance performance, a behind-the-scenes kitchen tour, and of course, a delicately crafted tasting menu of SanSara's signature dishes.

The 45 guests who attended include members of Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce, High Commission of India, corporate guests and food reviewers.



SanSara officially opened on 20 October 2023 with an Indian traditional candle lighting ceremony to signify hope and prosperity with Mr Neil Parekh, SICCI Chairman of Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce (left) and Mr Saurabh Prakesh, MHR Group Senior Vice President for Commercial & Digital Transformation.



Chef Akhilesh Pathak and his team meticulously preparing his signature Kumbh Galouti, a creamy, melt-in-your-mouth mushroom patty.



Guests were wow-ed by the traditional Indian dance performance and especially the mouth-watering Diwali feast that included Sailana Jheenga (jumbo shrimp in a mildy-spiced gravy) and SanSara E-Lazeez Maas (lamb curry).



A beautiful night view of Sansara at Grand Copthorne Waterfront, just along the Singapore River.



Blackpink singer Lisa has been inducted in the 19th annual Asian Hall of Fame as 'cultural icon' at The Biltmore Los Angeles.

Blackpink singer Lalisa Manohan (better known as Lisa) has made history by being inducted into the 19th annual Asian Hall of Fame. The event was held at The Biltmore Los Angeles on October 21.

Named "cultural icon", her achievement reflects her global influence, while highlighting K-pop's profound cultural significance worldwide. She is the first K-pop artist to be honoured since the Hall of Fame's inception in 2004, reflecting the expansive influence of Asian artists across the globe.

The black-tie event was held at The Biltmore Los Angeles on October 21st that included red carpet press line, performances from Grammy artists such as Robby Krieger of The Doors, and more.

With this honour, Lisa elevates her home countries of Thailand and South Korea and joins the ranks of such illustrious artists as Freddie Mercury of the iconic rock band 'Queen' and the esteemed Japanese composer Ryuichi Sakamoto – both of whom have been inducted this year in memoriam.

Lisa started with Blackpink band in 2016 after training. She debuted with Jennie, Rose, and Jisoo. In her seven-year career, Lisa made history and became a global cultural icon and ambassador for luxury brands like Celine, Bulgari, Mac, Adidas, and more. As a rapper, dancer, and youngest member of the group, her talents have propelled Blackpink to the global stage. Lisa's achievements resonate beyond her musical prowess, as she represents a beacon of cultural diversity and innovation.



Lisa started with the band Blackpink in 2016 and debuted with (L-R) Jennie, Rose and Jisoo.



work



Putting Staff First.

The Biltmore Los Angeles Enhances Wages And Employee Benefits

A victory for The Biltmore Los Angeles: Hotel employees cheering on the union agreement reached between the hotel and UNITE HERE Local 11 union, to improve wages and benefits. Smiling with pride and joy is General Manager Mr Jimmy Wu, standing near centre in the front row next to a gentleman in red shirt.

The Biltmore Los Angeles Hotel has reached a tentative labour agreement with UNITE HERE Local 11 union, to improve salary and benefits for 300 of its employees at the historic downtown hotel, which opened its doors on 1 October 1923.

The deal includes "unprecedented wage increases," affordable family health care coverage for workers, "humane workloads and safe staffing," along with increases in pensions and "equal justice" language providing access to union jobs for formerly incarcerated people.

UNITE HERE Local 11 represents up to 15,000 hospitality workers from 60 major hotels in Los Angeles and Orange County, who went on a series of strikes that started in June 2023. The workers that include cooks, room attendants, dishwashers, servers, were striking for better wages, healthcare benefits, pension, and safer workloads.

Mr Jimmy Wu, General Manager of The Biltmore Los Angeles said, "We are very pleased to have come to an agreement with UNITE HERE Local 11 on behalf of our loyal and dedicated employees. We can now focus together on looking after our guests and providing the level of service our guests have come to expect from The Biltmore Los Angeles."

Mr Kurt Petersen, Co-President of UNITE HERE Local 11 said, "We applaud The Biltmore Los Angeles for putting their workers and our city first. LA is the world's most important tourist destination, with the World Cup and Olympics coming back-to-back in 2026 and 2028. This agreement takes steps to ensure that workers who work in LA will be able to live in LA."



work



Hong Leong Group Debuts At China International Import Expo With Green Concepts And Urban Architecture

A glimpse at the Hong Leong Group Singapore booth inside the exhibition venue of the 6th China International Import Expo at the National Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai on Nov 4, the eve of the 6-day event starting Nov 5 to Nov 10.

Hong Leong Group recently made its debut at the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai from 5 to 10 November. Inaugurated in 2018, CIIE aims to be an international showcase of China's new markets and development opportunities.

