



**DECEMBER 2024**  
**ISSUE 92**

A Hong Leong Group  
E-Newsletter

*highlights*



## **Ambassadors Of Joy Around The World Celebrate The Giving Spirit Of The Season**

**Chia Ngiang  
Hong:  
A Lifetime  
Achievement  
Of  
Dedication  
And Service**

**Chairman  
Kwek  
Lauded  
For Fuelling  
Progress In  
Tatler Asia's  
Most  
Influential 2024**

**Winning Night  
For  
Hong Leong  
Companies  
At EdgeProp  
Excellence  
Awards**

**Beacons  
Of Hope  
Shine Brightly  
At The  
Dudley  
Community  
Awards**



## Celebrating Middle Eastern Flavours With MEA's First Sustainable Cook-Off

*Future Hospitality Summit brings together top UAE chefs for Middle East's first Sustainable Cook-off in the region.*

Top chefs from across the United Arab Emirates (UAE) came under the spotlight at the region's first Sustainable Cook-off contest, taking place at Future Hospitality Summit (FHS World) at Madinat Jumeirah in Dubai, 30 September to 2 October.

Celebrating the unique flavours of the UAE and culinary excellence while championing sustainability in line with government net zero directives, the competition – in partnership with The Emirates Culinary Guild (ECG), UAE Restaurants Group (UAERG), Fresh On Table and the Hospitality Asset Managers Association (HAMA) – will see locally-sourced ingredients transformed into innovative, gastronomic masterpieces to be presented to a panel of esteemed judges and served to FHS delegates.

The Sustainable Cook-off is themed 'The Sustainable 7 Emirates', with a focus on fresh produce from Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah, Umm Al Quwain, Ajman and Sharjah. The ECG and UAERG is partnering with FreshOnTable to source and secure the local ingredients, which include Manchego cheese, honey, sea bream, exotic mushrooms and edible flowers.

This competition celebrates sustainability and culinary excellence, with finalists presenting their creations to a panel of esteemed judges and FHS delegates. Each dish highlights the unique flavors of the seven Emirates while promoting environmentally responsible cooking practices.



*Chef Sudarsana Rao (far right) represented Millennium Al Barsha and clinched the Silver Medal at the FHS World Sustainable Cook-Off contest.*





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## How The City Of Xiamen Is Wooing Visitors

From luxury hotels to culture and cuisine.

*Did you know the Millennium Harbourview Xiamen is actually Hong Leong Group's first hotel in China? It was developed in the 1980s when the site was first acquired. Today, it is a 22-storey luxury hotel that fuses modernity and culture.*

From the mid-19th century to the beginning of WWII, thousands of Fujian residents left Xiamen in search of a better life abroad. The descendants of those migrants routinely make the journey back to visit ancestral villages and long-lost relatives.

But now, Fujian is about to gain recognition beyond just overseas returnees and curious domestic travellers, The Michelin Guide is set to debut a Fujian edition come December 2024. Among the cities to be covered in the guide are Xiamen, Quanzhou and the provincial capital, Fuzhou.

While Fujian cuisine is regarded as one of China's eight major culinary styles, it is little known outside of the country and areas with significant population. There are high hopes that the guide will put Fujian cuisine on the global map. Down the road, there might even be a chance for it to step out of the shadow of its more famous brethren, Cantonese cuisine.



*Xiamen cuisine is the representative of Fujian cuisine, one of the eight cuisines of China. One popular traditional dish is Hailijian (Oyster Omelette) where fresh oysters are pan fried with flour, garlic and sometime vegetables.*

### **The changing face of Xiamen**

Among Singaporeans, Xiamen is known to be a foodie haunt where dishes like Oyster Omelette and Peanut Soup originated; otherwise it's the gateway to ancestral villages. But properties like Millennium Harbourview Xiamen are changing that perception.

For luxury travellers looking to bed down in Xiamen, the newly-renovated Millennium Harbourview Hotel Xiamen is located in Siming Financial Centre right next to new Line 1 Metro Station Main Terminal, offering easy access to the prosperous Zhong Shan Road Pedestrian Street and within reach of Xiamen's major business and financial districts.



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Many other attractions such as Gulangyu Island, Nanputuo Temple, Hong Shan Park, Xiamen Botanic Garden, South Putuo Temple, Xiamen University and Hulishan Fortress are mere minutes away. Other local attractions close to the hotel include China City Mall, Ludu Bar Street, ShaPoWei & ZengCuoAn Bar and Artist Centres.



*Offering beautiful harbour views from most rooms, Millennium Harbourview Xiamen is a favourite of visitors around the world including Hong Kong, Taiwan, American and Australian travellers. It is also popular with Singaporean and Indonesian families who visit Xiamen to reconnect with their cultural heritage. Pictured above is the Deluxe Twin Room and the hotel's beautiful lobby.*

### **A fondness for Fujian**

There's no doubt that interest in Xiamen and Fujian is increasing, especially since the mutual 30-day visa-free arrangement between Singapore and China came into effect in Feb 2024. In June 2024, Xiamen Airlines launched a new direct flight connecting Singapore and Quanzhou, becoming the first and only operator to ply this route. The airline operates twice-daily flights from Singapore to Xiamen, bolstering Singapore Airlines' daily service.

According to travel agency, Chan Brothers Travel, "It is worth noting that Fujian is a province where many Singaporean Chinese have deep cultural roots and many of them maintain close ties with relatives in their ancestral hometowns. Returning to Fujian for family visits not only provides an opportunity for reunion but also offers a chance to reconnect with one's heritage."



*Zeng Cuo An Village is a coastal fishing community made up of eight different villages. It has slowly transformed to today's popular and innovative cultural village. Despite all the hustle and bustle, it still retains its old charm today.*





## Honouring Asian Strength And Influence At 2024 Asian Hall Of Fame

Inductees include Chairman  
Kwek and MHR

*The Biltmore Los Angeles was buzzing with lights, cameras and excitement as it hosted the 2024 Asian Hall of Fame Awards.*

The 2024 Asian Hall of Fame Honoree Awards Ceremony took place on 19 October 2024 at the historic Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

As a cultural, educational, and research institution advocating for Asian rights and progress, the Asian Hall of Fame is committed to elevating the influence of Asians across the United States and globally. The “Honoree Awards” ceremony is one of Los Angeles’ most prestigious events celebrating outstanding Asians. Due to the high caliber of individuals on the list, the awards are seen as a true reflection of Asian strength and influence.

This year, several distinguished individuals made the list including Hong Leong Group Executive Chairman Mr Kwek Leng Beng. Millennium Hotels and Resorts was also named a Corporate Inductee.



*Well-known comedian Joe Wong has made multiple appearances on the Late Show with David Letterman and the Ellen DeGeneres Show. (Credit: LA Post/Richard Ren)*



*Hollywood legendary Vietnamese actress Kieu Chinh, one of the stars of the film The Joy Luck Club, won the Asian American Female Entertainment Award (Credit: LA Post/Richard Ren)*



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## MyMillennium Spreads Early Festive Cheer With A Relaunch Christmas Party

*MHR Interim Chief Operating Officer and Chief Commercial Officer Mr Saurabh Prakash and Director for Global Branding, Marketing and Loyalty Ms Carolyn Wishnowski making a toast to herald new beginnings and benefits for members.*

The MyMillennium Relaunch Party was an unforgettable celebration filled with festive delights and exciting announcements! Hosted at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Singapore, the event showcased the hotel's exquisite holiday offerings, including a mouthwatering spread of Roasted Whole Prime Rib, Christmas Log Cake, Seafood on Ice, and an Oven-Roasted Giant Turkey—perfect for the season.

The evening began with the arrival of media and KOLs, who were welcomed with drinks and a brief introduction to the MyMillennium booth and the event's setup. After networking, the official program kicked off with a Welcome Address by Interim Chief Operating Officer & Chief Commercial Officer, Mr Saurabh Prakash, who thanked the guests for their support and highlighted Millennium Hotels and Resort's five key brand pillars that shape the offerings across our hotels.

Director of Global Branding, Marketing, and Loyalty, Ms Carolyn Wishnowski, introduced the new MyMillennium program, unveiling its new tiers and sharing an exciting pipeline of events for MHR. A toast followed, officially opening the dinner. The evening was filled with entertainment and engagement, including a lucky draw throughout the night. The lucky draw prizes were highly coveted, featuring incredible rewards like a 4D3N stay at The Biltmore Mayfair, a 4D3N stay at M Social New York, and more. Guests were also treated to live music from a talented band, making the event even more memorable.

As the night came to a close, the event wrapped up with a heartfelt thank you to all attendees for their participation, marking a successful relaunch of the My Millennium program with the promise of many more exciting events to come.



*It was a fun evening with entertainment and food galore as guests were treated to a Christmas feast, live music and a lucky draw.*





## MHR Drives Green Game Forward In Southeast Asia With 170 Businesses And Students

*A group photo with Ms. June Ng (centre left), founder of J's Salon and Platinum Sponsor of the Forum, and representatives and students of Singapore Polytechnic.*

More than 170 guests representing Singapore and Southeast Asia's small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), corporates and schools including Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR) and Singapore Polytechnic gathered at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel to launch the second edition of the International Hanwang Forum on 5 November 2024. The event aims to share insights and initiatives aimed at advancing sustainability, resilience, and green innovation.

Co-organised by the International Exchange Association Sustainable Development Committee, SGP Sustainable Alliance and Singapore Polytechnic, the forum highlighted the urgency in climate change and sustainable development, especially in the wake of escalating natural disasters such as the deadly flood in Spain that killed more than 200.

Originating after the 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake, the International Hanwang Forum was conceived in 2012 to foster discussions on resilient and sustainable living. It has since evolved into a platform that inspires action on pressing environmental issues and connects global leaders to sustainable progress.

In his speech, Mr Andy Tan, MHR Senior Vice President for Global Sales & Partnership of Millennium Hotels used MHR as a case study in embracing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) transformation in businesses. He shared MHR's Millennium 4M approach and its initiative to eliminate plastic use by 2025.

"To eliminate single-use plastics and reduce our carbon footprint by 27% by 2025, we adopted the Millennium 4M approach to identify material issues that significantly impact our business



*MHR SVP for Global Sales & Partnership Mr Andy Tan talked about the company's Millennium 4M approach and its initiative to eliminate plastic by 2025.*



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operations and performance, implement methods, and monitor our progress with quantitative measurement. We tackle the problem from multiple angles, from replacement of in-room amenities and elimination of plastic water bottles to the transformation of our F&B and service operations, all without compromising quality in our sustainability journey. Today, we are right on track to achieving our 2025 goal with a 70% elimination of single-use plastics," he said.

One of the unique aspects of this year's forum is the emphasis on education and innovation. As a beacon in sustainable development, the forum brings to light critical education initiatives through collaborations with institutions like Singapore Polytechnic, inspiring a new generation to embrace sustainability as a core value. A special segment highlighted sustainable solutions in urban agriculture and sanitation sectors, providing innovative approaches to addressing environmental challenges in densely populated urban landscapes.





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## Millennium Doha Honours Its Culinary Team On International Chef Day

*Millennium Doha celebrates its culinary team on International Chef Day.*

Millennium Plaza Doha Hotel takes pride in recognising the incredible talents, dedication, and creativity of its culinary team.

The chefs at Millennium Plaza Doha go above and beyond daily to bring exceptional flavours to life, crafting dishes that cater to diverse tastes and preferences. Their commitment to culinary excellence shines through in every plate, from authentic Arabic flavours to international and Asian delicacies served at the hotel's renowned restaurants and cafes.

