



Founders Of Kids Daycare Centre Jointly Win Singaporean Of The Year Award

**M Social
Suzhou Runs
Half Marathon
At Jinji Lake**

**JW Marriott
Hong Kong
Celebrates 35
Years Of
Excellence**

**Glow In
The Dark,
Find Your
Inner Artist
At Millennium
Rotorua**

**Football Stars
And Miss USA
Spotted
At The
Biltmore Los
Angeles**



live



Grand Millennium Auckland Unveils Enchanting Ballroom Makeover

Grand Millennium Auckland's transformed ballroom features a custom-designed lighting sculpture on the entire ceiling and an 11.5-metre-long LED wall as part of the hotel's NZ\$30 million makeover.

Grand Millennium Auckland has unveiled its ballroom transformation following an extensive NZ\$30 million makeover that features a custom-designed lighting sculpture, a 11.5-metre-long LED wall and updated interiors.

Adorning the entire ballroom ceiling, The Sky Garden lighting sculpture handcrafted by James Russ Studio features over a million meticulously hand-assembled LED lights. The Grand Ballroom is one of the largest ballrooms in Auckland, catering to a 1,000-pax cocktail function, 800 delegates for a theatre style conference or a 550-pax banquet.

The 830sqm space can be separated into four sections for smaller events that are all accessible via the pre-function area with views of Auckland city.

“We’re ecstatic to showcase what is arguably one of Auckland’s best ballrooms for captivating conferencing, weddings, and gala events,” said Grand Millennium Auckland general manager James Billing.

“The new design is even better than we had envisaged thanks to our refurbishment partners, James Russ Studio and Material Creative who have brought to life our vision, elevating the elegance and grandeur that has always been here.”

To celebrate the new-look ballroom, Grand Millennium Auckland is offering complimentary usage of the LED wall for gala dinners with more than 300 people booked and held in 2024.



CDL Gives The Gift Of "Symphony" Of Art

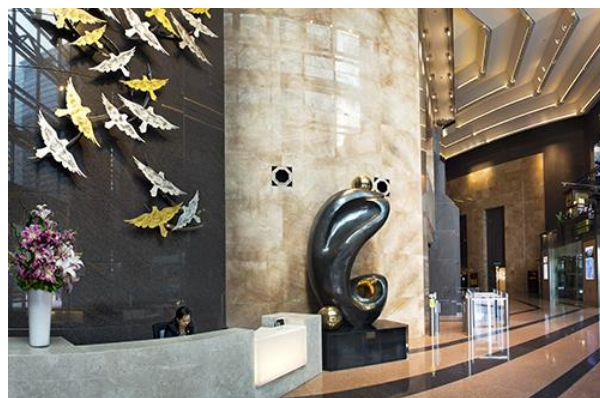
A donation to Land Transport Authority's Gift of Art programme

Sculpted in bronze, Symphony sculpture created by renowned Spanish artist Rosa Serra, has found its new home at Raffles Place MRT Station in the heart of Singapore's CBD.

Commuters at Raffles Place Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Station are now greeted by Symphony sculpture, created by renowned Spanish artist Rosa Serra to reflect Singapore's transformation in the city's Central Business District (CBD).

The sculpture was donated by CDL earlier this year under the Gift of Art programme by the Land Transport Authority (LTA). The programme allows organisations and individuals to donate or sponsor works of art, which can be commissioned by donors, for display to bring vibrancy to the public areas of MRT stations and be enjoyed by millions of commuters.

Symphony was originally commissioned by CDL for its flagship 280-metre tall skyscraper, Republic Plaza, which opened in 1998 in the heart of Raffles Place, Singapore's earliest commercial precinct and CBD.



Symphony was originally commissioned by CDL for its flagship building, Republic Plaza, which opened in 1998. Pictured above was its original location before the building's extensive renovation during 2018-2019.

It has now found its new home at the entrance of Raffles Place MRT station, one of the first stations on LTA's vast MRT network that has contributed to the city's development into the bustling metropolis it is today.

Sculpted in bronze, Symphony captures her signature fluid forms to express motion. The centrepiece, shaped to resemble a person in movement, is an ovation to the people who have helped develop Singapore into a global city of distinction. The golden sphere on the base celebrates Singapore's past achievements, while the one above symbolises the country's ambition to attain even greater heights.



A Case Study On How Hong Leong Finance Helps To Shield Elderly From Scams

The Anti-Scam Centre (ASC) was set up by the Singapore Police Force (SPF) in 2019 to investigate scam-related crimes. (Photo credit: SPF)

An elderly man was targeted in three scam attempts over two months (February and March 2024), and would have lost a total of \$3.7 million if not for the swift intervention of the police and finance institutions including Hong Leong Finance.

According to a police statement, the victim was repeatedly victimised in February and March, but the Anti-Scam Centre (ASC), Hong Leong Finance (HLF) and CIMB Bank helped to reduce his losses and shield him from further harm.

Several transactions in the victim's bank account totalling \$2.1 million were detected by CIMB's fraud management team in February, prompting ASC and CIMB officers to visit him at his home. CIMB also suspended his bank account to prevent further losses. Subsequently, S\$1.3 million was recovered, but S\$800,000 was lost to scammers and sent overseas before a police report was filed.

Later, ASC was alerted that three cheques amounting to S\$1.2 million were issued by Hong Leong Finance under the victim's instruction to three individuals. With HLF's help, the cheques were immediately halted.

In the third case, ASC was alerted by the victim's son that an unknown man had accompanied the victim to a CIMB Branch to purchase a cashier's order of S\$1.2 million.

ASC officers and police officers quickly intervened and arrested a 20-year-old man for his suspected involvement in a government official impersonation scam case.



live



M Social Phuket Takes AI Leap To Enhance Guest Experience

M Social Phuket has upgraded its guest experience by integrating Aiello's Voice artificial intelligence (AI) technology, AVA, into its operations.

M Social Phuket has taken a bold step into the future by incorporating Aiello's Voice AI technology, redefining what it means to deliver exceptional service in Thailand's fiercely competitive hotel industry.

Guests arriving at M Social Phuket are immediately introduced to an extraordinary level of personalised service, thanks to the Aiello Voice Assistant (AVA), an AI-powered concierge designed to meet their every need with precision and grace.

Accommodating multiple languages including Japanese, English, Chinese and Thai, AVA caters to the diverse needs of international guests. Its integration into the hotel's framework marks a significant milestone in the evolution of guest services, offering an array of services from managing room service requests to answering the most commonly asked questions.