This year's edition saw over 3,400 exhibitors and 394,000 professional visitors at the event, marking a full recovery to pre-pandemic levels. Over a hundred executives from Fortune Global 500 companies and industry leaders also participated, setting a new record in terms of scale.



Designed in 1930s Art Deco style of Shanghai's landmark buildings, Hong Leong Plaza Hongqiao (pictured above) is an office and commercial development certified Gold in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). Its key features include underground heating, solar system, high energy-efficient air-conditioning and gas water heater, rainwater harvesting and recycle system, self-adjusted building temperature, energy-efficient lighting system and integrated sun shield system.



work

According to Shanghai Daily newspaper, some newcomers include Singapore's Hong Leong Group with its flagship CDL and international hotel group Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR). They presented new concepts in sustainable development and urban architecture and will seek more investment opportunities during the expo.

MHR Senior Vice President for Global Operations and Partnerships, Mr Andy Tan said in an interview, "More companies are prioritising Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) goals to reduce impact. At Millennium Hotels and Resorts, we aim to achieve these goals and meet the increased demand for green events as more MICE guests are preferring hotels with strong sustainability features."

Earlier this year in May, Shanghai Mayor Mr Gong Zheng met with Hong Leong Group Executive Chairman Mr Kwek Leng Beng to discuss issues that include urban renewal and transformation in Shanghai.

According to a Hong Leong Group press statement, Mr Kwek said he was "deeply impressed by the development and economic vitality of Shanghai." He also said he remains confident in the potential of the overall Chinese market and looks forward to expanding the Hong Leong Group portfolio via "exciting and strategic prospects".



CDL featuring prominently at the booth (left photo), while MHR Senior Vice President Global Operations and Partnerships Mr Andy Tan shared in a media interview how MHR hotels are gearing up for greener MICE events and a more sustainable future (right photo).



work



Hong Leong Group Of Companies ZERO In On Making Positive Impact

About 75 directors, senior management and staff from CDL and the Hong Leong Group of companies including Hong Leong Finance and Hong Leong Asia toured the “Melting Ice, Sinking Cities” Climate Action Exhibition that opened in June this year at the CDL Green Gallery.

On 26 October 2023, City Developments Limited (CDL) held its 10th Annual Sustainability Forum for the Hong Leong CDL and Group of companies at the Singapore Botanic Gardens' Function Hall, back in person for the first time in three years since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Themed “Sustainability Reporting – Value vs Investment; Challenges vs Opportunities”, the forum proved to be timely and important as the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) issued its inaugural standards – IFRS S1 (General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information), and S2 (Climate-related Disclosures) – earlier this year. This transition has advanced efforts to reduce reporting fragmentation.

Around 75 directors, senior management and staff of the Hong Leong and CDL Group of Companies attended the forum. Issues discussed included global trends on mandating sustainability reporting, importance of climate governance and corporate stewardship, climate reporting and transition planning, and how regulators can help companies meet reporting requirements.

Following the panel discussion, CDL Group Chief Executive Officer Mr Sherman Kwek emphasised the importance of collaborative partnerships in driving climate action, stressing that the more action taken now, the more pain we save ourselves in the future. He added that sustainability reporting will help companies identify gaps in their businesses and serve as a tool to mitigate and adapt to risks, shielding the business from danger and propelling organisations forward in the journey towards net zero.



CDL Group CEO, Mr Sherman Kwek, giving his closing remarks.

In closing, attendees were invited to the CDL Green Gallery for a tour of the “Melting Ice, Sinking Cities” Climate Action Exhibition that opened earlier this year in June.



work



M Social Singapore Impresses China Hotel Owner With Aesthetics And Design

Deputy Party Secretary of Shanghai Seagull Holdings Mr Eric Wang Tao (centre) is pictured here with his team of delegates, as well as Cluster General Manager of M Social Singapore and Studio M, Mr Anthony Lim, and MHR SVP of Global Operations and Partnership Mr Andy Tan (3rd and 2nd from right respectively).

Shanghai Seagull Holdings Group, owner of Millennium Hongqiao Shanghai, recently sent a team of delegates led by Deputy Party Secretary Mr Eric Wang Tao to view the exceptional design and innovation of Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR) distinctive lifestyle properties, M Social Singapore and Studio M Singapore.

The delegation was impressed by the contemporary and efficient designs of our properties that emphasised space management and cluster assignment efficiency.

Shanghai Seagull Holdings also owns the 151-room Millennium Resort Hangzhou, MHR's first resort hotel in China, situated in Nine Creek Mountain in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province.

MHR values the collaboration and looks forward to continuing fruitful exchanges and partnerships in the future.