In celebration of International Chef Day, Millennium Plaza Doha extends heartfelt gratitude to each chef, who has been working tirelessly behind the scenes to make every guest experience memorable. The hotel reaffirms its commitment to supporting its chefs in their ongoing pursuit of culinary mastery. With their expertise, the hotel continues to be a preferred destination for culinary experiences in the heart of Doha, serving not just meals but remarkable memories for guests.



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## CDL Jointly Acquires Rare Mixed-Use Site In Downtown Shanghai With China Partner, Lianfa Group

*Located in the Xintiandi area of Shanghai's Huangpu District, the site comprises two plots of land separated by a public road in the middle and can yield up to 77% of the permissible gross floor area for residential use, with at least 19% allocated for commercial purposes and 4% designated for public amenities.*

CDL via its wholly-owned subsidiary Chenghong (Shanghai) Investment Co., Ltd. (城泓(上海)投资有限公司; Chenghong Shanghai) together with its partner in China, Lianfa Group, have been awarded the tender for a mixed-use development site in the Xintiandi area of Shanghai's Huangpu District for RMB 8.94 billion.

CDL's subsidiary Chenghong Shanghai holds a 51% controlling stake in the joint venture amounting to RMB 4.56 billion, while the remaining 49% is held by a wholly-owned subsidiary of Lianfa Group.

Comprising two plots of land, this prime site is separated by a public road in the middle, and conveniently located about 1 km from the Huaihai Road commercial belt with Laoximen metro station being about 200 m away. It is earmarked for upscale development that consists of low-density villas, luxury high-rise residential apartments, a boutique hotel and ancillary retail spaces – a total permissible gross floor area (GFA) of 76,027 sqm (approx 820,000 sq ft).

Mr Sherman Kwek, CDL's Group Chief Executive Officer, said, "The acquisition of this rare development site in Shanghai's famous Xintiandi area represents the Group's confidence in China's long-term growth prospects. We are enhancing our presence in this dynamic and populous nation by targeting iconic placemaking opportunities in key Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities. On the back of our acquisition in Suzhou last year, securing this prime plot of land in Shanghai helps to further replenish our residential land bank in China. We are honoured to partner with Lianfa Group and together, we look forward to delivering an iconic landmark that will redefine the landscape."

This acquisition aligns with CDL's focus on key cities in China. Since entering the China market in 2010, CDL has amassed over 5,500 residential and commercial units for sale, and expanded its leasing portfolio to over 350,000 sqm through both development and acquisition.



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## Union Square Residences Displays Good Response At Launch

*Union Square Residences Sales Gallery on its launch day.*

CDL reported good sales at the launch of its iconic 366-unit Union Square Residences with 75 units sold as at 6pm on Saturday, 9 November 2024.

As at 5 December, 105 units (28.7%) have been sold.

The average selling price (ASP) is about S\$3,200 per square foot (psf). The 2,476 square feet (sq ft) five-bedroom Sky Suite on level 38 was sold for S\$9.288 million (S\$3,751 psf). The remaining five-bedroom Sky Suite on level 39 is priced at S\$9.5 million (S\$3,837 psf). The two Sky Suites, together with the one and only exclusive Penthouse on level 40, offer spectacular views of the Singapore River and Marina Bay.

About 83% of the buyers are Singaporeans, while the remaining 17% comprise Permanent Residents (PRs) from China, Malaysia, the UK and the Netherlands, and foreigners from Norway and the USA. All unit types were well-received by homebuyers, with the one-bedroom, two-bedroom units and three-bedroom premium units being the most popular.



*Integrated with luxury residences, premium office space, a new co-living concept in existing conservation buildings, exciting shops, and restaurants, Union Square is a new mixed-use development poised to buzz with fresh, vibrant energy. (artist's impression)*

Located in the heart of the charming Singapore River precinct and at the gateway of the Central Business District (CBD), Union Square Residences is part of Union Square, a large-scale mixed-use development comprising office, retail and F&B space, and a co-living component with a hotel licence. The redevelopment project sits on the former sites of Central Mall (office and conservation buildings) and Central Square in prime District 1.





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## Millennium Hotels Holds First-Ever Townhall For Global Employees

*Our MHR family coming together in one team, one vision at the company's inaugural Townhall.*

Millennium Hotels and Resorts held its first-ever townhall on 18 October 2024, led by Executive Director, Mr Kwek Eik Sheng and Interim Chief Operating Officer and Chief Commercial Officer, Mr Saurabh Prakash.

The event started off with an inspiring Welcome Address by Mr Kwek Eik Sheng, followed by a Keynote Speech by Mr Prakash who highlighted MHR's four pillars of success – Performance, Profitability, Preference, and People – and shared more about Chairman Kwek's guidance on MHR's cultural ethos, to G.E.T. (Growth, Empowerment, Transformation) Things Done, by fostering a growth-oriented, accountable culture in MHR.



*The event kicked off with an inspiring welcome address by MHR Executive Director Mr Kwek Eik Sheng (left photo) and MHR Interim Chief Operating Officer and Chief Commercial Officer, Mr Saurabh Prakash (right photo).*

The event also showcased exciting news - the newly revamped MyMillennium loyalty programme, with Director, Global Branding, Marketing & Loyalty, Ms Carolyn Wishnowski, sharing more about the three new tiers and enhanced benefits for MyMillennium members.



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*MHR presenters at the Townhall included VP for Human Resources Ms Yvonne Oo and SVP for Global Finance Mr Lucas Lim (left photo), as well as VP for Global Digital Marketing Mr Anthonye Jayasekara and Director for Global Branding, Marketing and Loyalty Ms Carolyn Wishnowski (right photo).*

New changes to the MyMillennium App, Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system and more were announced by Vice President, Global Digital Marketing, CRM & Platforms, Mr Anthonye Jayasekara, while Mr. Devendra Shivhare, Vice President, Global Information Systems & Digital Solutions, shared more about our digital transformation initiatives, including Aiello, the Digital AI Voice Assistant.



*Members on the panel during the Q&A session included (L-R) Mr Lim, Ms Oo, Mr Prakash, VP for North America Mr Benedict Ng, and SVP for Global Sales and Partnerships Mr Andy Tan (left photo). They also posed for a photo with Mr Kwek after session (right photo).*

The event concluded with exciting games in the form of an interactive quiz, and a Q&A session with senior leaders, who acknowledged the company's resilience through challenging times. They reaffirmed their commitment to understanding and meeting the needs of employees, emphasizing the importance of the townhall as platforms for open communication.





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## Returning To The City Of Christchurch With Acquisition Of Mayfair Hotel Christchurch In New Zealand

*Millennium Hotels in New Zealand announced its return to the city of Christchurch with the acquisition of the luxury Mayfair Hotel Christchurch.*

Millennium & Copthorne Hotels New Zealand (MCK) has announced its return to the city of Christchurch with the acquisition of luxury property, the 67-room Mayfair Hotel Christchurch for NZD\$32 million.

The acquisition marks MCK's first hotel in the city, the second largest in New Zealand, in more than a decade after the devastating Christchurch earthquake in 2011 resulted in the demolition of its former properties.

MCK Managing Director Stuart Harrison said, "After over a decade, we are very happy to have a hotel presence in Christchurch once again. Christchurch has always been a strategically important market for us and the acquisition of this hotel comes at the right time as visitor numbers and interest in Christchurch are both increasing."

Located in Victoria Street and a short walk from the Canterbury Museum and Hagley Park, the hotel was completed and opened in 2022 and has since garnered a reputation for its spacious rooms and suites which have views of the city and designed to let in as much natural light as possible.

A transition to a Millennium & Copthorne brand will be carried out over the months following completion and will be announced in due course.

Mayfair Hotel Christchurch is the 8th ranked hotel in New Zealand (Trip Advisor Best of the Best Awards 2024) and won for Best Café in New Zealand at the 2024 Hospitality New Zealand's Awards for Excellence.



*Mayfair Hotel Christchurch, a five-star hotel in central Christchurch was sold for NZD\$32 million following two and a half years as the top luxury escape since its opening in 2022.*





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## Abu Dhabi Welcomes The New Millennium Residences Saadiyat Island

*Millennium Residences Saadiyat Island in Abu Dhabi offers one- and two-bedroom apartments as well as studio apartments for families and solo travellers on short or extended stays. Pictured above is a thoughtfully laid out two-bedroom.*

Located just a minute's walk from the sandy beaches of Saadiyat Island, the Millennium Residences Saadiyat Island in Abu Dhabi, UAE, will offer an invigorating retreat for families, couples, and solo travellers seeking both short and extended stays.

The property will feature an infinity pool, a fully equipped gym, and 85 studios, alongside spacious one- and two-bedroom apartments with breathtaking views of the Arabian Gulf.

Nestled in a vibrant neighbourhood, Millennium Residences Saadiyat Island is surrounded by cultural landmarks such as Manarat Al Saadiyat, the iconic Louvre Abu Dhabi, Mamsha Al Saadiyat, and the Abrahamic Family House—all just an 11-minute drive away. For golf enthusiasts, the Saadiyat Beach Golf Club is a must-visit destination.



*Located just a minute's walk from the pristine white sandy beaches of Saadiyat Island, the residences offer a refreshing and unique retreat for all visitors.*

Additionally, Saadiyat Island neighbors Yas Island, home to thrilling attractions like Warner Bros. World, Yas Waterworld, and Ferrari World.



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## CDL And CDLHT Report Operational Updates For 3Q 2024

*CDL's 348-unit Norwood Grand achieved a whopping sale of 84% when it launched in October 2024. (artist's impression)*

**City Developments Limited (CDL)** and its joint venture (JV) associates sold 321 units with a total sales value of S\$611.1MM. Sales were mainly driven by the launch of the 276-unit freehold Kassia in July, a JV project located off Upper Changi Road North, which is 65% sold to date. For the first nine months ended 30 September 2024 (9M 2024), 905 units were sold with a total sales value of S\$1.8B, up 29% year-on-year (y-o-y) (9M 2023: S\$1.4B).

All other business segments also turned in a resilient operating performance. Our hotel operations segment achieved a 2.7% increase in global Revenue Per Available Room (RevPAR) to S\$167.4 for 9M 2024, mainly due to higher occupancy and average room rate (ARR) from Australasia. Rest of Asia, Europe and New York markets also continued their y-o-y growth trajectory.

On the back of improved market sentiment in recent months, CDL's latest two launches have been well received. In October, CDL launched the 348-unit Norwood Grand at Champions Way in Woodlands. During its launch weekend, 292 units (84%) were snapped up at an average selling price (ASP) of S\$2,067 per square foot (psf). In November, CDL launched the 366-unit luxury Union Square Residences in prime District 1 at Havelock Road. On its launch weekend, 80 units were sold at an ASP of about S\$3,200 psf. To date, 95 units (26%) have been sold.

### **CDL Hospitality Trusts (CDLHT)**

**CDL Hospitality Trusts'** reported gross revenue decreased by 3.7% or S\$2.6 million year-on-year("yoy") to S\$67.5 million for the third quarter, as the pent-up post-pandemic travel demand normalised across most markets. RevPAR performance was mixed across the portfolio with half the markets experiencing growth. In tandem with the lowered revenue, net property income (NPI) decreased by 6.8% or S\$2.7 million yoy to S\$36.3 million for 3Q 2024.