AVA also empowers guests to take control of their environment, adjusting IoT-enabled devices such as lighting, air conditioning, and smart TVs with simple voice commands. This seamless interaction enhances the guest experience and highlights the hotel's commitment to leveraging cutting-edge technology for comfort and convenience.

Integrating AVA into the hotel's operations also has immense benefits. Routine tasks are automated, communication between staff and guests is streamlined, and personal preferences are meticulously recorded, all contributing to an unmatched level of efficiency and satisfaction.

Mr. Pjey Mayandi, General Manager of M Social Phuket, said, "Housekeeping requests are now promptly answered, restaurant reservations are seamlessly managed, and guest preferences are effortlessly recorded – all thanks to AVA's cutting-edge AI technology."

"Our partnership with Aiello has been transformative, not just in how we interact with our guests but in reinforcing our position as a leader in the realm of hospitality innovation. Our commitment to using technology to forge unforgettable guest experiences is unwavering, and Aiello Voice Assistant has been instrumental in our pursuit of this mission," he added



M Hotel Celebrates Diversity And Community With Interfaith Dialogue

To celebrate Ramadan (observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting), M Hotel recently hosted an interfaith dialogue that saw various religious leaders and participants from different faiths come together to share experiences and foster empathy for diverse groups.

M Hotel Singapore recently collaborated with Quan Zhen Cultural Society and the Centre for Interfaith Understanding (CIFU), to host an interfaith dialogue titled "M-Iftar: Ramadan with Muhibbah and Mahabbah".

M-Iftar aimed to bridge communities across various faiths and ethnicities, focusing on the underserved and vulnerable groups in Singapore. Participants were invited to engage in dialogues, sharing their lived experiences and fostering empathy among attendees. These interactions were designed to cultivate a deeper understanding of the daily challenges faced by marginalised groups.

More than 100 attendees participated, including representatives from organisations such as SG Care serving migrant workers, and Allkin Family Service Centre that works with low-income families.



General Manager of M Hotel Singapore Ms Edeline Tiong said diversity is a cornerstone of M Hotel's identity and takes pride in providing a safe and inclusive space for everyone.



Director of Programmes and Development of Dialogue Centre, Ms Norhayati Mohammad Ali shared the importance of embracing diversity with mutual respect.



live

A panel discussion featuring esteemed representatives from diverse faith traditions followed the dialogue session with representatives Master Chung Kwang Tong from Quan Zhen Cultural Society, Suzie Wong from Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Singapore, Shukul Raaj Kumar from Hindu Youth Network, Phra Goh Chun Kiang from Palelai Buddhist Temple, and Yoni Garbourg from the United Hebrew Congregation sharing insights into the significance of fasting within their respective faiths.

The event concluded with a communal meal and the breaking of fast at The Buffet Restaurant in M Hotel, with a focus on its signature halal hotpot. Participants embraced the spirit of unity and harmony as they shared in the joyous tradition of breaking fast together.





Bots Run The Last Mile For Delivery At The South Beach

Minister of State for Trade and Industry & Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Minister Low Yen Ling (5th from right) was recently at South Beach to witness a demonstration of how QuikBot's delivery robots could efficiently handle the final mile delivery to the office tenants of South Beach Tower. Accompanying him were Mr. Seah Moon Ming, Chairman of SMRT Corporation (4th from right); Mr. Abu Bakar Mohd Nor, SMRT Board Director (3rd from left); Mr. Ngien Hoon Ping, Group CEO of SMRT Corporation (3rd from right); Mr. Tony Heng, President of Stellar Lifestyle (1st from right); and Ms Samantha Tan, General Manager of South Beach Consortium (6th from right).

Workers in South Beach's office tower can now get purchases such as ready-to-eat meals, drinks and snacks from a nearby 7-Eleven store delivered directly to them by a robot.

The fleet of seven robots by home-grown start-up QuikBot Technologies can navigate the maze of lifts, walkways and office gantries autonomously, and even hand items over to one another along the way. Orders are placed through the QuikBot app.

South Beach Consortium Pte Ltd has been collaborating with the home-grown start-up QuikBot Technologies for over a year to pilot and test a fleet of robots capable of navigating lifts, walkways and office turnstiles autonomously. This initiative spans from the 7-Eleven Shop in the Esplanade SMRT Station to the designated office floors of South Beach Tower.

The goal is to leverage on Artificial Intelligence technology to address issues such as the manpower crunch and to reduce operational costs and logistics challenges.

During the Proof of Concept time frame, South Beach Tower's office workers will be briefed in phases on the use of QuikBot app to order items. The proof of concept will run for approximately 6 months, after which the process will be reviewed and enhanced.

If successful, the last mile delivery will be rolled out within the vicinity to Suntec City.



Building Stakeholder Confidence At Annual General Meetings

Pictured here was CDL's AGM in May 2023 that saw a good turnout of keen shareholders.

The past year 2023 was fraught with concerns over global geopolitical risks and higher interest and inflation rates, rapid digitalisation, and a growing emphasis on sustainability. As the season for annual general meetings (AGMs) approaches, multinational assurance, tax and audit company Ernst & Young (EY) urges companies to leverage AGMs and demonstrate their ability to navigate a complex environment strategically. This article is adapted from The Business Times, 21 March 2024.

ESG risks

Sustainability is a key focus for consumers, investors, governments and enterprises. Companies are expected to embed environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors into their business decisions and communicate their corporate sustainability narratives.

In Singapore, climate reporting has been mandatory for listed companies since year 2022, where issuers must include climate disclosures in their Sustainability Reports on a "comply or explain" basis.

Boards can tap the AGM to articulate their strategies for sustainable value creation, highlighting how the business is run sustainably, their plans to tackle material ESG risks, and how embracing the ESG agenda doesn't just fulfil regulatory requirements, but also gives the company a competitive edge.

Generative AI strategy

Companies must grapple with the megatrend of digitalisation, especially the rapid development of generative artificial intelligence (AI), which looks set to be a transformative force in the business landscape.

Boards can share more about the company's generative AI strategy, including its impact on business processes, industry landscape and competitive environment. If the business plans to deploy generative AI, it is crucial to explain the potential return on investments, as well as how and when the investments can be expected to be monetised.

Boards also need to take into account the ethical and legal implications, as well as how AI-related risks, including data privacy, security and regulatory compliance, are being managed.



The 2023 Annual Reports for CDL (left) and CDL Hospitality Trusts.



The 2023 Annual Reports for Hong Leong Asia (left) and Hong Leong Finance.