Millennium Resort Hangzhou is a tranquil luxury resort near West Lake, Hangzhou. Featuring 151 spacious guest rooms, the resort is nestled in lush greenery, famous tea plantations and ancient



work



M Hotel Taps On Young Minds To Create And Innovate

Pictured here is M Hotel General Manager Ms Edeline Tiong (standing first row far left corner), Senior Marcoms Manager Ms Matilda Goh, Project Manager Ms Ida Nursanty (first row 2nd and 3rd from right respectively), and F&B Director Mr Steven Chen (blue jacket far right) with students from Temasek Polytechnic Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Edeline Tiong - GM of M Hotel Singapore, Matilda Goh – Senior Marketing Communications Manager, Ida Nursanty – Project Manager, Mr Steven Chen – Director of Food and Beverage

A total of five student teams across the three cohorts in Temasek Polytechnic Hospitality and Tourism Management participated in the project “Rainmaker Ideathon”, a competition in collaboration with M Hotel Singapore, create ways to market M Hotel’s new Afternoon High Tea set, which showcased local offerings.

Out of the 5 teams, 3 teams were awarded the top 3 prizes, which included a 2D1N stay at M Social, a Dinner buffet, and a Lunch buffet at M Hotel’s Café 2000.

After the Rainmaker Ideathon, M Hotel's hosted a post-rainmaker contest with TP students on the first week of Oct, where they were invited to unleash their creativity and put their social skill to use and create content on the afternoon tea for Tik Tok and other popular social channels.

Through this meaningful initiative with young Temasek Polytechnic students who have grown up with technology, M Hotel Singapore is inspired with the fresh ideas that millennials have and their ability to think outside the box to approach opportunities. It is important for the hotel to approach learning with an open mind, even from the younger generation who have so much to offer.



The students competed among themselves and unleashed their creativity on project “Rainmaker Ideathon”, a competition to create ways to market M Hotel’s new Afternoon High Tea set.



meals & deals



Crave And
Explore New
Flavours At
Studio M's
MEMO Café

New Asian culinary delights await at Studio M Singapore's MEMO Café, starting from S\$8.00++.

We are thrilled to introduce you a symphony of flavours with MEMO's new culinary delights that will tantalise your taste buds.

Savour the authentic flavours of Thailand at MEMO Cafe's new signature dishes! Try our Mama Tom Yum Noodles, Wok-Fry Basil Chicken and Fried Chicken Cutlet Rice. Don't miss out on these incredible dishes that are sure to leave you craving for more.

Visit us today at Studio M Hotel Singapore and treat yourself to a memorable dining experience.

For more details, please visit [Studio M Singapore](#) or make your reservation [here](#).

** Information correct at time of print.*



meals & deals



Sabre, Sip,
And Sparkle
On Napoleon
Nights At
M Social
Singapore

Sip and savour at M Social Singapore's Napoleon Night on Saturdays and Natural Wine Tasting on Tuesdays.

Opening a bottle of champagne with a sabre is a time-honoured art and tradition, started by Cavalry Officers in Napoleon's army in the late 1700s whenever legendary French emperor and military commander Napoleon Bonaparte celebrated his victories.

M Social Singapore celebrates victories with Napoleon Night where you can order your favourite bubbles starting from just \$50++ (with six free oysters) and learn how to sabre your own wine from its professional staff **every Saturday from 6pm till late!**

Additional oysters are available at \$2.50++ per piece.

For the wine connoisseur, learn the art of natural wine making **every Tuesday from 6pm** and discover the stories, taste and aroma behind each wine.

Sample 3 glasses of natural wines with cheese bites at only \$18++ per set.

For more details, please visit dining offers at [M Social Singapore](#).

** Information correct at time of print.*



meals & deals



Canto Delights
At JW Marriott
Hong Kong's
Man Ho
Chinese
Restaurant

Michelin-starred Man Ho Chinese Restaurant honours Cantonese heritage with contemporary touches in dishes like *Premium Bird's Nest Two Ways in Supreme Soup* (left) and *Braised Crab Claw with Bamboo Pith in Chicken Stock* (right).

Elevating Cantonese fare with contemporary touches, Executive Chef Jayson Tang of Michelin-starred Man Ho Chinese Restaurant at JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong combines intricate culinary techniques and precise control of heat and timing to honour the Cantonese gastronomic heritage.

Savour the **Premium Bird's Nest Two Ways in Supreme Soup** (HK\$488), which is a luxurious Cantonese delicacy made with top-quality ingredients and commonly served at lavish banquets. The premium bird's nests are moulded into the shape of a Chinese lute (pipa) and skilfully cooked in two different ways. One piece is deep-fried to achieve a crispy exterior and a glutinous interior, while the other piece entails steaming with egg whites for a velvety texture.