In 3Q 2024, the Singapore Hotels registered a creditable performance, despite suffering a 10.3% yoy decline in RevPAR, as demand continued to normalise after a period of exceptional average



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rate growth in 2023. Nonetheless, RevPAR was 18.9% higher compared to 3Q 2019. Collectively, the Singapore Hotels posted a yoy NPI decrease of 6.6% or S\$1.6 million for the quarter.

For the nine months ended 30 September 2024, gross revenue increased by 2.9% or S\$5.5 million yoy to S\$194.8 million, and RevPAR growth was recorded across all portfolio markets, with the exception of the New Zealand Hotel. In tandem with the higher revenue, NPI increased 1.0% or S\$1.0 million yoy to S\$102.9 million, primarily attributed to the Singapore, Australia, Japan and Germany portfolios, which collectively increased by S\$3.0 million yoy.

The Castings, our maiden residential Build-to-Rent (BTR) asset, welcomed its first residents to the building on 16 July 2024. The asset experienced strong leasing activity when bookings opened and a physical occupancy of 46.3% was achieved as at 30 September 2024. For the period of 16 July 2024 to 30 September 2024, The Castings recorded a gross revenue of S\$0.5 million with a small NPI loss of S\$0.2 million as the BTR was in the early stages of its gestation period during the quarter. It is noteworthy that the property achieved positive NPI in September.



*Acquired in November 2024, Hotel Indigo Exeter is a freehold, 104-room upscale boutique hotel in Exeter's city centre in the UK. It is situated at the doorstep of the Princesshay Shopping Centre, close to the commercial district, major transport nodes and attractions.*





## More Tools For Firms To Navigate Sustainability Reporting On MAS Digital Platform

*Backed by Singapore and built for the world, the young team at Gprnt is committed to a future where every stakeholder is equipped with the sustainability data they need to power their long-term success.*

Businesses will be able to access more tools for their sustainability reporting and a wider suite of solutions to meet their decarbonisation needs under Gprnt (pronounced “Greenprint”), an integrated digital platform that harnesses technology to simplify how the financial sector and real economy collect, access and act upon environmental, social and governance (ESG) data to support their sustainability initiatives.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore’s (MAS) digital platform for environmental, social and governance (ESG) reporting and data on 6 November 2024 released what it calls its ‘Disclosure and Marketplace’ offerings.

According to Gprnt, nine in 10 companies globally have expressed interest in ESG reporting as a means to address mounting compliance and stakeholder pressures. The Gprnt Disclosure tool is designed to overcome these hurdles by offering a simple, automated, generative AI (artificial intelligence)-powered solution to easily measure businesses’ Scope 1 and 2 emissions.” Scope 1 emissions refer to direct emissions incurred by a company, say, from its facilities or transport vehicles, while Scope 2 refers to indirect emissions such as the electricity or heating it buys from power generation companies.

The Gprnt platform will be integrated with government databases and private sector solutions, so that companies can easily calculate their basic emissions. It will also allow firms to assess their reporting of basic emissions, climate risk management and green procurement, generating baseline ESG data.

Gprnt Disclosure is free for all businesses’ individual use, with users retaining full control over their data and whom to share it with. For a fee, the tool can also be customised and deployed by larger organisations to collect data from their value and supply chains, and support their Scope 3 reporting efforts.

***This article is adapted from The Straits Times, 7 November 2024.***



meals & deals



Celebrate The  
Festive Season  
With A  
Flavourful Soiree  
At JW Marriott  
Hong Kong

*Be impressed by a delightful spread of delicacies served at the festive brunch at The Lounge. Highlights include palatable seafood such as fresh lobsters and crabs, luxurious caviar, 36-month Iberico ham and a sashimi station serving abalone, scallops, amaebi and more.*

Step into a world of festive indulgence at JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong, where you can revel in the joy of the season surrounded by loved ones. An exceptional array of dining offerings, from extravagant buffets and delicate set menus featuring sustainable seafood, grilled classics and Cantonese cuisine to enticing cocktails, exquisite cakes, festive takeaways and luxurious gifts, guarantees a memorable celebration.

#### **The Lounge – Festive Brunch and Dinner Buffet with a Stunning and Refreshed View**

The Lounge's festive deluxe seafood dinner buffet offers a medley of premium dishes featuring top-notch seafood like fresh lobsters, prawns and crab legs; sea urchin or eel maki roll; seared Wagyu beef sushi; assorted sashimi with abalone, scallops and geoduck clam; top-quality caviar and cold cuts. Other indulgent festive classics include Pan-fried M8 Wagyu Beef, Pan-fried Prawns and Abalone, Braised Fresh Lobster in Supreme Broth, Roasted Turkey and more.

#### **JW Café – Popular Festive International Dinner Buffet in Town**

Kick off the gastronomic journey with fresh lobsters, crabs, snow crab legs and mussels, a wide variety of sashimi and nigiri sushi highlighting geoduck clams, akagai, scallops and salmon roe.

Meat lovers will be pampered by Roasted M5 Wagyu Ribeye or Tomahawk, Beef Wellington and Roasted Turkey at the carving station. Other scrumptious include Braised South African Abalone and Fish Maw, Braised Sea Cucumber, Baked Tiger Prawn with Herb Butter, Baked Fan Scallop with Florentine, Clam Linguine with White Wine Sauce and more.



*\* Information correct at time of print.*





meals & deals



Bringing Families  
Together Over  
Delightful Cuisine  
At Grand  
Millennium  
Beijing

*Treat your loved ones to the special family gathering set at Grand Millennium Beijing and create new memories with them.*

Enjoy the happiness that comes from spending time with family and sharing delicious food together. As the holiday season approaches, TCB restaurant at Grand Millennium Beijing is offering a delightful family gathering set, featuring a selection of appetisers, main courses, desserts, as well as a variety of special dishes recommended by the chef. To complement your sumptuous meal, choose from an impressive selection of red or white wines.



*Be spoiled for choice with the wide selection of appetisers, main courses and desserts at TCB Restaurant.*

The 5-6 person family set is priced at RMB888 and is now available for purchase through Grand Millennium Beijing Official WeChat Mall. For reservations or enquiries, please call TCB Restaurant at (86 10) 8587 6888 ext. 3012.

*\* Information correct at time of print.*





meals & deals

The graphic features a winter-themed illustration of a city skyline with snow-covered mountains and a cable car. A red train is in the foreground, and people are walking in the snow. The text 'HALA Winter' is at the top, with 'LIVE YOUR WINTER DREAMS' below it. On the right, a gold box contains the text: 'Warm Stays, Festive Delights And Exceptional Experiences Await At MHR Middle East'. At the bottom left, it says 'STAY LONGER. SAVE MORE.' and at the bottom right, 'ENJOY UP TO 25% OFF ON EXTENDED STAYS PLUS EXCLUSIVE PERKS'.

*Journey with Millennium Hotels and Resorts Middle East this winter in style!*

Embrace the magic of winter in the Middle East with exclusive offers and cozy stays at Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR). Whether it's a family holiday, a relaxing retreat, or an extended getaway, we've crafted the perfect winter experience for you.

Enjoy special rates, personalised services, and seasonal perks designed to make your stay unforgettable. Book your winter escape now and discover how MHR Middle East celebrates winter - with warmth, hospitality and style.

#### **Package Inclusions:**

- Extended Stay Discounts: 25% off for stays of 7+ days; deeper discounts for 14+ days based on BEST FLEXIBLE RATES
- Dining Credits: Daily dining credit for in-room dining or use at select restaurants, ideal for families
- Personalised Services: Complimentary early check-in, late check-out, and housekeeping services

*\* Information correct at time of print.*



meals & deals



Experience The  
Magic And  
Wonder Of  
Christmas  
At The  
Biltmore Mayfair

*Step into a winter wonderland when you enter the beautiful Biltmore Mayfair this Christmas season.*

This festive season, The Biltmore Mayfair will enchant guests with a spectacular transformation as it embraces the spirit of The Nutcracker, unveiling a whimsical 'Land of Sweets' theme.

When guests enter the hotel, they will be transported into a winter wonderland. Every corner of the hotel has been transformed with lavish decorations that bring the Land of Sweets to life. The excitement does not stop in the main areas of the hotel; in their suites, guests will enjoy delicious welcome treats and Biltmore teddy bears for children.

Inspired by the beloved Christmas ballet, The Biltmore will delight guests with festive cocktails like the Sugar Plum Fizz, a Christmas Day Brunch featuring ten indulgent desserts, creative welcome treats, and sugar-themed displays with exquisite décor -all designed to immerse guests in a magical world of sugar plum fairies, sparkling snowflakes, and festive enchantment.



*Guests are in for a gastronomic treat with the lavish menus prepared to celebrate the special occasion.*

Embrace the magic of the season with an enchanting two-night stay package, from 24th to 26th December 2024, at The Biltmore Mayfair.

- Complimentary breakfast each morning
- 24th December - Christmas Eve Lunch, a three-course set menu
- 25th December - Christmas Day Brunch Buffet
- 25th December - Christmas Day Dinner, a four-course set menu with a complimentary glass of champagne

*\* Information correct at time of print.*



meals & deals



## Ring In The Festive Season At Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel Singapore

*Indulge in a festive buffet of savoury roasts and decadent desserts and soak in the holiday vibes with Christmas carolling and even an appearance by Santa Claus!*

Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel Singapore has prepared an array of festive culinary offerings this holiday season to make it an extra memorable one.

Indulge in a Festive Buffet serving up a lavish spread of savoury roasts, desserts, and holiday favourites for both lunch and dinner. The lunch buffet starts from S\$68 for adults and S\$34 for children, while the dinner buffet is priced at S\$98 for adults and S\$49 for children.

Enjoy a sumptuous Christmas Buffet on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day where lobster bisque, gammon ham, and an extensive dessert spread awaits diners in a festive setting. Prices for Christmas Eve/Day Dinner start from S\$118 for adults and \$59 for children, while Christmas Day Lunch is priced from S\$108 for adults and S\$54 for children. There will even be Christmas carolling and an appearance by Santa Claus himself at the hotel lobby!



*Elevate your celebrations with highlights like the Roasted Prawn Paste Christmas Turkey with Belacan Chilli, a unique twist on a festive classic.*

The hotel is also offering a series of special Christmas home dinners. Featuring its all-new Roasted Prawn Paste Turkey with Belachan Chilli, paired with pickled root vegetables and garlic fried rice; as well as its traditional Honey-baked Gammon Ham (Bone-in) and Roasted Australian Grain-fed Beef Ribeye that come with rich sauces and accompaniments. Festive confections include the hotel's signature Yule Logs – the Pandan Coconut Yam Yule Log, the Signature Lychee Raspberry Yule Log, and the Christmas Fruit Cake.

For the New Year, there will be a New Year's Eve Countdown Celebration where light bites are served along with live entertainment, leading to a midnight countdown featuring indoor fireworks, confetti, and more. Special free-flow drinks packages will be available too.

*\* Information correct at time of print.*





meals & deals



## Welcoming The New Year At W Singapore With A Retro Glam Countdown Party

*Indulge in a New Year's Eve Buffet and ring in the New Year with us the W way!*

Celebrate New Year's Eve in style at the Kitchen Table, where a lavish buffet dinner awaits, featuring mouthwatering dishes such as Whole Lamb Leg, Roasted Angus Prime Ribs, and Slow Cooked Canadian Pork Belly, complemented by a selection of house-made sauces like Chimichurri and Béarnaise.

Guests can also delight in sustainable chilled seafood, including succulent Lobsters and Irish Oysters, alongside delectable charcuterie and artisanal cheeses. This all-inclusive package not only offers an exceptional dining experience but also grants access to the electrifying countdown party at WOOBAR, as well as bottomless champagne and cocktails until midnight at both dining spots.

