

highlights



Miss USA and Miss Teen USA Take Centre Stage At The Biltmore Los Angeles

**From
Construction
Sites To Hotels:
CDL's Strong
Commitment To
Workers' Safety,
Health And
Well-being**

**A Fun Day
In The Sun
With Tasek's
Fun-tastic
Sports Day**

**Five Reasons
That Made Me
Want To Live At
The Castings**

**Millennium
Hotels And
Resorts:
Creating A
Culture Of
Learning And
Development In
The Workplace**



South Beach Singapore Celebrates Wellness, Creativity, And A Fun Dose Of National Spirit

South Beach was the hub of creativity at the Wellness Fiesta, with interactive art jamming and coaster-making sessions, as well as an exciting team quest race. Pictured here are participants proudly holding up their coasters after the coaster-making session.

Waves of Wellness 2024: A Celebration of Wellness, Creativity, and Fun!

As part of the second annual Waves of Wellness @ Marina Central and Wellness Festival Singapore 2024, the Wellness Fiesta brought two days of free workouts and crafts workshops to the Marina Central district, including South Beach.

Held on 20 and 21 July, the event saw a significant increase in participation, particularly in the Discover Marina Central Race, where attendance surged from 281 participants in 2023 to 776 in 2024. Overall, the festival attracted 2,351 attendees, more than doubling last year's turnout of 972.

While other locations offered energetic activities like Clubberjump trampoline workouts, Les Mills Burn, and Glowstick Dance, South Beach was the hub of creativity. Participants enjoyed various crafts workshops, including the Makers Party, where mindfulness met creativity through art jamming and coaster-making sessions. Attendees also personalised their own tote bags or canvas pouches during the art jamming workshops, with all materials provided.



There was something for everyone at South Beach, with children displaying their artistic talent at the art jamming session (centre) and sportier participants having fun at the Discover Marina Central Race (right).

Beyond getting crafty, participants could challenge themselves in the Discover Marina Central Race, a thrilling 90-minute team quest suitable for both children and adults. Teams navigated their chosen route around the Marina Central district, solving quizzes and completing challenges. The top 10 teams with the most quests completed



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earned attractive prizes, including 5-star hotel stays, KitchenAid mixers, luxurious buffets, spa experiences, and more!

Celebrating National Day with the South Beach Office Community

On 1 August, the South Beach office community came together to celebrate National Day in a vibrant display of national pride. The event featured a variety of beloved local treats, including muah chee, dragon beard candy, ice cream, and kacang puteh, which evoked fond memories and added a nostalgic touch to the festivities.

It was heartening to see so many team members enthusiastically participating, with many dressing in red and white to honour the occasion. The event was a great success, with the collective show of spirit and lively and unified atmosphere perfectly capturing the essence of National Day.



All smiles as the South Beach office community celebrated National Day together with delicious treats such as old school ice-cream (centre) and muah chee (right).



Five Famous Taylor Swift Music Video Locations You Can Visit

Taylor Swift's "Delicate" video was shot at the Biltmore Los Angeles and has become one of her most-loved videos.

Taylor Swift is known for her creative music videos. From the choreography to the dazzling destinations, she goes all out, and fans love visiting the locations she's featured in her work over the years.

Here's a selection of the most iconic music video backdrops to watch out for next time you're on your travels, including our very own Biltmore Los Angeles!



In her "Delicate" video, Swift dances through the hotel lobby and even across the check-in desk.

Los Angeles

"Delicate" — Millennium Biltmore Hotel

Taylor Swift's "Delicate" music video is one of her most well-known and well-loved. Who could forget those dance scenes? In the iconic video, the singer parades through [the Biltmore Los Angeles](#). She runs all over the historic hotel's lobby, even dancing across the check-in desk. She also visits Los Angeles Theatre's ballroom and the Golden Gopher bar in the toe-tapping number.

New York

"Blank Space" — Oheka Castle

Fans will love Oheka Castle, the real-life location featured in Swift's famous "Blank Space" music video. Found on the highest point of Long Island, fans can book tours of the historic mansion, visit the castle's restaurant, or stay the night at the hotel.



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Paris

“Begin Again” — Pont Des Arts Bridge

Swift's "Begin Again" music video is all about romance and finding happiness after heartbreak. So, it's fitting she set the music video in the city of love. As the singer walks the streets of Paris, numerous locations are featured in the video, but the Pont Des Arts Bridge is one of the most memorable.

London

“End Game” — Millennium Bridge

Featuring Ed Sheeran and rapper Future, Swift's team travelled to Tokyo and London for the glitzy video. The stars visited several high-end locations and filmed the video on the Millennium Bridge and on a double-decker bus driving around Piccadilly Circus.

Arrington

“Love Story” — Castle Gwynn

Planning a trip close to Nashville? Time it right and you can visit nearby Castle Gwynn, the backdrop to Swift's "Love Story" video, during the Tennessee Renaissance Festival when the castle is open for tours.



Sweet Sixteen: Indulge In Classic Opulence At The St. Regis Singapore

Step into the luxurious reception area at The St. Regis Singapore, with an exquisite Chinese mural as the striking centrepiece.

The St. Regis Singapore is well regarded as one of the finest hotels in Singapore. Hear what *The Edge* lifestyle writer Mr Russell Marino Soh has to say about the hotel after his recent stay.

“The first St. Regis in Southeast Asia opened its doors at Tanglin Road in 2008. Since then, the face of Orchard has gone through what feels like a million changes; still, the glossy 20-storey St. Regis Singapore has remained.

For a property entering the latter half of its teenage years, The St. Regis Singapore has certainly held up well. Entering the hotel, we're greeted by the familiar, expansive lobby; it's a classy joint, for sure, complete with marble floors, chinoiserie decor and massive chandeliers overhead.