Take a cyber-defence approach

With the escalating frequency and severity of cyberattacks, the cyber-resilience of companies has become a major concern. Protecting a company's digital infrastructure is no longer just the IT department's responsibility, but a firm-wide, board-level challenge.



work

Investors are increasingly considering a company's cybersecurity risk profile before making investment decisions. The AGM is an opportune platform for boards to present their cyber-defence strategy and highlight features of their cybersecurity risk management framework.

In summary

Boards must be mindful that they do not reveal sensitive information while strategically sharing their accomplishments and plans. A prudent approach would involve crafting a high-level narrative that outlines the company's overarching goals, broad-stroke plans and key performance indicators without divulging proprietary insights or methodologies.

By sharing information in this manner, companies can achieve a balance between transparency and safeguarding of trade secrets, thereby preserving their competitive edge.

Article by EY Head of Assurance Mr Christopher Wong.



Hong Leong Asia Positions For Growth With Engine Mix Diversification

Hong Leong Asia (HLA) threw an extravaganza at M Hotel for all its employees, management and directors to celebrate the company's 60th anniversary last year. HLA was incorporated in Singapore on 30 August 1963, and listed on the mainboard of the Singapore Exchange since 1998.

In an analyst briefing (Feb 29), Hong Leong Asia (HLA) Chief Executive Officer Mr Stephen Ho said the company is positioning for growth by looking beyond trucking and catering to other engine sectors,

The strategic shift comes amid weaker demand in China for its powertrain solutions unit, China Yuchai International, a subsidiary which primarily sells engines in the Chinese market.

"You see some recovery, but it's a slow recovery because business confidence is not there. Generally, people don't want to expand on capex when they don't have full confidence, when they're still grappling with all kinds of issues with the economy," said Mr Ho.

To counter the weaker demand, Chief Investment Officer Mr Patrick Yau said that the company has been able to diversify its product mix to serve other markets. He noted that demand is growing for engines for off-road usage, such as tractors used in the agricultural sector, as well as other marine and power generation use cases. Such engines make up slightly more than half of the sales volume, up from a third five years ago.

HLA posted a 44.7% increase in net profit to S\$55.8 million on a 12.4% rise in revenue to S\$2 billion in the second half of 2023. Its powertrain solutions segment's revenue climbed 12.5% to S\$1.6 billion, although profit after tax for the segment fell 23.4% to S\$28.4 million.



Yuchai CynLand (Jiangsu) Hyentech is a R&D centre in Wuxi for fuel cell development. It will develop and assemble fuel cell systems and powertrains for New Energy mobility applications for long-haul medium and heavy commercial vehicles.



work

When asked if the company would consider disposing of its powertrain solutions segment as vehicle makers in China become more vertically-integrated, Mr Ho said that he would not rule out the possibility. As companies become more vertically-integrated, the company's products need to be more price-competitive than those of in-house engine producers.

Meanwhile, HLA's building materials segment posted a 166.6% increase in profit after tax to S\$45.2 million, as revenue climbed 13.5% to S\$344.3 million.

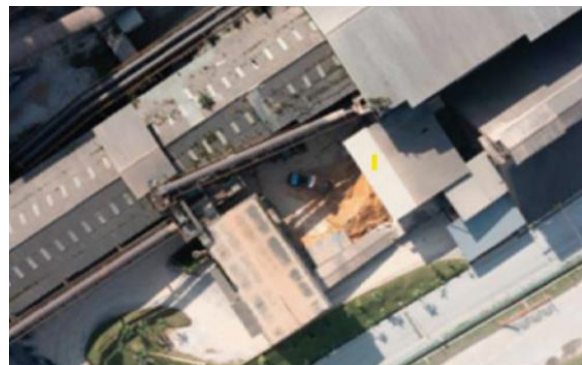
Mr Ho attributed this to a turnaround in Tasek, the company's integrated cement plant and ready-mix concrete producer in Malaysia, which made a loss in FY22.

"The prices we see in Malaysia now reflect a bit more closely the higher costs of operations. I think we are at a level where profitability starts to kick in for everyone. That's not a bad place to be," he said.

With Hong Leong Asia being the largest precaster in Singapore, he is also confident that the company's order book will remain strong, given growing demand from the Housing and Development Board (HDB). He explained that the requirement for half of castings for HDB units to be done locally would benefit the company as it ramps up production at its Integrated Construction and Prefabrication Hub in Punggol Barat Lane.



Island Concrete commenced operations at its at Jurong Port's Ready-Mixed Concrete (RMC) Port-Centric Ecosystem. It is Singapore's largest concrete batching facility at the multi-purpose port that improves environmental sustainability and operational productivity by integrating raw materials like cement and aggregates to reduce number of truck trips required.



Tasek established the ReGEN Sustainable Solutions Sdn Bhd, a wholly owned subsidiary, to drive circular solutions through specialised sustainable waste management services for industrial customers. In turn, it provides Tasek with alternative raw materials and fuels.



work



CDLHT's The Castings BTR Project Opens For Launch In Manchester

Move-in dates starting June 2024.

Located just behind Manchester Piccadilly train station, The Castings lifestyle development is located within the city's most exciting new neighbourhood, Piccadilly East, which was named in the Sunday Times coveted lists of best places to live. Pictured here is the reception area.

CDL Hospitality Trusts (CDLHT) has announced the launch of The Castings Build-to-Rent (BTR) development in Manchester's Piccadilly East.

The new lifestyle-led development includes 352 studios, one-, two- and three-bedroom Build to Rent apartments. Amenities include a new yoga room and gym, a games room, private dining spaces, a work hub, co-working space and a rooftop terrace.

At ground floor level there are three retail and F&B units ranging from 400 sq ft to 3,000 sq ft, which will soon further provide amenities for residents and those in the surrounding area.



Each studio, 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom apartment is designed to give residents the room to shape a life they love. Rents start from £1150 pcm (or per calendar month). Pictured above are the kitchen and living areas of a 2-bedroom apartment.



work

Located just behind Manchester Piccadilly train station, The Castings is anchored within the city's most exciting new neighbourhood, Piccadilly East, which was named in the Sunday Times coveted lists of best places to live and sits conveniently adjacent to Ancoats, New Islington and the Northern Quarter.

Piccadilly East is already home to some of Manchester's most sought-after venues including the highly anticipated Co-Op Live, the Diecast food, drink and live entertainment venue, Ducie Street Warehouse & Blok gym, alongside a host of Manchester-based breweries including Cloudwater, Track and Manchester Union.