Guests are encouraged to dress in their best retro glam outfits (80s to 2000s) for a chance to win exciting prizes. With live entertainment such as a live band and a DJ, a stunning balloon drop, lucky draw prizes, and a fun photo booth, this unforgettable evening promises to be the ultimate way to welcome in 2024!

*\* Information correct at time of print.*



*Heave Ho!  
Play And  
Work Hard  
As A Team  
To Build  
Safer Sites*

Over 300 participants were tested on their teamwork and safety knowledge in a series of exciting battles, including the Tug-of-War, during the Sports Challenge segment of CDL 5-Star Environment Health and Safety Awards.

Over 300 industry leaders, workers and partners came together under the brilliant sun to participate in a series of exciting games that tested teamwork and safety knowledge. The event wrapped up with an awards ceremony where ten awards – including the CDL EHS Excellence Award, CDL Workers' Welfare Award and CDL Safe Worker Awards – were given out to recognise outstanding contributions to safety.

Mr Sherman Kwek, CDL's Group CEO said, "Workplace safety is a collective responsibility and a shared commitment to protect ourselves, our teams and our families. Starting with a safety-first mindset, everyone's actions – big or small – form the building blocks of a safer culture. Whether designing safe work plans, double-checking equipment or addressing hazards, every effort counts."

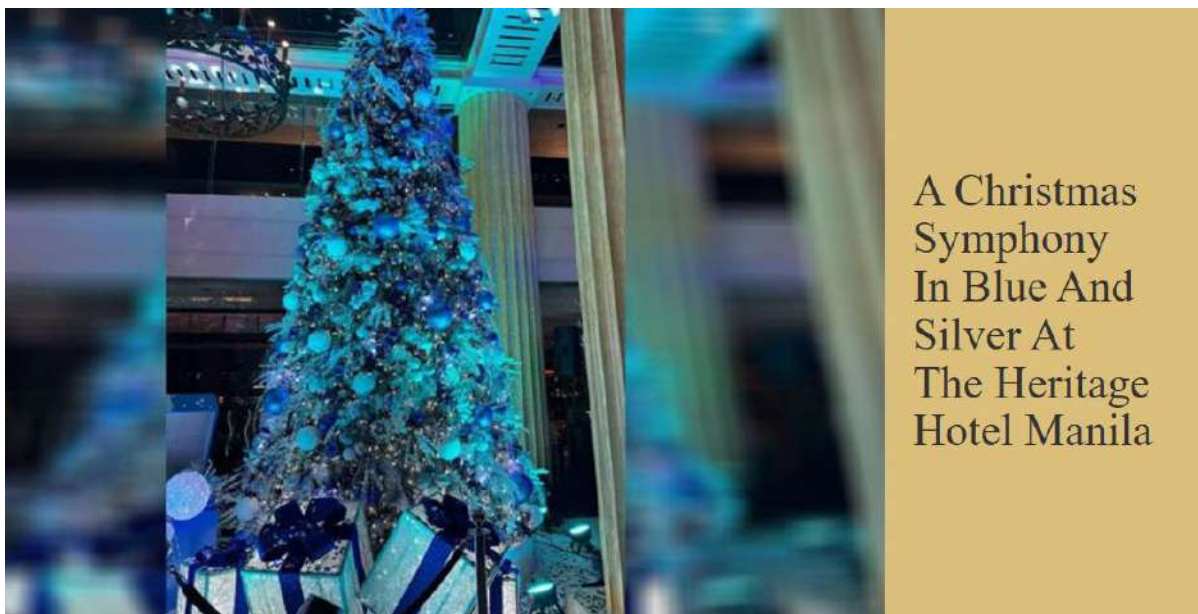
"As we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the CDL 5-Star EHS Awards, we thank the Building and Construction Authority and Workplace Safety and Health Council for their leadership in advancing WSH excellence, as well as our builders, consultants and all migrant workers for their partnership in ensuring that every CDL development is clean, green and safe. Safety is our top priority and we will continue to enhance workplace safety and productivity through innovation and digitalisation, making all CDL projects a safe place to work," added Mr Kwek.



CDL Group CEO Mr Sherman Kwek (centre, in orange) joined the jubilant Dragages Singapore Pte Ltd team in celebrating their victory.

Launched in 2005 as an extension of the CDL 5-Star EHS Assessment System, the CDL 5-Star EHS Awards has played a key role in enhancing EHS standards at our development sites. The awards encourage collaboration between builders and consultants to create environmentally sustainable and safer CDL construction sites.





## A Christmas Symphony In Blue And Silver At The Heritage Hotel Manila

*The Heritage Hotel Manila ushered in the festive season with a Christmas tree light up in a stunning motif of blue and silver to represent brighter days ahead and a tranquil holiday spirit for the community.*

The Heritage Hotel Manila located in the City of Pasay just south of Manila in the Philippines, recently ushered in the holiday season with its annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on 14 November 2024. Guests and partners gathered in the hotel's elegant lobby to witness the illumination of a grand tree adorned in a stunning motif of blue and silver, symbolizing peace, hope, and the joy of togetherness this season brings.

The colours reflect the hotel's aspirations for brighter days ahead and a serene holiday spirit for its valued guests and community. Blue embodies tranquillity and trust, while silver represents elegance and celebration—a perfect harmony to welcome the most wonderful time of the year.

With the General Manager of The Heritage Hotel Manila, Mr Farid Alain Schoucair, the Christmas lighting ceremony was also graced by Honorable Antonino Calixto, (member of the Philippine House of Representatives from Pasay's Lone District), Pasay Chief of Staff Mr Peter Pardo and celebrity and theatre actress Ms. Angel Raymundo.



*(L-R): Pasay Chief of Staff Mr Peter Pardo, actress Ms Angel Raymundo, Pasay City Representative Mr Antonino Calixto, and General Manager of The Heritage Hotel Manila Mr Farid Schoucair.*

This year's event not only celebrated the spirit of Christmas but also reaffirmed The Heritage Hotel Manila's commitment to creating memorable moments for all. The shining tree will continue to grace the lobby throughout the holiday season, offering guests a warm reminder of joy and unity.





## Louis Vuitton Dazzles Singapore With New Cruise 2025 Collection

*Hosted at The Singapore EDITION, the show featured highlights from Louis Vuitton's Cruise 2025 collection from boxy suits to iridescent boots.*

When it comes to destination fashion shows, there is nothing quite like the industry's biggest luxury brands showcasing a spin on house favourites, intricately intertwined with the world's most artistic and culturally rich cities.

Hosted at The Singapore EDITION, the collection's trip to Singapore remains true to creative director Nicolas Ghesquière's admiration for architectural marvels.

Founded by Ian Schrager, who is also notably the founder of Studio 54, the hotel features a beautiful spiral staircase and a serene, all-white interior. Juxtaposed against this is a line up showcased in a chandelier-lit ballroom, modelled by local, regional, and international faces, bringing a distinct Singaporean flair. Split into two shows, the event was graced by local celebrities such as Singapore actors Fann Wong and Christopher Lee, as well as VIP clientele and influencers.

As for the runway, the line-up showcased some of its most defining looks, including boxy suits with statement collars, tiered and sumptuous cloud skirts, structured and frothy shirts, as well as delicately sheer polka-dotted dresses. Of course, it wouldn't be a Ghesquière show without equally standout accessories. This took the form of crisp bolero hats, iridescent wedged boots, and gold brooches—the icing on top of a delightfully structured presentation.



*First presented in Barcelona, Spain Louis Vuitton's Cruise 2025 collection was a futuristic take on the marvels of the city. (Credit: Vogue/Giovanni Giannoni)*



play



## New Zealand Aims To Grow Tourism In The Lake Town Of Taupō

*Nearly 100 participants from New Zealand's tourism and hospitality operators as well as 26 business representatives across the town of Taupō, participated at the 2024 edition of the Destination Great Lake Taupō Trade Show.*

Destination Great Lake Taupō hosted its second Taupō Trade Showcase in Tamaki Makarau. The event, targeting inbound tour operators and the wider travel trade industry, was held in a packed meeting room at Weta Unleashed. The event attracted nearly 100 participants from New Zealand tourism and hospitality operators, including Millennium Hotel and Resort Manuels Taupo, and 26 Taupō representatives.

The 2024 edition of the Taupō trade showcase is the second edition of the event, which aims to strengthen partnerships between travel trade and Taupō's tourism sector. It also aims to grow international visitors to the region, while targeting North Island domestic market to visit twice a year, and South Island visitors once a year.

During the showcase, each operator was given a 1-minute slot to deliver an elevator pitch to capture the agents' interest and showcase their unique offerings. After the elevator pitches, a 1.5-hour session allowed for free-flowing networking and training, fostering deeper connections between agents and operators.



*Taupō is a town located in the central North Island of New Zealand. It is situated on the edge of the beautiful Lake Taupō, the largest freshwater lake in the country, and about the size of Singapore.*



play



*Seven-time Grammy winner Toni Braxton at The Biltmore Los Angeles for ESSENCE Magazine photoshoot.*

The seven-time Grammy winner Toni Braxton was recently at The Biltmore Los Angeles for a special photoshoot as part of an interview with ESSENCE magazine. The lifestyle magazine covers fashion, beauty, entertainment and culture, and is written for African American women.

During the interview, she got candid about grief, music and renewal, sharing deep insights to her personal life and career.

Born Toni Michele Braxton in 1967, she is an American singer, songwriter, actress and television personality. Well known as one of the most influential voices in music, she has sold over 70 million records worldwide and is one of the best-selling female artists in history.

Ms Braxton has won seven Grammy Awards, nine Billboard Music Awards, seven American Music Awards, and numerous other accolades. In 2011, Braxton was inducted into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame. In 2017 she was honoured with the Legend Award at the Soul Train Music Awards.



*Some locations where the shoot took place include the hotel hallway (left) and the balcony of Crystal Ballroom (right). (Credit: ESSENCE/Deon Hinton)*





## Dinosaurs Roaming The Streets Of Beijing Riviera On Halloween?

*Yes! It was a 'scary' sight as some serious Halloween revellers took to the street in dinosaur costumes with kids riding on their backs.*

It was indeed a grand Halloween party hosted by the Beijing Riviera Country Club that drew enthusiastic participation from numerous residents and members of the Beijing Riviera community.

At the event, children not only experienced the thrilling adventure of a haunted house but also crafted various types of jack-o'-lanterns and painted exaggerated Halloween faces.

Throughout the Riviera community, every villa was uniquely adorned with Halloween elements like pumpkins, spider webs, and ghosts, creating a vibrant festive atmosphere.

The children eagerly participated in the trick-or-treating activities, filled with laughter and joy, returning home with plenty of goodies. This party undoubtedly became an unforgettable Halloween memory for everyone.



*It was a vibrant festive atmosphere with 'frightful' families dressed to scare!*



## Ambassadors Of Joy Around The World Celebrate The Giving Spirit Of The Season

And Hi Life's top picks of  
festive activities from Dubai,  
London to New York.

*It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Our ambassadors of hope and joy celebrate the spirit of giving around the world, from the UK, New Zealand, Jakarta and Singapore.*

As the merry season of Christmas fast approaches, we shine the spotlight on some 'angels' across the global Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR) group who remind us to give and care not just during the season, but on a daily basis. These "angels" have volunteered to work over Christmas year after year, putting aside their own family celebrations to ensure others have a memorable and magical experience. Find out how they have gone the extra mile to create special memories for guests and even their own colleagues during this festive season.