Braised Crab Claw with Bamboo Pith in Chicken Stock (HK\$588) is another sophisticated delicacy that demonstrates the Chefs' expertise in the versatile cooking techniques of Cantonese cuisine. The succulent and flavourful crab claw is first deep-fried to capture the "wok-hei", and then braised in chicken stock, which is simmered for five hours for a gelatinous texture and golden colour. The crab claw and bamboo pith fully absorb the indulgent essence of the stock, making every bite a delectable enjoyment.

For more details, please visit [JW Marriott Hong Kong](#).

** Information correct at time of print.*



meals & deals



Indulge In
Nostalgic
Playtime
Afternoon
High Tea
At M Hotel

M Hotel Singapore presents an afternoon high tea of nostalgic local favourites in three-tier tiffin carriers from yesteryear.

Immerse yourself in a curated heritage experience that showcases the vibrant traditions and rich tapestry of local flavours, represented in a three-tier tiffin carrier ('tingkat' and 'congak'), an old-school cylindrical multi-layered food tin cans from the yesteryear.

Indulge in exquisite renditions of local favourites with the likes of Pulut Hitam Savarin, Crème Brûlée with Coconut Pandan Jam, Almond Lychee Kadaifi, Lemon Longan Scone with Chicken Floss. Take a bite out of the Miniature Nasi Lemak, Charcoal-battered Fish Bites and sip the afternoon away with a delicious mocktail inspired by the strawberry cheesecake dessert as well as unlimited refills of barista coffee and tea.

Relive your childhood and unleash your inner child now at Tea Bar, M Hotel Singapore.

For more details, please visit [M Hotel Singapore](#).

** Information correct at time of print.*



Pitch & Putt And More Riviera Fun At Beijing Riviera

Summer fun at Beijing Riviera included a treasure hunt for kids as part of the Mid-Autumn Festival festivities for residents.

Beijing Riviera had a summer of fun that included its annual golf tournament and kids activities to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. Let's have a look at what they did with these pics!



Over 50 children joined the Riviera Autumn festivities like a mini treasure hunt. In turn, the parents who finally had some down time to themselves!



Team Riviera teamed up with Aseanplus to bring this year's annual social golf tournament. Golfers came together from all over for a great game of morning golf at the Orient Pearl golf club.



A Frightfully
Good Time
At The
Cophthorne
Merry Hill
Dudley Hotel

A frightfully good time was had by all at The Copthorne Mery Hill Dudley with guests greeted by Reception Wicked Witches Phyllis Nightingale (left) and Donna Churchill.

Halloween is celebrated every year on the 31st of October with festivities and parties galore with lots of creepy fun. The Copthorne Merry Hill Dudley Hotel is one of them that gave a frightfully good time to all guests.

The hotel reception and F&B teams were decorated in the 'spirit' of Halloween. Younger guests took part in a Pumpkin Hunt around the hotel winning 'Trick or treat sweets', while various teams took part in a departmental pumpkin carving competition.

Let's have a look at what they did!



F&B Supervisor Beth Gennard and team members Alicia Carter and Bev Bull (left photo) soaked in the festivities while Chef Stuart Willets went around spooking guests as the 'Monster Mash' (right photo).



MHR Helps
Community
Chest Raise
More Than
S\$16 Million

The live broadcast of Uniting Hearts 2023 Charity TV Show raised more than S\$16 million to benefit children with special needs and youth-at-risk, adults with disabilities, persons with mental health conditions and families and seniors in need of support.

Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR) was recently at the live television broadcast of Uniting Hearts 2023 Charity TV Show at The Theatre at Mediacorp to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Singapore Community Chest (ComChest).

The event raised a grand total of S\$16,715,758 that will go towards supporting more than 200 critical social service programmes that benefit children with special needs and youth-at-risk, adults with disabilities, persons with mental health conditions and families and seniors in need of support.

Guest-of-Honour Singapore President Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, his wife Jane Ittogi, and Minister of State for Social and Family Development and Home Affairs Ms Sun Xueling were among over 1,200 audience at The Theatre at Mediacorp, which also comprised representatives from corporate partners and social service users.

MHR was one of the earliest partners to join ComChest's Change for Charity initiative in February 2023. All six of its hotels and 18 restaurants in Singapore participated, where customers can donate at room and dining purchases, or via My Millennium and À La Carte Rewards. MHR also donates S\$10 per day for every room that does not require changing of bed linens, and SGD\$1 for each diner at its buffet restaurants. The ongoing initiative ends on 31 December this year.



MHR SVP for Global Operations and Partnerships Mr Andy Tan receiving a token of appreciation from Guest-of-Honour Singapore President Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam (centre) and ComChest Chairman Mr Chew Sutat (right) at the Uniting Hearts 2023 Charity TV Show.



care



CDL Group Chief Operating Officer Mr Kwek Eik Sheng joined in a post-event photo with other ComChest partners.

MHR employees also arranged themselves in a heart-shape for another photo shoot. (right photo).