Amenities at The Castings include the yoga room (left photo) and social room (right photo) to take your social life to the next level.

Monthly rental prices for the scheme start from £1,150 for a studio, £1,250 for a one-bedroom, £1,525 for a two-bedroom and £2,175 for a three-bedroom apartment.

Viewings of the show apartments will be ready to book soon, with the first residents viewing the apartments from this month. The scheme will open its doors to residents in May 2024, with move-in dates from June 2024.



CDLHT To Benefit From Singapore's Tourism Recovery, Says RHB

According to its full year 2023 financial results, CDLHT reported that W Singapore – Sentosa Cove was among the five hotels that achieved record full year RevPAR. Pictured is the hotel ballroom, the Great Room that has capacity of 540.

According to analysts from RHB Bank, a multinational regional financial services provider headquartered in Malaysia, CDL Hospitality Trusts (CDLHT) is in a prime position to benefit from Singapore's tourism recovery.

After the local Government implemented visa exemption for Chinese tourists, inbound travellers increased significantly, increasing the number of Chinese tourists in Singapore by 50% year-on-year to 1.44 million in February, setting a new monthly high after the pandemic. Taylor Swift's concert will continue to boost visitor numbers in March and from other large-scale events this year.

It is expected that the number of tourists this year will reach 16 million to 18 million, equivalent to 85% to 95% of the number before the pandemic, exceeding the expectations of the Singapore Tourism Board. The increase in visitor numbers will benefit the trust's seven local hotels, which accounted for 62% of the trust's net property income in the financial year 2023.

In addition, the trust's overseas investment portfolio is also expected to continue its moderate recovery. Japan, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Italy will become major overseas growth markets.

As of the end of last year, the trust's leverage ratio was 36.7%, a decrease of 1.2 percentage points from June last year. Interest costs increased by 0.7 percentage points to 4.2%.



meals & deals



Glow In The Dark, Find Your Inner Artist At Millennium Rotorua

Who knew you could have so much fun in the dark? Book your tickets now to New Zealand's newest night out at Millennium Rotorua.

Everyone is an artist at heart. Prepare to experience Paintvine like you've never experienced before – in the dark!

Paintvine After Dark is New Zealand's first glow-in-the-dark social painting class with step-by-step instructions on how to create your very own masterpiece in a fun and relaxed bar setting.

Book your tickets now for the next party happening at Millennium Rotorua on April 18.

Grab a drink in one hand, a brush in the other and get your creative juices flowing and your brush strokes going with ultra-violet lights, glow in the dark paint and nothing but laughs all night long!

Drinks: No drinks are included in the ticket price, but drinks are available for purchase.

Food: A delicious menu will be available to purchase throughout the event.



Launched in 2017, Paintvine is loved by thousands of Kiwis across New Zealand.

** Information correct at time of print.*



meals & deals



Celebrate
Ramadan
And Break
Fast At
Millennium
Sirih Jakarta

Experience the essence of Ramadhan at Millennium Hotel Sirih Jakarta, where cherished traditions blend with contemporary elegance to offer you an unforgettable Iftar experience.

As the sacred month unfolds, join us at Cafe Sirih for a delightful array of culinary delights carefully crafted by our skilled chefs. Indulge in our exquisite Ramadhan Iftar buffet, priced at IDR 206,000++ per person.

Delight your palate with a tantalizing selection of Asian specialties, ranging from the refreshing Thai Beef Salad to the aromatic Soto Mie Bogor and Soto Bandung. Savor the rich flavors of Beef Rib Soup, Roti Jala Chicken Curry, Rawon, XO Fried Rice, and more, meticulously prepared to tantalize your taste buds.

For an extra touch of excitement, participate in our Ramadan Iftar photo contest. Simply follow, post, and tag @millenniumhotelsirihjakarta on Instagram for a chance to win a luxurious 3-day, 2-night stay at Copthorne King's Hotel in Singapore!

For reservations and information, please contact (+6221) 230 3636 Ext. 1715 (Cafe Sirih) or via the official WhatsApp Cafe Sirih, Millennium Hotel Sirih Jakarta at +62 852 1008 1086.

** Information correct at time of print.*



meals & deals



Dim Sum Delights At The St. Regis Singapore's Yan Ting

For an exquisite Cantonese fine dining experience, dine in style at this sophisticated and contemporary restaurant.

Yan Ting's Dim Sum Set Menu consists of mouth-watering treats such as Steamed Crystal Shrimp Dumpling with Foie Gras, Steamed Pork and Shrimp Dumpling with Black Truffle and Barbecued Combination Platter.

On the weekends, expect a delicious spread of dim sum favourites like Steamed Barbecued Pork Buns and Deep-Fried Yam with Minced Chicken, classic Cantonese dishes like Traditional Braised Pig Trotter with Egg and Black Vinegar, and also a dazzling variety of meat, seafood, soups, vegetables and rice and noodle dishes at their weekend buffet dim sum brunch.

For reservations, please contact The St. Regis Singapore
at <https://marriottbonvoyasia.com/restaurants-bars/the-st-regis-singapore-yan-ting>

** Information correct at time of print.*



meals & deals



Copthorne King's Takes Sustainable Leap With New Dining Offerings

Pair a glass of wine from sustainable vineyard De Bortoli DB Family Selections with the Impossible Burger that does not compromise on taste, at the Connections Lounge in Copthorne King's Hotel.

Copthorne King's Hotel has introduced new eco-friendly dining options at its Connections Lounge, with the introduction of the Impossible Meat Burger and a selection of wines from De Bortoli DB Family Selections, an environmentally responsible vineyard in Australia.

The Impossible Meat Burger is made from plant-based ingredients that offers a delicious and guilt-free alternative to traditional beef burgers, catering to environmentally conscious diners without compromising on taste.

Guests can now enjoy a guilt-free dining experience at Connections Lounge with the Sustainable Wine from De Bortoli DB Family Selections paired perfectly with the Impossible Meat Burger.

Priced at just \$28++, this sustainable pairing allows customers to indulge in a delicious meal while supporting environmentally friendly practices.

For information and reservations, please

visit <https://www.millenniumhotels.com/en/singapore/copthorne-kings-hotel/connections-lounge/>

** Information correct at time of print.*

Hi
Life!

meals & deals



Calling All
Beer Drinkers!
Chug Up For
Only S\$10++
At M Social
Singapore

Happy hour just got better at M Social Singapore!