From Christmas markets and shopping to ice skating rinks and events, we also show you some of our top picks of the most festive activities around the world. Visit our hotels at <https://www.millenniumhotels.com/> when you check out these exciting happenings!

### The Christmas 'angels' of Copthorne Merry Hill-Dudley



*With their favourite Christmas knit on Christmas Jumper Day (left photo), the team at Copthorne Merry Hill regularly helps to raise funds for local charities, and even coordinated a Christmas Toy (right photo) drive for underprivileged children.*



“We couldn’t pick just one hero for Christmas – so we’d like to recognise all our team members for their generosity and kindness that they show when they contribute to our local community fundraisers. We’re super-proud of the team every day of every year, but especially so at Christmas! Not only do they provide the most exceptional, friendly service to all guests, conference visitors and Christmas event delegates, but they also do their bit for the local community! Last year, the team participated in Christmas Jumper Day and raised money for our local Mental Health charity (Mind) and coordinated a Christmas Toy drive for our local children’s charity,” according to the team at Copthorne Merry Hill-Dudley Hotel.

“This year, we will be looking to complete a Reverse Advent Calendar for our local food bank, where for the first 12 days of December, the team will donate various food items that we collect and donate to the local charity on 12 December. As the date also coincides with Christmas Jumper Day, we are encouraging as many colleagues as possible to don their favourite Christmas knit on their shift and donate whatever cash they can.”

**Mr Salmin Khan, Night Manager, M Social Auckland**



*Night Manager Salmin Khan at M Social Auckland has been making a difference during the festive season since 2020 when he first joined.*



*Salmin with his team enjoying a special biryani meal he prepared as a gesture of appreciation for his team’s hard work.*

Among M Social Auckland’s outstanding staff is Night Manager Salmin Khan who has been making a difference since he joined in 2020 as Assistant Night Manager. Except for 2022, when the hotel served as a Managed Isolation Facility during the Covid pandemic, Salmin has worked every Christmas Eve, Christmas night, and New Year’s Eve since joining the team. As the team lead and mentor, he sets a selfless example by ensuring his night team can take time off during these special days.

Aware that many guests spend Christmas away from their families, Salmin would create a welcoming atmosphere with personal touches and festive wishes. For his team, Salmin leads with compassion, ensuring they can watch the fireworks from the hotel’s top floor while he holds down the front desk. Behind the scenes, he even enjoys decorating the office and surprises the team with Christmas goodies to share the festive spirit.

Salmin cherishes his family and dedicates his daytime hours to them during the holiday season, balancing personal celebrations with his professional responsibilities. He is a true embodiment of the ethos of M Social Auckland – friendliness, professionalism, and team spirit.





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**Ms Selina Angelica Hao Soli, Assistant Club Manager, Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel**



*Selina delights a young hotel guest with her Santarina outfit. Having joined the MHR group 13 years ago, her career journey has been one of resilience, loyalty, and a relentless pursuit of excellence.*



*Selina takes a pose with her colleagues at Tempo Bar at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel.*

Selina's 13-year career in hospitality speaks volumes of her dedication and passion. She started her career as a restaurant hostess and rose through the ranks to roles such as Assistant Restaurant Manager and Assistant Fine Dining Manager. Her growth story is one of resilience, loyalty, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. Selina has volunteered to work the Christmas shift an impressive 11 times, embracing the festive season with remarkable dedication and charm.

Affectionately known as "Santarina", she ensures everyone has a memorable experience, from delighting children with holidays snacks to posing for photos with families. While at work on Christmas Eve, she ensures her loved ones feel her presence by video calling them during breaks. After her colleagues return to work, Selina takes leave to join her family for a post-Christmas celebration, eagerly bringing along her carefully chosen gifts to enhance the joy of the occasion.

Selina has received multiple recognitions for her outstanding service excellence, including the prestigious Excellent Service Award Gold (2018) and Silver (2021) awards.

**Ms Honeyfa, Operations Manager, Millennium Hotel Plymouth**



*Honeyfa is pictured here (front centre) leading the Millennium New Plymouth team with her signature warm smile as they pose for a festive group photo.*



*Honeyfa (2nd from left) and her team enjoying a mimosa before the Christmas lunch rush at the hotel's Salt Restaurant in 2022.*

A previous 'Hotel Employee of the Year', Operations Manager Ms Honeyfa from Millennium Hotel New Plymouth is a walking bubble of joy. She recently celebrated her seventh anniversary with the hotel having risen the ranks from Front Office team member to her current leadership role. Her care for guests and colleagues shines brightly, especially during the festive season. She was worked every Christmas since she joined the hotel in 2017.

Salt Restaurant, the hotel's locally renowned dining spot, becomes the heart of Honeyfa's Christmas celebrations. For two years, she has spearheaded a tradition of gathering staff from all departments for a glass of mimosa and a group photo before the bustling Christmas lunch service begins.

"Christmas Day is a special time. I love decorating the restaurant and seeing guests in festive hats pulling crackers with smiles all around. It's a fun, spirited atmosphere," she shares. Honeyfa also values spending this time with her staff, many of whom are away from their own families during the holidays.

#### **Ms Goh Siew Leng, Assistant Outlet Manager, M Hotel Singapore City Centre**



*Santa comes to M Hotel! Siew Leng (right) was quick to take a quick photo with a guest who looks like Santa when he walked in*



*Despite working through the holiday, Siew Leng would organise Christmas celebrations with her colleagues to share the festive joy when they return to work.*

Siew Leng has been in the hospitality industry for eight years. At 29, she oversees the restaurant's daily operations and supports the Outlet Manager in delivering exceptional guest experiences. She started as a Restaurant Captain, and is now Assistant Outlet Manager with her exceptional customer service skills and dedication to guest satisfaction.

Siew Leng has volunteered to work the Christmas shift for eight consecutive years. True to her spirit of giving, she creates memorable experiences for guests, especially those celebrating both their birthday and Christmas. She also ensures her colleagues have the chance to celebrate with their family and loved ones. When they return to work, she would organise Christmas celebrations for them despite working through the holidays.

Siew Leng has received multiple recognitions for her outstanding service excellence, including the prestigious Singapore Hotel Association's Service Excellence Award Gold (2018), Gold (2019), and Star (2020).





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### **Ms Judith Harianja, Duty Manager, Millennium Sirih Jakarta**



“The holiday season is a time to reflect, connect and create memories with loved ones,” said Duty Manager Ms Judith Harianja who has been working in the hospitality industry for over 23 years and is currently part of the management team at Millennium Sirih Jakarta. Holding firm to the belief that every guest deserves not just comfort but lasting memories, she ensures that every guest staying at the hotel feels like a celebration.

“When I get home from work, I celebrate Christmas with my family by attending church together, followed with a home-cooked feast and gift exchange. As we gather around in the warmth of our home, I cannot help but reflect that the love, laughter, and the memories we make are to be cherished every day, and not just during the holiday season,” she added.

### **Ms Cariza Toto, Assistant Restaurant Manager, M Social Singapore**

One of the pioneer team members at M Social Hotel's Beast & Butterflies restaurant, Cariza has been dedicated to the restaurant's journey over the past eight years and has volunteered to work the Christmas shift every year. Despite not being with her family, Cariza finds joy in the little moments, from seeing families celebrating to sharing smiles with children excited for Christmas. She takes pride in creating lasting memories for her guests and believes that the spirit of Christmas is about connection and warmth, values she embodies both professionally and personally.

While she dedicates her time to her guests during the holiday, she shows her love for her family living abroad with virtual celebrations and sponsoring their festive feasts back home.



*Cariza believes that the spirit of Christmas is about connection and warmth, and is passionate about creating lasting memories for guests.*

As she engages in various activities throughout Christmas, she believes that moments of joy can illuminate what truly matters to human beings. Whether it is the warmth of shared laughter or the quiet satisfaction of solitude, the holiday spirit fosters a unique environment for growth and togetherness.





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## **Christmas Market in Dubai and a Ice and Snow Festival at the Bird's Nest in Beijing**



*A large bazaar spreading across 1,750 square metres, the Madinat Jumeirah Festive Market in Dubai will transform into a magical winter wonderland from 6 to 31 December 2024.*



*Experience sports activities from the Winter Olympic Games like ice hockey, snowboarding and curling at the Beijing's annual Ice and Snow Festival at its national stadium, Bird's Nest.*

Running from Friday, December 6 to Tuesday December 31, 2024, the Madinat Festive Market will transform Fort Island into a magical winter wonderland. Best of all, it's free entry for all to enjoy. The market is spread out across 1,750 square metres and features a huge 36-foot Christmas tree adorned with shiny baubles, stars and candy canes. There will be plenty of festive food and drinks to fuel up on, with a snow fight zone, bungee zone, North Pole train ride and more to keep children happy.

For more festive family fun, check out the Bird's Nest (Beijing's national stadium) as it transforms to host the annual Ice and Snow Festival every year. This is a long-term event that runs from Mid-December until Mid-February with ice-skating and themed winter fun for all ages. Enjoy skiing, single and dual snowboarding, snow tubing, ice hockey, curling, biathlon, snow football, ice-carting, snow bicycle, ice skating, and other fun activities. Exploring ice and snow sculptures like the Snow Castle is one of the highlights.

## **London's Winter Wonderland at Hyde Park**

At Winter Wonderland 2024, visitors can skate to live music on at UK's largest outdoor ice rink at Hyde Park, marvel at acrobatic wonders at a circus show, or soar into the sky on the iconic Giant Observation Wheel and see the twinkling London lights below.

Children will enjoy riding on a traditional carousel or stepping into the Magical Ice Kingdom with more than 500 tonnes of ice sculpted into Alice's Adventures in Wonderland characters and scenes including the Mad Hatter's tea party. Or enjoy a walk-through, a walk-through experience at the Après-ski Party Funhouse that transports you to the Alps, and is sure to play a trick or two on you with wobbly floors, a unique double slide and much more!



*Winter Wonderland at Hyde Park is a much-loved family event enjoyed by many during London's most magical time of year, including the UK's largest outdoor ice rink at in Hyde Park.*



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### **Christmas at Windsor Castle**

The custom of displaying Christmas trees was introduced to Britain in the late 18th century by Queen Charlotte, consort of George III, who had used yew trees at that time. It was then popularised by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in the 19th century who would decorate the trees themselves with candles and gingerbread and gather their families around.

The highlight of this year's decorations at Windsor Castle includes a 20-foot-high Nordmann Fir tree in St George's Hall, taken from Windsor Great Park and dressed in thousands of twinkling lights. Another sparkling Christmas tree is found in the Crimson Drawing Room, one of the most elaborate Semi-State Rooms, which were created as private apartments for George IV. The rooms are still used today by members of the Royal Family and are open to visitors over the winter months.



*Step into Christmas and 1,000 years of royal history at Windsor Castle including St. George's Hall with magnificent Christmas displays. (Credit: Royal Collection Enterprises Limited 2024 | Royal Collection Trust)*

### **Boston's Holiday Lights Trail and Holiday Market at Snowport**



*Bask in a holiday lights trail in Boston at the historic Faneuil Hall (left photo) and the holiday market at Snowport (right photo).*

White lights line the trees on all sides of the historical marketplace. As you approach the square between Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market, the second-tallest holiday tree in Boston comes into view. Against the backdrop of Boston's iconic Custom House, the Faneuil Hall tree is a must-see over the holidays in Boston.