MHR employees came together to colour leaves and flowers at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel (left photo) to decorate the tree which was finally unveiled onstage during the live show (right photo).



Everything
Millennium
Airport Dubai
Touches
Turns To
“Awesome!”

Millennium Airport Dubai General Manager Mr Simon Moore cuts the appreciation cake with his hardworking team of housekeepers.

As part of this year International Housekeeping Appreciation Week, the Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai takes a moment to celebrate this special occasion to recognise the hard work of its housekeeping colleagues.

The celebration was held in September at the hotel's training room led by General Manager, Mr Simon Moore, Director of Finance & Operations, Mr Issam Zaarab and Director of Housekeeping, Mr Anil Katru. The housekeeping team was honoured with cake and a delicious buffet.

Mr. Simon Moore, General Manager of the Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai said, “We sincerely thank Mr. Anil Katru, our Director of Housekeeping and his team for the unfailing passion, dedication and commitment to excellence in providing high-quality service to our guests and colleagues. Our Housekeeping team is at the heart of what we do here at hotel and I am really proud of having them in our team.”



The room was filled with balloons to complete the celebratory spirit of the housekeeping appreciation party.



Millennium Hilton Bangkok And SOS Thailand Spread Warmth Through World Food Day

The team at Millennium Hilton Bangkok play their part to conserve the environment and care for its community on World Food Day.

Millennium Hilton Bangkok partnered with the Scholars of Sustenance Thailand Foundation (SOS Thailand) to support local organisations dedicated to the well-being of the planet and the community. This charitable initiative aligns with World Food Day, aiming to distribute high-quality surplus food from businesses in the food industry.

World Food Day takes place annually on 16 October and promotes awareness of hunger and action for the future of food, people, and the planet.

Our team, along with other activists, distributed both our homemade cooked food and freshly prepared meals to the residents of the communities and the local governance team at the Rama 8 community area.

This activity also serves as a reminder that we all have a role to play in building a more sustainable community. By supporting the community, we can help create a world where everyone has access to the food they need to thrive.



The hotel team is pictured preparing and distributing homemade cooked meals made with surplus ingredients from the local food industry to needy communities.



care



Sustainable Christmas Market Returns For 2nd Year At South Beach

This Christmas, celebrate the joy of meaningful giving and eco-living at the annual Sustainable Christmas Market.

Presented by Peace of Art, this second edition event happening at South Beach in Singapore, features a wide array of eco-products, tripling the number of participating brands to over 80 this year.

100% of donations and sales proceeds from the 100% Impact Preloved Bazaar, Christmas workshops for all ages, and Fit&Fab barre and yoga classes, will go towards the Singapore Red Cross Young Hearts programme, which provides academic support and mentorship for children living in Singapore's public rental flats – 'Giving Every Child a Chance'.

Highlights:

- **Workshop Wonderland:** Over 2 days, Workshop Wonderland will feature 70 exciting and carefully curated workshops for all ages, accommodating up to 1,000 participants, revolving around the theme of sustainable living. The workshops range from Christmas artisanal activities to kids handicrafts to floral making to fitness sessions, as well as KIDSforKIDS Showcase (music and dance performances by children).
- Every sign-up is a 100% donation to support the underprivileged children of Young Hearts living in Singapore's public rental housing (by Singapore Red Cross).
- All donations come with a 250% tax deduction benefit.

This event is happening on 11 & 12 November 2023 at South Beach (30 South Beach Road), from 10am to 8pm.

For more details, please visit www.sustainablechristmas.sg or IG @sustainablechristmas.sg



voices



CDL Group CFO
Yiong Yim Ming
On How
CFOs Today
Have To Be
“Deft Jugglers
Of Competing
Priorities”

CDL Group Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Ms Yiong Yim Ming shares how the role of a CFO has changed today.

The role of a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) has undergone profound transformation in recent years. In addition to tracking and managing a company’s financial strategy and actions, they must also have the leadership and communication skills to counsel, be a voice of reason, stay flexible, and spot opportunities in unprecedented macroeconomic conditions.

CDL Group CFO Ms Yiong Yim Ming was recently named Best CFO for large-cap companies with market capitalisation of above S\$1 billion at the Singapore Corporate Awards 2023. She shares with The Business Times (7 September 2023) how CFOs navigate crunch times.

As CDL’s CFO, what are some of your greatest challenges and how did you overcome them?

High interest rates, high borrowings, high inflation, currency fluctuations, geopolitical tensions, and the risk of a recession are changing how companies and investors look at numbers and financial stewardship.

Our roles have evolved beyond the traditional financial custodian to one that encompasses ESG (environmental, social and governance) factors, identifying growth while reinforcing compliance and risk management. We must be sharper in our forecasting and keep a hawk-eye on liquidity and cash flow while also proactively leveraging sufficient capital to grow the company.