We all need a HUG.....and that calls for a pint of draft beer! Join us for Happy Hour every day from 4 to 7pm at Beast & Butterflies!

Because we know you work hard and deserve a little treat, enjoy a full pint of Tiger Beer for just \$10++ or a full pint of Heineken Beer for \$11++!

Cheers to beer happiness every day!

For reservations, please visit <https://www.tablecheck.com/en/mcil-m-social-beast-butterflies/reserve/landing>.

** Information correct at time of print.*



M Social Suzhou Runs Half Marathon At Jinji Lake

More than 30,000 joggers ran the 13th Suzhou Jinji Lake Half Marathon that kicked off at Suzhou Industrial Park on 10 March 2024.

To celebrate the 13th Jinji Lake Half Marathon in Suzhou, M Social Suzhou launched a series of thoughtful services and special offers aimed at providing participants with the best experience while promoting and advocating for a healthy, vibrant lifestyle.

From sumptuous breakfasts at the hotel's Beast & Butterflies restaurant to late check-outs, from discounted rooms to outdoor lifestyle promotion, the hotel's entire staff warmly welcomes this event with enthusiasm and hospitality.

The Jinji Lake Half Marathon in Suzhou has become a sports and fitness carnival for local and international running lovers. This year's event included a half marathon, short-distance health run, and a parent-child mini fun run.

Over the years, the event has attracted more than 300,000 marathoners and long-distance runners from all over the world. The average age of participants is 33, with the youngest being 4 and the oldest 84. This year, 30,000 running enthusiasts from home and abroad joined the competition.



Football Stars And Miss USA Spotted At The Biltmore Los Angeles

Goalkeeper and captain of national team Costa Rica, Keylor Navas (in dark glasses) stayed at The Biltmore Los Angeles during an international friendly football match at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. He is pictured here with Mr Juan Vila, President of AGM Sports.

Team Costa Rica, captained by goalkeeper Keylor Navas, played Argentina in an international friendly football match at the Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles on 26 March 2024. Millennium Hotels and Resorts hosted the team's stay at The Biltmore Los Angeles Hotel.

Keylor Navas, multi-title winner with Real Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain Football Club (PSG), is often rated by several pundits as one of the best goalkeepers in the world and considered by some in the sport as the best in the history of CONCACAF.

He was awarded CONCACAF (Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football) Men's Goalkeeper of the Year for three consecutive years between 2016 and 2018. He was also named the best male CONCACAF Player of the Decade.



An Eggs'cellent
Time At
Cophorne
Merry-Hill
Dudley

Cophorne Merry-Hill Dudley welcomes Easter Bunny!

Easter Bunny made a special appearance at Cophorne Merry-Hill Dudley during the Easter weekend and played Easter Egg Hunt with family and friends with a delicious dinner at the hotel's Faradays Bar & Restaurant created by Head Chef Rob Hawdon.

Egg Hunters were given a clue sheet which led to an egg with a word attached to it. Simply put all the words together to make the sentence 'Happy Easter from the Cophorne Hotel Dudley' and say this phrase to our reception team to solve the puzzle and be rewarded with a chocolate egg treat!

The Easter Bunny (who was a very busy bunny!) also met younger guests at breakfast and handed out chocolate treats with an extra appearance for an Easter Sunday Christening party held in the restaurant. It was a fantastic effort put in by all staff making for a very enjoyable experience for our guests!



Big thanks to F&B assistants Ross Parkes, Isobel Tyler and Becky Derby who helped Easter Bunny with the Easter decorations at Faradays Bar & Restaurant (left photo) and chocolate treats during the joyous Easter weekend.



play



Millennium Xiamen Carves A Niche Of Excellence At Xiamen International Stone Fair 2024

Millennium Harbourview Hotel Xiamen has once again proven its high catering standards and professionalism for international events such as the 2024 Xiamen International Stone Fair. In the foreground on the right is General Manager Mr Simon Jim.

As the long-term official partner of Xiamen International Stone Fair, Millennium Harbourview Hotel Xiamen once again displayed its catering excellence as the designated caterer for the event on 16-19 March 2024.

An international trade show specialising in the field of stones and stone processing, the Xiamen International Stone Fair has grown to become one of the leading events in the industry since its establishment in 2001.

Held at the 191,000 square metres Xiamen International Convention and Exhibition Centre, the 2024 event welcomed over 2,000 domestic and overseas exhibitors such as quarry owners, manufacturers and exporters. International companies and participants include those from from Italy, Turkey, Brazil, Egypt, Portugal, Iran, Pakistan, Vietnam, Greece, India and more.



Giving the thumbs up as the culinary team serve hungry participants at the hotel's Millennium Delicatessen counter.

The hotel was also selected as the designated five-star hotel to serve the welcome dinner party and cocktail reception on 16 March that saw more than 600 attendees exchange ideas and share knowledge on trends and innovations in the global stone industry.

With the successful completion of the event, Millennium Harbourview Hotel Xiamen has once again proven its high catering standards and professionalism in providing external catering for large-scale international events in Xiamen.



Hong Leong Foundation Helps Benefit Patients With Kidney Failure

Hong-Leong NKF Dialysis Centre completes retrofit with the Foundation's S\$2 million donation.

The feature wall in the newly retrofitted Hong Leong-NKF Dialysis Centre proudly displays a myriad of photos that represent Hong Leong Group's main operating companies: CDL, Hong Leong Holdings, CDL Hospitality Trusts, Hong Leong Finance and Hong Leong Asia.

One of Hong Leong Foundation's main pillars is to serve the community, helping the elderly and underprivileged lead fulfilling, healthy and active lives through donations and volunteerism. The Foundation is the philanthropy arm of the Hong Leong Group of companies in Singapore.

In memory of the Group's late founder, Kwek Hong Png, the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) received S\$1.5 million in 1997 to build a dialysis centre at Block 102 Aljunied Crescent.

In August 1998, the Hong Leong-NKF Dialysis Centre was officially opened with then-Minister for Health and Environment, Mr Yeo Cheow Tong. At that time, the centre was equipped with 18 dialysis stations to serve up to 108 patients, many lives have been saved over the years.

To better serve the evolving needs of patients who are getting older and weaker, and to cater for the increasing demand for dialysis in the eastern region, the Foundation contributed an additional S\$2 million in 2023 towards the upgrading and retrofitting of the nearly 26-year-old dialysis centre.

The refurbished centre is now equipped with 28 dialysis stations, giving life and hope to 168 kidney failure patients.