Snowport, the Seaport District's annual holiday market is back for its sixth year, and in addition to a ton of vendors, Betty the Yeti sightings, iceless curling, and other fun, there are numerous opportunities to drink wintery beverages. The setup includes four holiday-themed bar areas (Jingle Bar, Dizzy Dreidel, and more); watch for options like hot mulled cider from Downeast Cider and a variety of other cocktails (some served hot). There's plenty of food to go with those drinks, include melty cheese in a surprisingly high number of forms.





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### Ring in 2025 at Los Angeles



*Bring in good tidings at Grand Park (left photo) with spectacular firework shows at Marina Del Rey Harbour (right photo).*

Grand Park returns with their annual New Year's Eve celebration full of live music, delicious local food trucks, and an incredible light show counting down to 2025!

Nothing beats witnessing spectacular lights flash across the sky, especially on New Year's. No matter where you are in the city this New Year's Eve, you'll be able to bring in another year of celebration with some stunning displays.

### Holiday activities in New York



*Take a leisure stroll through Gingerbread Lane and smell freshly baked gingerbread goodies in the air.*



*Join the celebrations and have a rockin' good time at the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree Light Up.*

Holding the Guinness World Records for several years, Gingerbread Lane is the world's largest village. In this charming New York City village, Santa drives a taxi, a nutcracker runs a hot dog cart and snowmen hang out at the Snoball Fight Club. The local cafe sells North Pole Holiday Blend hot chocolate, polar bears run the neighborhood bagel shop and the I Want a Hippopotamus Gift Store does a bustling business. You can step into Lovitch's whimsical world inside The Shops at Columbus Circle.

It's officially the most wonderful time of the year as the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree takes center stage at its annual star-studded lighting ceremony with Grammy singer and talk show host, Kelly Clarkson hosting this year's two-hour event. With more than 50,000 LED lights decking out the 74-foot-tall Norway spruce, topped off by a Swarovski star, probably won't turn on until closer to 10 p.m.





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## Millennium Plaza Doha Joins Hands With Qatar Cancer Society For "Relay For Life"

*The Millennium Plaza Doha team proudly carrying the hotel's banner as a sign of support for Relay for Life, one of the largest global events dedicated to supporting cancer patients and survivors.*

Millennium Plaza Doha is proud to participate in Relay for Life, an inspiring event hosted by Qatar Cancer Society. As one of the world's largest global movements dedicated to supporting cancer patients and survivors, Relay for Life represents a powerful symbol of hope, resilience, and community strength.

About 800 participants, including cancer survivors, healthcare providers, and community members, took part in Relay for Life 2024 on 25 October at the Aspire Indoor Athletic Track.



*Employees taking part in activities as they joined the community to support the cause.*

The Millennium Plaza Doha team joined a community of survivors, caregivers, families, and advocates to raise awareness about cancer, support ongoing research, and to honour the lives touched by the disease.

The event was open to all, providing an opportunity for participants to walk, run, or simply show their support. Every step, every lap, and every smile contributed to a unified message: together, we can make a difference. Beyond raising funds for awareness programmes, Relay for Life is about building a legacy of perseverance, encouraging patients and survivors to keep fighting while honouring the memories of those we've lost.

Millennium Plaza Doha believes that corporate social responsibility is essential to building a healthier and more compassionate world, and through events like this, we aim to be a part of this change.



## Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai Celebrates World Mental Health Day With Special Yoga Session

*The yoga session organised by Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai was a timely reminder on the importance of caring for our mental health as well as our physical well-being.*

In honour of World Mental Health Day, Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai organised a rejuvenating yoga session for its employees on 10 October to promote mental wellness and self-care.

The session was led by the hotel health fitness instructor, who guided the participants through gentle yoga poses, breathing exercises, and mindfulness practices that are proven to help alleviate stress, improve focus, and promote emotional stability.

Mr Simon Moore, General Manager at Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai, said, “We believe that mental health is just as important as physical health, and we are proud we did it as part of our ongoing commitment to the well-being of our hotel colleagues. In today’s fast-paced world, taking a moment to slow down and reconnect with ourselves is essential.”



*The instructor led the participants through simple yoga and mindfulness exercises that they will be able to practice at home as well.*





**Merry And Mindful:  
Sustainable  
Christmas  
Market Embraces  
Kampung Spirit  
& Raises Over  
S\$392,000  
For Underprivileged  
Children**

*The Sustainable Christmas Market 2024 was a great success, raising S\$392,334.32 for the Singapore Red Cross Young Hearts programme and drawing over 16,000 to the meaningful event.*

On 16 and 17 November 2024, South Beach Singapore was transformed into a sustainable wonderland, spreading across 50,000 square feet with over 150 booths, six activity zones, with endless opportunities to indulge in the Christmas spirit without compromising the planet.

The heart of Sustainable Christmas Market (SCM) 2024 was its commitment to community and giving back, embodied by the “Kampung Spirit”—a term that conjures images of close-knit villages where everyone supports one other. Over the weekend, more than 16,000 people came together to celebrate this spirit.

Organised by Peace of Art and supported by City Developments Limited (CDL), SCM raised S\$392,334.32 for the Singapore Red Cross Young Hearts programme, which supports underprivileged children and youths living in public rental housing.



*SCM transformed South Beach Singapore to a vibrant green wonderland, with over 150 booths focusing on sustainability and many interesting activities.*



## **Zero Waste**

Mrs Eunice Yeo, founder of Peace of Art, wanted this event to be based on the concept of circularity, which involves reusing and recycling existing materials for as long as possible.

For example, the main stage was made entirely from reused materials. The pallets were used a few times by a pallet supplier, and will be returned after the event. The scaffolding forming the backdrop came from a construction site. The artwork decorating the backdrop comprised scrap textile waste that was pieced together by children from Fashion Parade, an initiative that promotes sustainable and circular fashion.



*Mrs Eunice Yeo with Ms Denise Phua (second from right), Mayor of the Central Singapore District and Member of Parliament, her daughter Lauren Fleur Yeo (left) and husband Mr Vincent Yeo (right), CEO of CDL Hospitality Trusts.*



*Visitors to SCM included well-known actress Ms Fann Wong (5th from left) and her husband and actor Mr Christopher Lee (7th from left).*

## **Promoting Sustainable Living**

SCM's organising committee was selective in choosing vendors as it wanted to showcase vendors selling sustainable products that "set an example of how life should be like".

One vendor was The Green and Purple Movement, an initiative that sets up edible gardens in underutilised spaces. The organic vegetables grown are sold on a subscription basis. It works with charities to provide jobs to persons with disabilities – particularly those aged 18 and older – and the elderly.

This year, SCM 2024 also took a big step towards sustainability by going fully vegetarian for the first time! The Kampung Kitchen featured a delicious array of plant-based dishes, all made from locally sourced, sustainable ingredients.

Since its inception in 2021, Sustainable Markets has raised more than S\$1 million for children in need. The donation portal for SCM 2024 is open till 31 December.



*Vendors and partners were carefully selected to showcase products or practices that promoted a sustainable lifestyle.*



## South Beach Celebrates Its Service Providers At Annual Appreciation Day

*The South Beach Annual Appreciation Day recognises the dedication and efforts of its service providers in building a safe and conducive environment.*

The South Beach team recently hosted its Annual Appreciation Day on 6 November, with Mr Desmond Tan, Deputy Secretary General of NTUC and Senior Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office, attending as Guest-of-Honour.

The event celebrated South Beach's commitment to workplace transformation, service excellence, and the well-being of its essential workers—including security officers, cleaners, technicians, and many more. It also honoured the dedication and hard work of the service providers who make South Beach a vibrant and safe community.

This year's Go-The-Extra-Mile Awards were presented to Ms Melody Alconera (Concierge) and Mr Kowndapan (Security Officer) for their exemplary dedication and commitment. Special thanks also go to NTUC Union of Security Employees (USE) for presenting Certificates of Appreciation and vouchers to recognise the commitment and professionalism of our service providers.



*Ms Melody Alconera and Mr Kowndapan receiving their awards for service excellence and going the extra mile in their respective roles.*

South Beach enhances the security workforce through innovation and skill upgrading. With its support, CBM Security has successfully leveraged the Company Training Committee (CTC) Grant to improve processes, boost productivity, and increase wages for security officers.

The guests visited the new rest area at the basement of South Beach. This dedicated space provides a comfortable environment where essential workers can recharge and relax during their shifts.





## Beacons Of Hope Shine Bright At Dudley Community Awards

*The award winners at the Dudley Borough Community Awards 2024 at Copthorne Hotel Merry Hill-Dudley. (Credit: Newsquest)*

Guests and finalists arrived suited and booted to come together to celebrate the best that the borough of Dudley in the UK has to offer at the glittering Dudley Borough Community Awards 2024.

The awards, which this year were held in partnership with Birmingham Newman University and Halesowen College, are a celebration of all the wonderful things that are happening across the region, shining a light on the many success stories it is home to.

This year's ceremony was held at the Copthorne Hotel Merry-Hill Dudley on Thursday, November 21 where 13 of the region's most inspiration people, organisations and businesses were recognised for their contributions to the Dudley borough.



*Lenny Liddell, 11, from Stourbridge was awarded 'Young Person of the Year' for paddleboarding 100km and raised more than £2,500 for Tumble Down Tots, a charity that supports children with additional needs. Living with autism and ADHD himself, Lenny has made many friends while attending Tumble Down Tots himself. He is pictured here with his proud parents. (Credit: Newsquest)*



*Ms Andrea Childs was named 'Volunteer or Fundraiser of the Year' for her work with Beth's Sunflowers, a charity she founded to raise money and awareness for blood cancer after losing her daughter Beth to leukaemia. She is pictured fighting tears as she dedicated the award to her daughter. (Credit: Newsquest)*





voices



My Christmas  
Wish For  
My MHR Family:  
A Balanced,  
Happy And  
Healthy  
Well-Being

*Ms Ally Chow (in green jacket), MHR Vice President for Special Projects in UK and Europe motivating the team at MHR London's corporate office with a wellness challenge.*

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Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR) recently conducted its inaugural global initiative to encourage mental well-being for all employees across MHR hotels worldwide. The initiative saw overwhelming participation from Millennium New Plymouth in New Zealand to Asia's M Social Phuket, Millennium Sirih Jakarta, and The Heritage Hotel Manila. Staff from the US also joined from Millennium Downtown New York, Millennium Scottsdale, Lakefront Anchorage, and The Biltmore Los Angeles. In London, over 100 employees participated in-person with more throughout the day via Teams online.

**Ms Ally Chow, MHR Vice President for Special Projects in UK and Europe shares more.**

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### **1. How did this mental health initiative come about and how was the session conducted?**

I was inspired by this year's theme for World Mental Health Day – Mental Health at Work. I took it up as a challenge and thought it would be great if we can connect with the entire MHR family across the world.

Mental health affects all of us every day. At MHR, we have an ongoing commitment to prioritise mental health and well-being in the workplace. Pressures and stressors are plenty in our industry, whether you are front of the house to ensure smooth guest arrival experience or housekeeping to meet the tight schedule to turnover rooms.

It is our responsibility to look after our colleagues and find ways to help relieve their pressure. If we have happy staff, we have happy guests.

As most staff don't have a fixed desk, we introduced a 15-minute session of deep breathing and stretch workout for 21 consecutive days via Teams. Hotels just need to have one of their meeting rooms or offices available for 15 minutes and join the workout through a Teams link.