To do this effectively, digitalisation and real-time data are key process game changers. We are deft jugglers of competing priorities. As a pivotal partner providing cross-functional insights, CFOs must have a clear understanding of the company’s strategic priorities to guide business growth, balance prudence and stewardship, and help the company navigate challenges while seizing opportunities.



voices

In the face of adversity, has there been any opportunities and silver linings?

Investment opportunities have emerged even as markets are under pressure. However, we need to be cautious. Risk and rewards often go hand in hand, so it is important to assess the risks alongside the opportunities and make balanced decision making.

CDL's record profit performance last year, driven by significant divestments, provided us with the significant cash to make several recent strategic acquisitions that would add value to our portfolio.

Since the start of 2023, we have acquired iconic trophy assets such as St Katharine Docks in Central London, two strong-performing hotels in Brisbane and Seoul, and expanded our PRS portfolio with two assets in Osaka. These acquisitions are aligned with our goals to advance our global presence in tandem with our land replenishment strategy in Singapore. We also remain focused on extracting value from our current assets while pursuing our fund management ambitions.



The 5-star Sofitel Brisbane is CDL's third hotel in Australia. The 416-room hotel is also Brisbane's largest single branded hotel by room inventory and has the largest hotel conference facilities in the heart of the CBD with direct access to Central Station.

What would you say are key responsibilities of a CFO in challenging economic conditions?

A rising interest rate environment has amplified the criticality for businesses to prioritise working-capital efficiency and maintain strong and robust fundamentals. It alters the equity market landscape as investors focus on companies' efforts to improve/enhance their working capital and strategically handle increasing financing costs.

This is an opportunity for us as CFOs to demonstrate our strength in managing the working-capital efficiency and capital management on the treasury front.

So rather than saying this is a bane or boon, I think it's a responsibility for CFOs to assure stakeholders the plan to navigate through this environment and to be always ahead of the curve, to swiftly change its course as and when needed.

What are your current priorities as GCFO?

It has always been my priority to be a business partner to all teams within the CDL Group to further our Growth, Enhancement and Transformation (GET) strategy. CDL will maintain its focus to execute on this three-pronged strategy:

- **Growth:** Growing and expanding our presence, both locally and overseas
- **Enhancement:** Enhance our asset portfolio to derive more value and operational efficiency through asset enhancement initiatives
- **Transformation:** Transform our business via diversified platforms such as Fund management, portfolio review and investing in PropTech innovations.



voices

We remain optimistic about overseas investments as we believe it is an opportune time to make opportunistic acquisitions and strengthen our market position. The private rented sector (PRS) has the greatest potential in our view, given its defensive characteristics and as rising house prices put pressure on affordability. In Singapore, we will continue to focus on executing well on our development projects and replenishing our land.



Earlier in September, CDL made its largest private rented sector (PRS) investment in Japan with the portfolio of 25 freehold assets that includes (L-R): QUALITAS Tabata (26 units), QUALITAS Hadayama (38 units) and QUALITAS Minami-Oi (81 units).

Any thoughts and words of encouragement on winning the Best Chief Financial Officer Award this year?

I'm deeply honoured and incredibly grateful to receive this award for the success at CDL. On a personal note, it's the biggest encouragement any CFO could ask for in our little red dot and this is made possible only with the team I work with. I give thanks to the CDL Board of Directors for their exceptional guidance, the strong support from our Executive team and most importantly, the 'unsung' heroes in my team.

I believe that sound corporate governance and stewardship sets the foundation for business success. We will remain steadfast in safeguarding effective controls to drive sustainable shareholder returns.

The world of a CFO goes beyond finance and is always evolving. Navigating the intricate seas of finance requires unwavering resilience and a forward-looking mindset. In the face of balancing challenges and opportunities, our expertise holds the power to steer organisations towards stability and growth. Do not be afraid if our views differ, the art lies in the delivery of the diverse view a CFO may present.

It is also important to embrace change as a catalyst for innovation rather than an obstacle. Each market fluctuation, regulatory shift, or technological advancement presents a chance to recalibrate strategies and enhance financial stewardship.



congratulations / appointments



CDL Scores Big For 'Sustainable Spaces' At EdgeProp Excellence Awards 2023

Themed 'Sustainable Spaces', this year's awards recognises developers' commitment to achieve Singapore's net-zero emissions target by 2050, and ensure affordable housing for all Singaporeans. CDL sweeps eight awards this year with CDL Group General Manager Mr Chia Ngiang Hong (seated front row 4th from right) beaming with pride.

City Developments Limited (CDL) scored big at the 7th annual EdgeProp Excellence Awards (EPEA), emerging a major winner with eight awards and named 'Top Developer' at the event.