First opened in 1998, the refurbished centre features a stainless steel plaque in memory of the late Hong Leong Group founder, Kwek Hong Png, and equipped with 28 dialysis centre for up to 168 kidney failure patients.



Millennium Airport Dubai Keeps An Eye On Health

Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai recently organised a free medical eye checkup for its hotel colleagues, led by the hotel's Human Resources team.

Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai recently partnered with one of the optical shops in Dubai to provide thorough evaluations, ensuring the eyes of the hotel colleagues are as sharp as their service.

This isn't just an eye medical exam; it's a gateway to visual health, a testament to our belief that in the bustling world of hospitality, every detail counts, especially the sharpness of detail perceived by our diligent staff in order to provide an exceptional service to our guests. Every staff member is a visual storyteller, their eyes capturing moments to curate an unforgettable guest experience.

Mr. Simon Moore, General Manager of Millennium Airport Hotel Dubai, said, "Our colleagues health and well-being are our main priorities. Vision is the silent partner in every decision we make. It is the unseen ally in every task we undertake. A team with impeccable vision is a team that can spot opportunities from miles away, navigate the complexities of the market with precision, and read between the lines to extract insights that others may miss. Our commitment to eye care is not just about individual health; it's a strategic investment to ensure our hotel colleagues are fit while working so we can serve our guests to the utmost quality. Having a healthy life is not something we can buy. It is life's greatest blessing; we should take care and make priorities."

The hotel also offered retinoscopy, manual refraction, and a corporate discount of 50% on eyewear, including lenses with anti-glare and computer protections with free delivery.



Giving An Hour For A More Sustainable World And Climate

A look at the contributions of Orchard Hotel, Millennium Sirih Jakarta and The Biltmore Tbilisi.

A video of Orchard Hotel encouraging guests to explore Singapore on bicycles for 60 minutes to celebrate Earth Hour.

Earth Hour is an annual campaign that aims to bring as many people as possible together to switch off lights at 8:30pm worldwide (in their local time) and spend 60 minutes doing something positive for the planet. There are some of the activities at Orchard Hotel in Singapore, Millennium Sirih Jakarta in Indonesia, and The Biltmore Tbilisi in the city of Georgia.

Orchard Hotel, Singapore

Promoting sustainable transportation, Orchard Hotel pedalled towards a greener tomorrow with the launch of its City Bikes, that gives guests an eco-friendly, zero-carbon option to explore the city from its famed shopping district at Orchard Road to the UNESCO Botanic Gardens for 60 minutes.

Simultaneously with 31 other establishments along Orchard Road, the hotel also switched off lights at 8:30pm in support of the World Wide Fund for Nature's Earth Hour Switch Off, which advocates for a climate-resilient planet. Guests were also encouraged to "Switch Off, Turn Up", while public areas such as the restaurants and lobby were lit with candles with water fountains turned off. F&B offers were also available at S\$60 to commemorate the event.

Millennium Sirih Jakarta, Indonesia

Employees and guests at Millennium Sirih Jakarta joined forces to illuminate the hotel lobby with more than 650 candles, showcasing a breathtaking display of the "Millennium Hotels and Resorts" logo with the number 60+.

This awe-inspiring pattern represents the collective commitment to turn off non-essential lights for 60 minutes, symbolising the global change to towards a sustainable future.



Hotel guests and employees joined hands to illuminate the hotel lobby with more than 650 candles, forming an awe-inspiring display of the "Millennium Hotels and Resorts" logo with the number 60+.

The Biltmore Tbilisi, Georgia

The Biltmore Tbilisi Hotel proudly participated in Earth Hour by encouraging guests and businesses to switch off non-essential lights and appliances for one hour, from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. local time.

During Earth Hour, The Biltmore Tbilisi Hotel transformed its ambiance, creating a serene atmosphere illuminated solely by candlelight. This symbolic gesture highlighted the importance of energy conservation and underscored the hotel's ongoing efforts to minimize its ecological footprint."



Joining millions worldwide, hotel guests, staff, and management came together to support the cause by dimming its lights and reducing energy consumption.



voices



Celebrating Women:
Their Success.
Their Strengths.
Their Inspiration.
Their Stories.

Celebrating our women (clockwise starting top left corner): Ms Xu Yan Ni and Ms Kris Li from Guangxi Yuchai Company; Mdm Che Pun Sharudin and Ms Vicky Lee from Tasek Corporation.

With the recent celebration of International Women’s Day on March 8, Hi Life turns the spotlight on women who work physically demanding jobs in factories.

Complicated processes. Myriad of factory components. Under such circumstances, is it possible for women to shine on the production line? Yes! Some moved to corporate roles. Some expanded their roles to help others. Some are on their way to motherhood. Let’s learn more and be inspired by their stories.

Ms Xu Yan Ni, Internal Combustion Engine Specialist/Production Line Team Lead, Manufacturing, Guangxi Yuchai Company

At Yuchai, she is one of fewer than 20 Technical Skills Masters. And the only woman.

“It was tough at the beginning. Working on the production line was physically demanding. Familiarising myself with the complex mechanical processes and engine components was also a daunting challenge. But the more I learnt, the more I began to appreciate the depth and intricacies of what we do,” she recalled.

Today, Yan Ni is keen to impart her knowledge and experience to future technical experts. In 2014, she founded two Innovation Studios for mentoring promising junior employees. One of the studios is the Yuchai Women Workers Innovation Studio that selects outstanding women employees from across specialities and functions for mentorship and training.



Ms Xu Yan Ni (right) sharing her knowledge and experience as she mentors junior female colleagues on the production line.



voices

“Women have unique qualities to contribute, this is only one of the many ways we are encouraging their career development and maximising their potential at Yuchai,” she said.

On advice for women aspiring to work in technical fields: “Having passion is good, but passion alone is not enough. Set clear goals, work hard, seek out good mentors. And importantly, don’t forget to make time to rest and recharge.”

Did you know? *The two Innovation Studios founded by Yan Ni have mentored over 200 employees (both men and women) who have collectively filed 70 patents to date.*

Ms Kris Li, Head of Brand Marketing and Corporate Affairs, Guangxi Yuchai Company

She started in one of Yuchai’s factories as a fresh graduate and only planned to stay a couple of years. “I come from Jilin (which is over 3,000 km away from Guangxi), so thought I would try working at Yuchai for a couple of years before returning to my hometown.”

Twelve years on, Kris moved into the Brand Marketing and Corporate Affairs department when a position opened. She is now its department head and oversees various aspects from brand marketing to social media to digital sales.