*The teams from Millennium Gloucester in the morning session.*



*Ms Chow (in bright green) leading an afternoon session at Copthorne Tara using a Lion's Paw technique to relieve anger and frustrations.*

The result was an amazing turnout of 30-80 colleagues who joined online every day from different parts of the world. Staff reported to have improved mood and felt relaxed after the workout. This initiative was such a success that we have now implemented this as part of our "Wednesday Wellness" routine across the UK hotels. We also introduced a "Wellness Channel" with recordings from each session so staff can access them and do the exercises on their own any time.

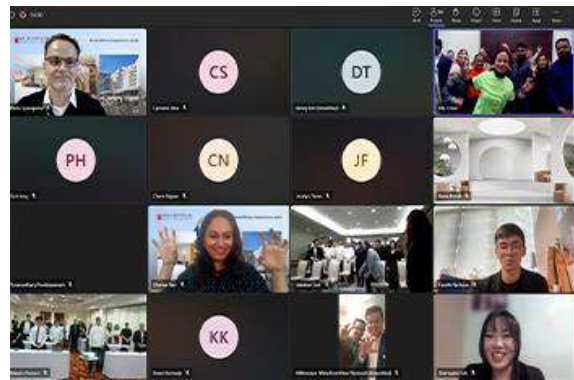
## **2. How did you get the global hotels to participate? Were there any challenges experienced when organising this initiative?**

We collaborated with the Regional UK Marketing team to design invitations, and got the Human Resources teams in Singapore, UK, US and New Zealand onboard. We have prior experience in organising this virtual activity for our 18 UK hotels. But the main challenge doing it globally was the different time zones. To be inclusive, we set three time slots covering New Zealand, Asia, Europe and the US.

This being our inaugural global wellness event, the participation was overwhelming! Colleagues from as far as Millennium New Plymouth in New Zealand to those from M Social Phuket, Millennium Sirih Jakarta, and The Heritage Hotel Manila in Philippines.



*US colleagues including those from Millennium Downtown New York, Millennium Scottsdale, Lakefront Anchorage, and The Biltmore Los Angeles joined in the evening session.*



*Various teams from MHR Southeast Asia hotels including Singapore, Philippines and Phuket joining online, although some were shy to show their faces.*



From the US, Millennium Downtown New York, Millennium Scottsdale, Lakefront Anchorage, and The Biltmore Los Angeles joined in our evening session. In London, we had over 100 employees participate in-person and more who joined online throughout the day. The feedback received was that staff felt energised, refreshed, and connected to the MHR global family.

### **3. Does mental health touch you on a personal level?**

Absolutely. I had a dear friend who suffered from depression and ended her life pre-Covid when it was less common to discuss mental health issues openly. I was worried for her son who is also my godson. As I was in London at the time, I wrote to him frequently and told him I'm always here for him. He is now 18 and going to military service.

The passing of my friend left a deep mark on me. Mental health issues are real, but rarely openly discussed. The pandemic has highlighted how this can affect individuals and the workplace. There are plenty of free resources online to help manage mental health which is a great progress.

### **4. What does mental wellness mean to you, and how is it important in your role?**

In my role, my responsibilities are to lead the sustainability efforts of the UK hotels. These efforts include finding ways to sustain well-being, encourage work balance, and increase the quality of life. Mental wellness is just as important as physical health personally and in business.



*Staff at M Hotel Singapore expressing their frustration with the Lion's Paw technique.*



*The team at M Social Phuket as they participate in stretches.*

To be successful for our business, which is especially true for hospitality, teamwork is tantamount and, if I can quote Steve Jobs, "Great things in business are never done by one person, they're done by a team of people."

### **5. What is your Christmas wish for MHR in 2025 and beyond?**

My Christmas wish is for everyone within the MHR family to be mentally and physically happy and healthy. Having a healthy body and mind is the pre-requisite to G.E.T. things done in Millennium's green (a.k.a.) sustainability path.



*congratulations / appointments*



## A Winning Night For Hong Leong Companies At The EdgeProp Excellence Awards

The CDL management team proudly holding the Top Developer award. CDL is the only developer to have received this award for eight consecutive years. (L-R) Mr Jimmy Hee, Deputy Head of Sales and Marketing; Ms Tay Seok Cheng, Deputy Head of Property Development; Mr Chia Ngiang Hong, Group General Manager; Mr Kwek Eik Sheng, Group Chief Operating Officer; Ms Lee Mei Ling, Head of Property Development Division; and Ms Adeline Ong, Head of Sales and Marketing.

EdgeProp Singapore held its annual EdgeProp Excellence Awards (EPEA) at a gala dinner on 30 October at Shangri-La Singapore, with the Hong Leong Companies sweeping multiple awards across different categories. The prestigious event recognises and celebrates outstanding property developers and their developments, which set a benchmark of excellence in Singapore's real estate industry.

City Developments Limited (CDL) emerged as a major winner with nine awards, including the prestigious Top Developer award which it has won for eight consecutive years.



All eyes on Lentor! Mr Yoichi Kaga, Managing Director of TID Pte Ltd (left) receiving the Sustainability Excellence award for Lentor.



Mr Ranim Ben Romdhane, General Manager of The Singapore EDITION, receiving the Best Luxury Hotel award.

In his acceptance speech for the Top Developer award, CDL's Group General Manager Mr Chia Ngiang Hong shared how property developers create legacies through their projects: "We have





*congratulations / appointments*

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the unique responsibility to continually shape and reshape our projects – creating, renewing and transforming the spaces to meet the evolving needs of our communities.”

Lentor Mansion and Tembusu Grand each clinched four Excellence awards in their respective categories. Lentor Hills Residences won the Top Selling Project in OCR award, while Lentoria received the Sustainability Excellence award. The Singapore EDITION was also recognised as the Best Luxury Hotel.



*congratulations / appointments*



Chairman Kwek  
Lauded For  
Fuelling The  
Spirit Of  
Progress In  
Tatler Asia's Most  
Influential 2024

*Mr Kwek has built Hong Leong Group to one of Asia's largest conglomerates, with his companies and brands being blue-chip counters and household names.*

Mr Kwek Leng Beng, Executive Chairman of Hong Leong Group Singapore, is once again featured in Tatler Asia's Most Influential list. Now in its fourth year, Tatler's prestigious annual list celebrates 700 trailblazing individuals from Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand and, for the first time, Vietnam.

This year's edition highlights leaders who are transforming the fields of business, culture, social impact and STEM, pushing humanity toward its full potential. From scientific breakthroughs and sustainable business models to cultural preservation and community upliftment, these honourees embody the spirit of progress.

Under Mr Kwek's leadership, Hong Leong Group has become a prominent player in real estate, hospitality, financial services, and trade & industry. He has significantly shaped Singapore's business landscape, particularly in real estate and hospitality.

Mr Kwek's entrepreneurial spirit and willingness to take calculated risks have been key to the Group's success. He grew CDL from a small company with just eight employees in 1963 to a leading global real estate firm with a presence in 163 locations across 29 countries. He also expanded Millennium Hotels and Resorts to operate over 145 hotels worldwide.



*In November 2023, Mr Kwek and CDL jointly donated S\$24 million to the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) to mark the launch of his biography *Strictly Business: The Kwek Leng Beng Story*. He also started six new academic initiatives, including bursaries and scholarships, for SIT Hospitality Business undergraduates.*





*congratulations / appointments*

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Kwek's legacy extends beyond his remarkable business accomplishments; it includes his philanthropic leadership and impact on education. His commitment to fostering the next generation of hospitality leaders ensures that his influence will be felt for years to come, as he continues to inspire future entrepreneurs in Singapore and beyond.

Also featured in Tatler Asia's Most Influential is Ms Esther An, Chief Sustainability Officer of City Developments Limited. Esther has earned a reputation for carrying her commitments beyond her corporate roles—promoting sustainability across sectors, speaking at events around the world and bringing people together to build partnerships.

Some of the key environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) initiatives Esther has spearheaded include publishing the first sustainability report in Singapore in 2008, issuing the first green bond by a Singaporean company in 2017, and building an integrated sustainability reporting framework since 2015.

Mr Kwek and Ms An have been featured in Tatler Asia's Most Influential since 2021.



congratulations / appointments



## Shaking And Stirring The Bar Scene: Chew Qing Ting Crowned APEC's Most Sustainable Bartenders

*Ms Chew Qing Ting, head bartender at Madame Fan Bar, impressed judges with her Alternate Gem creation at the APEC's Most Sustainable Bartenders competition.*

Three young bartenders representing the Marriott International Asia Pacific hotels they are working in emerged victorious as APEC's Most Sustainable Bartenders.

Ms Chew Qing Ting from Madame Fan Bar at JW Marriott Hotel Singapore South Beach, Mr Niall Mulgrew from W Brisbane in Australia, and Mr Gerard Angelo Dela Cruz from Manila Marriott Hotel, won the Grand Finals held in Singapore, a culmination of the six-month long contest which saw more than 500 submissions from mixologists across the APEC region.

To qualify for the Grand Finals, bartenders had to submit an original cocktail designed with sustainability in mind, and were graded based on use of local produce, sustainable practices and their creativity. Sustainable aspects could include using repurposing or upcycling ingredients, and incorporating local produce.

Two winning bartenders from each area were chosen to represent their markets in the APEC Grand Finals, where a mystery box challenge saw the 14 finalists whittled to a top five. In the last round, the contestants were challenged to add their personal twist to a classic cocktail. The eventual winners impressed the judges with their creativity, technical skills and showmanship.

Qing Ting's *Alternate Gem* creation is a gin-based tribute to unsung heroes like "ugly" kaffir leaves, lacto-fermented mango, strawberry and dragon fruit trimmings and burnt rice-infused wine.

For Qing Ting, a Chinese-Malaysian now working in Singapore, her craft is a way of sustaining traditions for the future: "I think sustainability is also about passing down our heritage, experiences and memories to the next generation. For me, it's about incorporating part of my Chinese-Asian identity into the drinks I make. That's really the motivation behind the cocktails I've created for Madame Fan Bar."





*congratulations / appointments*



## MHR Recognised For Innovation And Creativity At Inaugural Hotel Technology Awards Asia

Millennium Hotels & Resorts and campaign partner Amadeus received the Digital Marketing Campaign Initiative of the Year award at the Hotel Technology Awards Asia in Singapore. (L to R) Mr Suraj Joshi, Amadeus Hospitality; Ms Toh Zhi Yi, Amadeus Hospitality; Ms Saw Ann Chi, Senior Digital Marketing Executive, MHR; Mr Anthony Jayasekara, VP of Global Digital Marketing, CRM and Platforms, MHR.

The hospitality industry gathered in style on 13 November to celebrate the inaugural Hotel Technology Awards Asia. The ceremony, held during a glittering gala dinner at Pan Pacific Singapore, recognised the groundbreaking innovations transforming the hotel sector across Asia-Pacific.

The Awards aimed to showcase the cutting-edge solutions enhancing guest experiences, operational efficiency, and sustainability within the industry, with hoteliers, technology providers and industry leaders gathered to celebrate outstanding achievements across a range of categories.

Millennium Hotels & Resorts (MHR) and campaign partner Amadeus were honoured to take home the Digital Marketing Campaign Initiative of the Year award for the innovative use of VR and the metaverse to deliver exceptional marketing results for M Social Hotel Phuket.

By blending technology with hospitality, MHR has set a new benchmark for innovation and guest experience. The Decentralized Vacay Club for M Social Phuket perfectly embodies this vision, offering travellers a unique blend of virtual and physical experiences that engage and inspire.

Congratulations to the MHR team for creating transformative travel experiences and setting new benchmarks in the hospitality industry!