CDL's projects **Piermont Grand** and **Copen Grand** received the award for 'Top Executive Condominium', while **Tembusu Grand** was named the 'People's Choice' award.

The 716-unit **Whistler Grand** which completed last year in 2022, was a clear winner and swept all five awards for Top Development, Landscape, Design, Innovation and Sustainability Excellence.

Guest-of-Honour Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for National Development & Minister-in-charge of Social Services Integration, presented the Sustainability Excellence Awards to all the winners at the celebratory luncheon.

The prestigious dinner event recognises and celebrates outstanding property developers and their developments that set a benchmark of excellence in Singapore's real estate industry.



Piermont Grand is a luxurious waterfront executive condominium just three-minutes' walk to Sumang and Nibong LRT stations.



congratulations / appointments



Copen Grand executive condominium is located in the upcoming futuristic Tengah Town with excellent connectivity to three upcoming MRT stations within walking distance.



Whistler Grand has an excellent location in the established West Coast residential precinct near Jurong Lake District, Singapore's second Central Business District.



Tembusu Grand exemplifies luxurious living in a vibrant enclave with emphasis on wellness and comfort in the vibrant Katong neighbourhood.



congratulations / appointments



Concierge
Maciej Krawczyk
From The
Baileys London
Nominated At
Golden Keys
Concierge Awards

A prestigious feat achieved: The Baileys London concierge Mr Maciej Krawczyk was nominated for the Golden Keys Concierge Awards 2023.

The Baileys London Kensington Hotel is proud to announce that one of its own, Mr Maciej Krawczyk was recently nominated for the Golden Keys Concierge Awards 2023.

Maciej started his career as a Night Concierge 12 years ago at the historic Bailey's Hotel London Kensington; In 2015, he was promoted to Day Concierge and May this year, he joined the illustrious Golden Keys Society.

The Golden Keys Concierge Awards is a highly prestigious event in which Maciej has been nominated in the 'London Concierge of the Year Award'. Out of 350 members, he is the only nominee from a 4-star hotel which demonstrates the effectiveness and work prowess in his role.

Millennium Hotels and Resorts sends a huge congratulations and well wishes to Maciej on his continued hard work and dedication to not only The Bailey's Hotel, but also being an exceptional concierge at all times.



congratulations / appointments



Notable
Achievements
By MHR
Middle East
At World
Travel Awards
Concierge Awards

The awards include "Middle East Leading Airport Hotel 2023" for the Millennium Airport Hotel - Dubai.

Millennium Hotels & Resorts is pleased to announce its remarkable achievements at the World Travel Awards 2023, celebrating excellence in the travel, tourism, and hospitality sectors. These accolades highlight Millennium's commitment to excellence and innovation in the hospitality industry.

The awards include "Middle East Leading Airport Hotel 2023" for the Millennium Airport Hotel - Dubai, "Oman's Leading Hotel Residences 2023" for Millennium Executive Apartments Muscat, "Kuwait's Leading Conference Hotel 2023" for Millennium Hotel & Convention Centre Kuwait, "Dubai's Leading Hotel Residences 2023" for Millennium Place Barsha Heights Hotel & Apartments, and "Iraq's Leading Business Hotel 2023" for Grand Millennium Hotel Sulaimani. These accolades are a testament to Millennium's unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional service and innovation within the industry.

Fahad Abdulrahim Kazim, Chief Executive Officer of Millennium Hotels and Resorts MEA, said, "We are thrilled with our brand's continued success. These achievements not only acknowledge our dedication to excellence but also highlight our unwavering pursuit of innovation, our position as industry leaders, and our determined efforts to push boundaries and explore new possibilities. With these accolades, we reiterate our promise to continue striving for a brighter and more promising future."



congratulations / appointments



Grand Millennium Business Bay Scores For “World Class Business Hotel” At MUSE Hotel Awards 2023

With 251 luxurious rooms and suites, each offering breathtaking views of the Dubai Water Canal and the captivating city skyline, Grand Millennium Business Bay provides a range of opulent accommodations, from Deluxe Rooms to the extravagant Royal Suite, ensuring a comfortable and peaceful night's sleep.

Grand Millennium Business Bay has been distinguished as the "World Class Business Hotel – Platinum Winner" at the prestigious MUSE Hotel Awards 2023. It is one of only five luxurious hotels worldwide to receive the Platinum Winner designation at the awards. This remarkable accolade solidifies Grand Millennium Business Bay's position as a world-class hotel.

The MUSE Hotel Awards, renowned for recognising excellence in the field of luxury hospitality and travel, unveiled the Platinum Award, marking a significant milestone in Grand Millennium Business Bay's journey. This exceptional recognition signifies the hotel's unwavering commitment to providing an exceptional guest experience and setting new industry benchmarks.