What made her stay? “The organisational culture and access to opportunities. As long as you have the ability and are willing to take up the challenge, there’s nothing to stop you,” she said.

On switching from a technical role to a corporate function, she said, “I was considering my future options after three years on the factory floor, so I said ‘yes’ to interviewing for the position when I was approached,” she shared.

One of her proudest achievements includes growing brand awareness in a competitive B2B industry, and the successful conclusion of the recent Yuchai 2024 Partners Conference that saw over 1,800 attendees witness the unveiling of Yuchai products in Yulin, Guangxi.

“Such large-scale events are often planned at least half a year in advance. But our core team of three, all ladies, all born in the ‘90s – pulled it off in less than fifty days. It took multiple all-nighters and immense effort, but the result is something we are all so very proud of.”

Career switch advice: *“There’s no need to be afraid about not knowing everything. The important thing is to be open to asking for advice or clarification, whether it’s from your bosses, colleagues or direct reports.”*



Ms Kris Li (seated 4th from left) celebrates International Women’s Day with her team and other women colleagues.



voices

Mdm Che Pun Sharudin, HR Manager, Tasek Corporation

Having been with Tasek for over 20 years, she has seen the days of snail mail and fax machines. "Of course it was tough to learn at the beginning, but my colleagues were very helpful and willing to teach me," she said.

Since then, she has gone on from being tech-challenged to tech-savvy. She attributes her achievement to the learning opportunities Tasek offers and its close-knit culture.

"We are like a family here. After so many years, I still enjoy my work and look forward to coming to work. As one Tasek family, we respect one another. There's no discrimination between men and women."

Although female employees only make up 9% of the total Tasek workforce, Che Pun said, "When we recruit, it is the qualifications and experience that matter. Whether man or woman, as long as you meet our requirements, you are hired."

Would Che Pun encourage more women to join Tasek? "Of course! From the first day I joined Tasek, I've had so many opportunities to learn and experience new things. There are equal opportunities for career growth and advancement for everyone regardless of gender."

"Even though Tasek's workforce is majority men, there are no boundaries in our working relationships. We can all joke with one another and work well together."

Did you know? Che Pun has even played matchmaker to a pair of colleagues. "One of them was interested in another colleague, so I introduced them. They got along so well that they are now married!"

Vicky Lee, Group Industrial Ecology Manager, Tasek Corporation

A go-getter and one that never shies away from a good challenge, Vicky Lee leads a sustainable resource management business under Tasek Corporation.

"People usually assume that women in the industry only do admin or sales. At first meeting, they tend to ask if they can speak to the boss or someone with more technical knowledge. My response is professional. I show them that I'm well able to discuss all technical issues with them, and they can come directly to me the next time," she said.



Mdm Che Pun Sharudin (2nd from left) praises Tasek for its family-oriented culture and equal opportunities for all employees regardless of race and gender.



voices

Vicky enjoys the family-oriented culture at Tasek. Particularly, she appreciates the trust she gets from the management and the support from her team.

“As long as you are capable, gender doesn’t matter. For example, the new business that my team is spearheading is making good headway. We are on track to expand our team size this year.”

The soon-to-be mother will be adding a baby girl to her family soon. “I will be a first-time mother, so I am naturally a little apprehensive about balancing the demands of caring for a new baby and my work. Fortunately, my husband and family are understanding and ready to help out. They give me the confidence to power through.”

“My boss and team members have been so understanding and supportive throughout my pregnancy. They are always encouraging me to rest, and my team is on hand to take over whenever there’s an emergency. I also take guidance from my other female colleagues who have continued to work happily at Tasek after starting their families. That gives me the confidence that I can do it too,” she said.



Soon-to-be-mother Ms Vicky Lee and her husband are looking forward to being first-time parents.

Did you know? Vicky is also a black belt in karate. “Which is probably why I feel safe travelling alone for work. Sometimes we have to visit secluded sites, but of course, I stay alert and make sure I’m always contactable.”



congratulations / appointments



JW Marriott Hong Kong Celebrates 35 Years Of Excellence

JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong, the first Marriott hotel in Asia-Pacific region, recently celebrated its 35th coral anniversary on 27 February 2024.

JW Marriott Hong Kong recently marked 35 years of service excellence for delivering luxury hospitality to travellers from around the world. Since its opening 35 years ago, the hotel has welcomed more than 8.2 million guests and served over 23.5 million meals. If we formed a line with all the guests, it would be more than 50,000 km or 20% longer than the world circumference!

Over the years, the hotel has remained with its ethos that people are its greatest assets. It was the first hotel establishment to introduce a 5-day work week in the hotel industry of Hong Kong 35 years ago. Today, the 5-star property has 164 staff associates (representing 25% of the total associates) who have been working with the hotel for more than 20 years, in which 14 are Charter Members who have been serving the hotel since the opening in 1989.



Honouring the dedication of the team is Mr KC Gan, Chairman of HL Global Enterprises (front row 3rd from left), Mr David Marriott, Chairman of the Board of Marriott International (on the right of Mr Gan), and Charter Members for areas in Greater China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and Hainan.



General Manager of JW Marriott Hong Kong, Mr GP Yeow delivering his speech to more than 300 guests at the cocktail party in the JW Marriott Ballroom.



congratulations / appointments

A series of celebratory events were hosted and an array of stay and dine rewards were introduced as well.

The celebration journey reached the climax at the cocktail party successfully hosted on 15 March. The hotel was honoured to have the presence of owner representatives, senior executives from Marriott International, business partners and loyal patrons in the event. More than 300 guests gathered at the glamorous JW Marriott Ballroom to congratulate the hotel on this remarkable milestone, while indulging in wondrous live entertainment and delectable delights crafted by the culinary team.



