

***For Immediate Release***

**Real Estate and Hospitality Tycoon Mr Kwek Leng Beng  
Launches Chinese Edition of His Biography**

**SINGAPORE, 26 September 2024** – Real estate and hotel tycoon Mr Kwek Leng Beng today launched the Chinese edition of his biography, *Strictly Business: The Kwek Leng Beng Story*. Titled 《在商言商：郭令明》，the book follows the successful launch of the English edition last November.

Written by award-winning author Mr Peh Shing Huei and translated by Ms Suzane Quek, the book was launched this morning with 150 guests at a private event at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel Singapore. Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat was the Guest-of-Honour. 《在商言商》 is published in collaboration with Focus Publishing Ltd, a subsidiary of SPH Media Holdings.

Mr Kwek, who is Executive Chairman of Hong Leong Group Singapore and leading global real estate company City Developments Limited (CDL), said, “After the launch of the English edition of my biography, it was important that we publish a Chinese edition to reach out to the Chinese-speaking community in Singapore and overseas, as this holds special significance for me. This book is a written testament of my experiences and the lessons I’ve learnt over the years that have guided my business thinking and shaped my philosophy.”

“My father, Kwek Hong Png, started Hong Leong Group by working closely with the local community and small and medium enterprises. We steadily grew the business over the years but have never forgotten our roots. Hong Leong Group is very much a part of Singapore’s corporate history, and I am proud we are flying our flag today in five continents. Through this book, I hope to connect more deeply with the local community, and to inspire other entrepreneurs and business leaders to pursue their passion and make their mark in the world of business.”

《在商言商》 *Strictly Business* spans Mr Kwek’s six decades of breakthroughs across multiple sectors, including real estate, hospitality, and finance. It tells the story of a driven business leader who consistently overcame crises to build one of Asia’s largest conglomerates, with his companies and brands being blue-chip counters and household names.

Ms Lee Huay Leng, Editor-in-Chief, Chinese Media Group, SPH Media, said, “The story of Mr Kwek Leng Beng represents a significant chapter in our shared Singapore narrative. It is wonderful that the journey of this Singaporean Chinese entrepreneur, who has made a global impact through his family business, is being made accessible to Chinese-speaking readers at home and abroad.”

CDL Group Chief Executive Officer Mr Sherman Kwek and author Mr Peh Shing Huei who were at the event, also delivered their congratulatory speeches to Mr Kwek on the successful launch of the Chinese edition of his biography.

The event also unveiled the completion of the Kwek Leng Beng University Tower at the Singapore Institute of Technology's (SIT) new Punggol campus. Housing SIT's academic and administrative offices, the tower is named in appreciation of the joint endowed gift of S\$24 million by Mr Kwek and CDL. With a matching grant from the Government, the total endowment contribution amounts to S\$60 million.

Millennium Hotels and Resorts, a subsidiary of CDL, showed its strong support for Mr Kwek's book launch by serving well-known speciality dishes from its Singapore hotels and restaurants at the reception. These included special menu items by Hua Ting Restaurant from Orchard Hotel Singapore, Grand Shanghai Restaurant from Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel Singapore, and Princess Terrace Café from Copthorne King's Hotel Singapore.

A musical ensemble from Siong Leng Musical Association, a beneficiary of Hong Leong Foundation, added to the celebratory mood by performing a medley of Chinese classics and pop songs with the guzheng, pipa, erhu and dizi.

《在商言商》 *Strictly Business* is available at all major bookstores and on [ZShop](#).

Retail price: S\$28 (before GST)

For bulk purchases, kindly email [focuspub@sph.com.sg](mailto:focuspub@sph.com.sg).

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### **About Hong Leong Group**

Hong Leong Group is a globally diversified company and one of Asia's largest and most successful conglomerates. Headquartered in Singapore, the Group has assets in property investment and development, hotel ownership and management, and financial services and industrial enterprises across Asia-Pacific, including China, the Middle East, Europe and North America. Its member companies include Singapore-listed property giant City Developments Limited (CDL), Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR), Hong Leong Holdings Limited, Hong Leong Finance, CDL Hospitality Trusts, and Hong Leong Asia.

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**ABOUT 《在商言商：郭令明》**

**STRICTLY BUSINESS: THE KWEK LENG BENG STORY**

Mr Kwek Leng Beng may be one of Singapore's most successful businessmen, but he is also among the country's most enigmatic. While his companies and brands are blue-chip counters and household names, the man behind one of Asia's largest conglomerates has steadfastly remained reticent and, at times, mysterious.

While his business empire extends into five continents and includes some of the most prestigious hotels in the world, he often avoids the limelight. Few can recall that he once had the measure of Donald Trump in New York, hosted Boris Johnson in Singapore, and went into a venture with Prince Alwaleed of Saudi Arabia. Even at home in Singapore, many have only a faint inkling he has had a hand in the architectural icons that dominate the nation's skyline, from The Sail @ Marina Bay to South Beach and even Marina Bay Sands.

For the first time, the legendary dealmaker opens up about his six decades of breakthroughs in sectors ranging from real estate and hospitality to finance and manufacturing. 《在商言商》 *Strictly Business* tells the story of a tycoon whose outfits, Hong Leong Group and City Developments Limited, have consistently overcome crises and recessions with grit, emerging stronger after the storms.

This authorised biography shares the secrets of his success, and lessons learnt through setbacks and challenges. Mr Kwek reveals his difficult relationship with his father, and his succession plans for the next generation in a family business that has been among the most resilient in Southeast Asia. In the hands of best-selling author and journalist Mr Peh Shing Huei, this first biography reveals the negotiations behind the biggest corporate deals in real estate and hospitality, and the little-known details of the straight-talking business leader in boardrooms. 《在商言商》 *Strictly Business* offers rare access and insights into one of Asia's most influential success stories.