Commenting on this achievement, General Manager Mr Andrea Strim expressed his gratitude and excitement, stating, "I am sincerely grateful to our colleagues, esteemed business partners, and dedicated owning company for their unwavering support. It's the dedication, collaboration, and shared vision that have driven us to these remarkable heights, reflecting our incredible teamwork, innovation, and relentless pursuit of excellence. Together, we continuously set new standards within our market segment, pushing the boundaries of the hospitality industry."

Grand Millennium Business Bay is and it stands as a shining example of what it means to be a world-class business hotel.



getting to know you



Chairman Kwek
Launches
Biography With
S\$24 Million
Donation
To Education

To commemorate the launch of his biography, Hong Leong Group Executive Chairman Mr Kwek Leng Beng (centre) made an endowed gift of S\$24 million to Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). The donation was witnessed by Emeritus Senior Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong (left). Also pictured (from left) is CDL Group Chief Executive Officer Mr Sherman Kwek, SIT President Professor Chua Kee Chaing and SIT Institute Professor Tan Thiam Soon

Real estate and hotel tycoon Mr Kwek Leng Beng had always refused to have any book written about him and rarely granted interviews. Yet he surprised many by launching his biography, *Strictly Business: The Kwek Leng Beng Story*, with Emeritus Senior Minister (ESM) Goh Chok Tong gracing the memorable event at The St. Regis Singapore on 9 November 2023. Mr Kwek also marked the completion of the 2-year project with a meaningful donation to education.

The event took place with over 300 guests that included Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat, Home Affairs and Law Minister, Mr K Shanmugam, senior civil servants, corporate chieftains, representatives from the arts and cultural arenas, Hong Leong Group representatives and the Kwek family members. They enjoyed the night with cocktails, butler-passed canapés, live stations and a jazz ensemble.

Mr Kwek said, “The Hong Leong Group is very much a part of Singapore’s corporate history. As my late father Kwek Hong Png helped shape some of the country’s key industries, such as real estate, construction, and finance, I followed in his footsteps. *Strictly Business* reflects my philosophy and journey as a businessman. By sharing my experiences and lessons learned, I hope it will inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs and business leaders to create their success pathways.”

Mr Peh said, “Mr Kwek is well known as one of Singapore’s most successful businessmen, planting our flag all over the world with his sharp business acumen and headline acquisitions. But few know the person behind the legend. It has been a privilege to interview Mr Kwek and nearly 30 of his business associates, colleagues, and family members and to be entrusted with the tremendous task of telling the Kwek Leng Beng story. This book offers a rare private sector addition to a Singapore Story mostly dominated by politics and government.”



getting to know you



Emeritus Senior Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong (left) witnesses the presentation of Hong Leong Group Executive Chairman Mr Kwek Leng Beng's 257-page biography by award-winning author Mr Peh Shing Huei (right).

The gift of education

At the event, Mr Kwek, also the Executive Chairman of listed global property giant City Developments Limited (CDL), announced an endowed gift of S\$24 million, jointly made by Mr Kwek and CDL, to the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). With an enhanced matching grant from the Government, the total endowment contribution amounts to S\$60 million.

Earlier this year, Mr Kwek donated S\$720,000 to SIT to start six new academic initiatives, including bursaries and scholarships for SIT Hospitality Business undergraduates.



In appreciation of Mr Kwek's endowed gift, SIT will name its new University Tower at its future campus in Punggol, the Kwek Leng Beng University Tower. It is presented in a masterful replica of the 10-storey building made of 5,500 Lego pieces put together by 10 students and took more than 120-man hours to complete.

Professor Chua Kee Chaing, President of SIT, said, "In recognition of this transformative gift, SIT is very pleased to name its University Tower after Mr Kwek Leng Beng. We deeply appreciate Mr Kwek's philanthropic leadership since 2016, which has also made possible a range of scholarships, bursaries and prizes for SIT students. These include two scholarships, two bursaries, a gold medal and a book prize he established earlier this year for Hospitality Business undergraduate students at SIT. Mr Kwek's farsighted philanthropy will nurture future generations of hospitality talents and raise the bar of excellence in the hospitality industry in the years to come."



getting to know you

Hitting the ground far and wide

Strictly Business: The Kwek Leng Beng Story has finally hit the ground with much hustle and bustle in the media, social media platforms and bookstores. It is now available at all major bookstores and through [World Scientific Publishing](#) and [The Nutgraf Books](#).

For LinkedIn posts, please see [CDL LinkedIn](#) and [MHR LinkedIn](#). Now let's have a sneak peak at some of the promotional videos here!



As a precursor to the launch of his biography, Hong Leong Group Executive Chairman Mr Kwek Leng Beng shares with Executive Editor of The Straits Times Ms Sumiko Tan why it is better to work hard and talk less.

Promotional videos by The Nutgraf