A celebratory party was also held for all staff and associates to mark the hotel's 35th milestone.



congratulations / appointments



Founders Of Kids Daycare Centre Jointly Win Singaporean Of The Year Award

Taking a fun pose with winners and sponsors: (Front row, from left) ST Singaporean of the Year 2023 award finalists Chng Rui Jie and Herman Sing; Ms Young Jin Yee, co-head of UBS Singapore and country head of UBS Singapore; award winners Geraldine Lee and Ronita Paul; President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and his wife, Ms Jane Ittogi; SPH Media Trust chairman Khaw Boon Wan; award finalists Priscilla Ong and Sandy Goh; Mr Clarence Pereira, father of award finalist Shanti Pereira; (back row, from left) Ms Saleemah Ismail, community activist and chief executive of New Life Stories; Mr Chirag Agarwal, co-founder and chief growth officer of Talk Your Heart Out; SPH Media chief executive Teo Lay Lim; ST editor Jaime Ho; editor-in-chief of SPH Media's English/Malay/Tamil Media Group Wong Wei Kong; Mr Gan Seow Ann, executive vice chairman of Global Wealth Management UBS AG; Ms Teo Lay-Sie, UBS regional chief operating officer for Asia-Pacific and chief of staff to Office of the President UBS Asia-Pacific; Mr Siva Govindasamy, divisional vice-president of public affairs, Singapore Airlines; Mr Kwek Eik Sheng, executive director of Millennium Hotels and Resorts; and ST senior producer-presenter Hairianto Diman, at the award ceremony held at UBS Singapore on March 13. (Photo credit: The Straits Times © SPH Media Limited.)

A pair of women who opened a daycare centre for children battling cancer and other critical illnesses were jointly named The Straits Times Singaporean of the Year 2023 at an awards ceremony on 13 March 2024.

Former nurse Ronita Paul, 72, and volunteer coordinator Geraldine Lee, 66, founded Arc Children's Centre in 2011 to offer these children emotional support and give them a chance to enjoy a normal childhood.

The centre was opened after Ms Paul met a 14-year-old boy at Assisi Hospice who was brought in for pain control while his parents worked. He asked why there was no such place catering to children, and Ms Paul promised him that she would open one. He died months later, and she paired up with Ms Lee to keep her word.



Former nurse Ms Ronita Paul (left) said their journey was marked by challenges and joy and expressed her appreciation for the families who had entrusted the care of their children to them. She is pictured here with volunteer coordinator Ms Geraldine Lee who was jointly named ST Singaporean of the Year 2023 with her. (Photo credit: The Straits Times © SPH Media Limited.)



congratulations / appointments

For their dedication and service to the community, Ms Paul and Ms Lee received the Singaporean of the Year award from President Tharman Shanmugaratnam at UBS Singapore's academy on March 13.

Ms Paul said their journey has been marked by both challenges and joy, and expressed her appreciation for the families who had entrusted the care of their children to them.

Ms Paul and Ms Lee were awarded a trophy and \$20,000 in cash, while the other finalists received \$5,000 each. The prize money was sponsored by UBS, which has supported the award since its inception.

Other sponsors included long-term supports, official airline partner Singapore Airlines (SIA) and global hotel partner Millennium Hotels and Resorts.

The Singaporean of the Year winners each received a five-night stay at any of Millennium Hotels and Resorts' global properties, as well as a pair of SIA business-class tickets. The remaining finalists each received a three-night stay at any of Millennium Hotels and Resorts' global properties and a pair of SIA economy-class tickets.



President Tharman Shanmugaratnam (left) presenting the award of appreciation of Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR) Executive Director Mr Kwek Eik Sheng (centre) for MHR's long-term support in the sponsorship of winners' prizes, as editor of The Straits Times Mr Jaime Ho looks on. (Photo credit: The Straits Times © SPH Media Limited.)



getting to know you



**City Square Mall
S\$50 Million
Facelift With
Renewed Focus
On Community
And Sustainability**

Singapore's first eco-mall, City Square Mall is on track to complete its S\$50 million renovation by 1H 2025. Pictured here is an artist's impression of the new Atrium on Level 1 upon completion.

City Square Mall, a family-friendly mall and Singapore's first eco-mall, is set to unveil a new look after it completes a S\$50 million Asset Enhancement Initiative (AEI) in 2025. The mall is managed and owned by CDL.

The mall's AEI commenced during the third quarter of 2023 and is close to completing Phase 1 of the AEI. As part of its initiative to enhance the 11-storey mall, the AEI will add about 26,000 square feet (sq ft) of Gross Floor Area (GFA) – unlocked by efforts such as leveraging the Community/Sports Facilities Scheme and decanting mechanical and electrical facilities.

The additional GFA will be used to enhance operational efficiency, overall layout and functionality of the mall.

Refreshed Dining Offerings



An artist's impression of the revamped Food Republic which will be relocated to a new 9,000 sq ft space in Basement 3.



getting to know you

New F&B offerings will be added to level 4 of the mall, creating a new 24,000 sq ft "Gastro Square." The Food Republic food court, currently on the fourth level, will be relocated to a new 9,000 sq ft space in basement 3. The slabs at the atriums from Level 2 to Level 4 will be extended to create new retail spaces.

New food outlets in basements 1 and 2 include Jie Traditional Bakery, Munchi Pancakes, lemon tea vendor Taning, and Towkay Fried Chicken. They will join existing tenants, Crave, EAT., Nam Kee Pau and Ya Kun Kaya Toast.

A Renewed Focus on Supporting the Community as a Family-Friendly Hub



An artist's impression of the new 24,000 sq ft "Gastro Square" on Level 4 is perfect for families with a dedicated space for events and social gatherings.

In addition to diversifying F&B options, the 15-year-old mall will be rejuvenated with modernised interiors, additional community amenities, and sustainable features. For instance, the fourth floor will have activities catering to youths and families and a dedicated performance area with space for social gatherings and events.

Integrating Upcycled Materials to Promote Circularity

As part of the mall's sustainability efforts, upcycled materials will be integrated into lift lobbies and wall finishes from basement 4 to level 6, including murals made from sustainable materials.

The mall will remain open during its upgrading works, scheduled for completion in 1H2025.

Ms Callie Yah, CDL's Executive Vice President and Head of Global Asset Management Division, said, "I am excited that we have embarked on this AEI to rejuvenate City Square Mall and I am confident that shoppers will delight in the refreshed ambiance and upgraded tenant mix brimming with diverse new F&B options. In line with our corporate strategy to continually revitalise our portfolio of assets, the AEI aims to uplift the shopping experience for both shoppers and tenants."



getting to know you



An artist's impression of Basement 4 Lift Lobby that integrates upcycled materials in wall finishes and murals.

Consistently winning awards in the areas of family, retail and green leadership since its inception, City Square Mall is Singapore's first retail mall to be recognised and awarded with the BCA-MSF Universal Design Mark for Family-Friendly Business Platinum Award in 2018, and was awarded again in 2021, recognising its strong commitment to creating a family-friendly environment for shoppers.

The mall's other achievements include the BCA Green Mark Platinum award since 2007, the top-tier Green Mark Pearl Prestige Award in 2018, and most recently, the Platinum Award for SG Cares Giving Week by National Volunteer And Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) for its efforts.