*congratulations / appointments*



*First row: Mr David Chew, Ms Natalie Lim, Ms Sarah Jimenez, and Ms Eunice Phuang. Second row: Mr Baguio Flogean and Ms Christina Kong.*

The team from CDL's Asset Management has once again scored in Singapore Retailers Association (SRA) Excellent Service Award (EXSA) this year with five Star Awards and one Gold Award by the City Square Mall and Palais Renaissance teams.

#### **EXSA 2024 Star Award**

- David Chew, City Square Mall
- Natalie Lim, City Square Mall
- Sarah Jimenez, City Square Mall
- Baguio Flogean, Palais Renaissance
- Christina Kong, Palais Renaissance

#### **EXSA 2024 Gold Award**

- Eunice Phuang, City Square Mall

EXSA is a national award that aims to recognise individuals who have delivered exceptional service. Spearheaded by Singapore Retailers Association in 1994, it seeks to recognise the achievements of service staff, identify service role models, as well as to create new service champions by inspiring others to scale new heights. The award is conferred at three levels: Silver, Gold and Star.

This year's awards honoured 4,299 retail staff from 140 companies for their exemplary customer service.



*congratulations / appointments*

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Kindness Has  
Its Rewards:  
Gold Winner  
Tina Soh Of  
Orchard Hotel  
Singapore

(L-R): Mr Kenneth Li, President of Singapore Hotel Association (SHA); Mr Darrell Chan, 1st Vice Chairman of Singapore Kindness Movement (SKM); Ms Tina Soh, Assistant Restaurant Manager of Orchard Hotel Singapore; Mr Alvin Tan, Minister of State; and Singa the Kindness Lion, the national mascot for courtesy and kindness campaigns.

Assistant Restaurant Manager Ms Tina Soh from Orchard Hotel has scored Gold at the recent National Kindness Awards by the Singapore Hotel Association (SHA) and the Singapore Kindness Movement Council (SKM). The 30th SHA/SKM Service Gold Award Ceremony took place on 8 November 2024, spotlighting extraordinary stories of kindness.

A long-service staff of 18 years at Orchard Hotel, Tina is a regular face at Orchard Café. She is a true embodiment of exceptional service and kindness. Whether it's personally greeting regular customers by name or swiftly addressing any concerns with a warm smile, her service commitment and genuine care is evident as she continuously strives to make every visit a memorable one for every guest.

She makes an effort to connect with guests as she works, more often than not becoming a favourite of both adults and children. Small gestures such as holding a plate for a guest while he or she takes more food, or even helping to find a guest's missing air pods are examples of her going the extra mile beyond her responsibilities of daily business operations and business restaurant performance. Tina's dedication not only ensures smooth operations but also builds lasting relationships with patrons.

Tina's unwavering kindness and proactive approach exemplifies Orchard Hotel's highest standards of customer service.





*congratulations / appointments*

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Matthias Kaiser  
Appointed  
General Manager  
Of The Biltmore  
Los Angeles

*Mr Matthias Kaiser is the new General Manager of The Biltmore Los Angeles.*

Millennium Hotels and Resorts is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Matthias Kaiser as the new General Manager of The Biltmore Los Angeles. With over 20 years of global experience in the hospitality industry, Matthias brings a wealth of expertise in luxury hotel operations, team leadership, and guest service excellence.

He joins the Biltmore from his recent position as Hotel Manager at the InterContinental Los Angeles Downtown, where he demonstrated exceptional leadership and strategic insight, overseeing operations to ensure high standards of guest satisfaction and operational efficiency. His career spans prominent roles at luxury properties worldwide, including the InterContinental New York Barclay, Hilton Beachfront Resort in Santa Barbara, Swisstouches Hotels & Resorts in China, and Rosewood Hotels & Resorts in Saudi Arabia.

A proven leader in both pre-opening and rebranding initiatives, Matthias has played a key role in enhancing guest experiences through refined operational processes, staff development, and commitment to service excellence. His hands-on approach and dedication to fostering inclusive, culturally diverse environments have been instrumental in his ability to elevate hotel performance and guest satisfaction.

Matthias holds an MBA from the HTMi Hotel and Tourism Management Institute in Switzerland, along with a Rooms Division Executive Certificate from the AHLA Educational Institute. His diverse background and strong operational acumen make him an ideal fit to lead the historic Biltmore Los Angeles into its next chapter.

Mr Benedict Ng, Vice President of Operations, North America, commented, "We are thrilled to welcome Matthias to the Millennium team. His commitment to operational excellence and his international perspective will be invaluable as we continue to uphold the legacy of the Biltmore."



*congratulations / appointments*

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Getting To Know  
Mr Chia  
Ngiang Hong:  
A Lifetime  
Achievement  
Of Dedication  
And Service

*Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam giving his thanks and gratitude to CDL Group General Manager Mr Chia Ngiang Hong who received the REDAS Lifetime Achievement Award for his significant dedication and contributions to Singapore's real estate industry. It is the highest honour that REDAS bestows on its members.*

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Since the founding of REDAS (Real Estate Developers' Association of Singapore) in 1959, illustrious business leaders have come forward to serve on its Management Committee, such as CDL Group General Manager Mr Chia Ngiang Hong. He is an exemplary business leader who has demonstrated leadership and contributed his invaluable time and experience Singapore's property industry. He also continues to contribute tirelessly to the betterment of the community at large.

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When asked how he 'survived' at CDL, true to his humble and modest self, Mr Chia simply said in his speech, "One of the most rare and unique privileges has been working with three generations of the Kwek family. From the visionary founder, the late Kwek Hong Png, to our current leaders, Executive Chairman Mr Kwek Leng Beng (who is also a REDAS Patron) and our Group CEO, Mr Sherman Kwek, their passion for real estate and their entrepreneurial spirit have inspired and shaped my career. For this, I am immensely grateful for their years of support."

"In fact, I must thank Mr Kwek Leng Beng for roping me into REDAS. I first got involved with REDAS in the mid-1980s during the Pan-El crisis, when the Property Market Consultative Committee was formed under the auspice of the Ministry of Finance. Mr Kwek asked me to assist in one of the sub-committees. I later alternated with my late Deputy Chairman Mr Kwek Leng Joo on REDAS Council and have been actively engaged for over 30 years," he added.



*Mr Chia received his award at REDAS's 65th anniversary celebrations that saw more than 500 members, friends, and industry partners attend the annual gala dinner on 15 November at Marina Bay Sands.*



*congratulations / appointments*

A much-respected industry veteran, Mr Chia has been with CDL since 1981. He is also the Immediate Past President of REDAS and has served on its Management Committee for 36 years (since 1989) and an Exco Member for 34 years. He also served as REDAS President for two terms (2019-2020 and 2021-2022). He holds a Bachelor of Science in Estate Management (Honours) from the University of Singapore and a Master of Business Administration (Distinction) from the University of Hull, UK.

### **An active industry captain**

With over 40 years of experience in the built environment and related industries in Singapore and the region, Mr Chia brings passion and motivation to every engagement. He was formerly Advisory Committee Chairman of the NUS School of Design and Environment, Honorary Advisor and Past President of the Singapore Green Building Council, and former Council Member of the Singapore Business Federation, the Apex Business Chamber of Singapore.

He is currently a Board Member of the Institute of Real Estate and Urban Studies at the National University of Singapore and a Fellow of the Institute of Surveyors and Valuers. He is also Co-chair of Security ITM Tripartite Committee and sits on various committees of the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and other agencies.



*A young Mr Chia (right) pictured in a gathering with the late Ng Teng Fong of Far East Organisation (left) and Mr Teo Hong Tee of former real estate agency, Eastern Way Realty in 1995.*



*Mr Chia credits his success to the support of the Kwek family, including Hong Leong Group Executive Chairman Mr Kwek Leng Beng who is also a REDAS Patron. Mr Kwek was the first recipient of the REDAS Lifetime Achievement Award when it was introduced in 2014 (above). He is pictured here with then-Education Minister Heng Swee Keat (now Deputy Prime Minister) and then-REDAS President Mr Chia Boon Kuah (right).*



*A long-term Exco-Member with REDAS, Mr Chia is a regular face at meetings and discussions to better the housing needs of Singapore and other neighbouring countries. He is pictured above far right in glasses with the late Kwek Leng Joo (centre), CDL Deputy Chairman. The late Kwek had served on the REDAS Management Committee for 14 years (1981-1994) and was REDAS President in 1989 to 1990.*





*congratulations / appointments*

### **An inspiring community leader**

An inspiring community leader, Mr Chia continues to give back to society. He is a Committee Member of the Grassroots Mentor Committee and serves as Chairman of the Home Detention Advisory Committee under the Ministry of Home Affairs. He has also served at the Bedok Citizens' Consultative Committee for over 20 years.

On the charity front, Mr Chia never fails to volunteer his time at Hong Leong Foundation's annual charity events, and is a Patron of CDL's staff volunteer platform, City Sunshine Club which he helped to establish in 2000.



*Mr Chia sharing a laugh with Hong Leong Group senior executives during a visit to Tai Pei Old People's Home as part of Hong Leong Foundation's annual charity event in 2013. Pictured with him are (L-R) CDL Group COO Mr Kwek Eik Sheng, Hong Realty General Manager Ms Michelle Kwek, and CDL Group CEO Mr Sherman Kwek.*



*Mr Chia helping Mrs Cecilia Kwek (in red) and her daughters-in-law Charmaine and Melanie give out mandarin oranges and red packets to elderly beneficiaries from Henderson Home at City Sunshine Club's (CSC) annual Chinese New Year celebrations in 2023. He is a patron of CSC, CDL's staff volunteer platform. Pictured with him is CSC President Ms Foo Chui Mui (far left).*

He is also the Chairman of the Arc Children's Centre, a charity centre dedicated to enriching the lives of young children with cancer and other serious illnesses, as well as a member of the 2023 President's Challenge Social Enterprise Award Committee.

During his tenure as President of REDAS, Mr Chia initiated and implemented many important collaborative industry projects, contributing and strengthening the growth of the Association as a key stakeholder in the real estate & built environment industry. CSR programmes like KidSTART, ComLink, and the REDAS Solidarity Project Fund, which provided support to migrant workers and healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, reinforced REDAS' long-standing commitment to corporate social responsibility.



*As part of the celebratory activities of REDAS's 60th year, a Bicentennial Event in 2019 was launched that included a cycling activity to symbolise Singapore's urban progress. He is pictured above with then-National Development Minister Lawrence Wong next to him (now Singapore Prime Minister) as they peddle hard for further growth and urban transformation.*



*congratulations / appointments*

Mr Chia is also active in other spheres of public service. He had served as a Justice of the Peace and was awarded three National Day Awards, as well as the NTUC May Day Meritorious Service Award.

Mr Chia's accomplishments and perseverance are indeed an inspiration to everyone. In many ways exceeding the challenging requirements and expectations for the award, his stellar contributions and accomplishments make him highly deserving of the honour bestowed by the REDAS Lifetime Achievement Award.



*At the investiture of the 2013 National Day Awards with then-Singapore President Tony Tan, where he was recognised for his work in public service.*



*During the pandemic in 2020, Mr Chia spearheaded the REDAS Solidarity Project Fund to raise funds and distributed 200,000 care packs to healthcare and migrant construction workers.*



*Mr Chia is also a strong supporter of Arc Children's Centre, a daycare facility devoted to nurturing children fighting cancer and other major childhood illnesses.*



*Mr Chia and his wife Mrs Chia (in purple dress) take a pose with senior executives and staff of CDL and Hong Leong Group.*