The St. Regis Singapore lobby features plush seating, elegant chandeliers and rare artworks by renowned artists.

Throughout the hotel are artworks by masters, both homegrown and global. The collection keeps the place feeling contemporary and fresh even with its otherwise classic aesthetic. Right at the entrance is a sculpture by Colombian artist Fernando Botero of a woman lying on her front; she's not quite the doorman one might expect, but certainly a welcome injection of modernity. Within the hotel, we spot pieces by Nanyang masters Chua Ek Kay, Cheong Soo Pieng and Chen Wen Hsi.

On the far end of the lobby is the Astor Grill — more on that later — and to the right, we find the elevators, which take us up to our Penthouse Guest Room. Here, we're treated to sweeping views of the surrounding area, not to mention a sizable 52 sq m space, including a bathroom with a bathtub and separate his-and-hers areas.



With sweeping views of the city and luxurious furnishings, the spacious Penthouse Guest Room offers a comfortable and pampered stay.

As we settle into our room, the doorbell rings; standing outside is executive butler Jatin, who gives us a quick rundown of the place, followed by a friendly chat and an invitation to call anytime we need. That welcoming demeanour is something carried through in the rest of our interactions with the folks during our stay; people are friendly and service is speedy, to boot.

For dinner, we head down to the Astor Grill, where the menu is inspired by heritage chop-houses in New York. We dig into a variety of grilled and roasted items, including king oyster mushrooms, pork chops and steaks.

The Astor Grill has a monthly rotating “exclusive cut” — at the time of our visit, it’s a beautifully marbled Australian wagyu ribeye from Livingstone Farms. The meal ends with a huge Baked Alaska that could well feed four to six; the pairing of pistachio and raspberry gelatos under the lightly torched meringue is a surprising combination, but it works exceedingly well, as the acidic fruit cuts the rich nutty flavours.



Enjoy a sumptuous dinner at Astor Grill (left), followed by unique drinks such as the Chili Padi Mary at the stylish Astor Bar (right).

Stuffed from dinner, we make our way to the Astor Bar, where the New York, New York menu features drinks inspired by its namesake city with a Singaporean twist. Our favourites include the Montauk Dreaming (a banana-forward concoction with mezcal and fernet branca) and the Hever Castle, a sweet strawberry gin creation served in an Instagram-worthy copper mug. Spice lovers might also want a go at one of the Bloody Marys that the Astor Bar offers; we recommend the Chili Padi Mary for an Asian take on the classic.

As our time at The St. Regis Singapore ends, we can’t help but think of a single phrase: tried and true. New hotels are a dime a dozen in the crowded hospitality scene, but don’t be too quick to discount the classics — we sure won’t. 🍷



Miss USA and Miss Teen USA Take Centre Stage At The Biltmore Los Angeles

The Biltmore Los Angeles is proud to be the host hotel for Miss USA and Miss Teen USA 2024. Pictured here are Ms Alma Cooper (left) and Ms Addie Carver (right), winners of Miss USA and Miss Teen USA respectively.

Miss USA and Miss Teen USA made their return to Los Angeles for the first time since 2007, with the Biltmore Los Angeles serving as the host hotel for all contestants. The pageants took place from 27 July to 4 August 2024, bringing together 51 delegates from the Miss division and 51 from the Teen division to crown the 2024 winners.

During their stay, the contestants experienced the luxury and glamour of The Biltmore, from hair and makeup sessions and rehearsals to enjoying afternoon tea in the historic Rendezvous Court.



Miss USA Alma Cooper has served as a 2nd lieutenant and Military Intelligence Officer in the United States Army.



Miss Teen USA Addie Carver is the founder of Dance to Empower, a national organisation focused on dance appreciation, education, and awareness.

"Hosting the 2024 Miss USA Pageant during The Biltmore Los Angeles's centennial year is an extraordinary honour," said Mr Jimmy Wu, General Manager & Owner's Representative. "We deeply admire the organisation's dedication to promoting diversity and empowering women worldwide. The distinguished architecture of our hotel, a tribute to its era's grandeur, offers an unforgettable backdrop for this iconic pageant."

Ms Laylah Rose, President and CEO of the Miss USA Organisation, shared before the start of the pageants, "The Miss USA Organisation is delighted to announce its return to California, where it all began. Our Miss USA delegates will be hosted at The Biltmore, and we couldn't be more excited. We are so happy to partner with the hotel to celebrate its centennial anniversary. The Biltmore's rich history and luxurious ambience make it an



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exceptional setting for this momentous occasion. We are honoured to bring Miss USA back home, to this iconic landmark and world-class destination!"



(L) Ms Sue Yoon, Director of Sales and Marketing at the Biltmore, with Miss USA 2023 Savannah Gankiewicz and Ms Laylah Rose at the iconic hotel.



(R) Miss USA Alma Cooper photographed in the Tiffany Ballroom at the Biltmore Los Angeles.



(L-R) Ms Angelique Barnum, CEO and Founder of The Sash Company, Ms Sue Yoon, Director of Sales and Marketing at The Biltmore, and Mr Richard Molina, Director of Human Resources at The Biltmore, at the Peacock Theatre for the Miss Teen USA Prelims and Miss USA/Miss Teen USA Costume Contest.

The Biltmore Los Angeles, having recently added the 'Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument' accolade to its mantle, is the grand dame of downtown and the district's most historic hotel. The hotel has impressed guests and locals since the glory days of Old Hollywood, entertaining a galaxy of stars, dignitaries, and presidents from around the world.

Guangxi Yuchai Machinery And Rolls-Royce Strengthen Collaboration to Expand Product Range



Representatives of Chinese engine manufacturer Guangxi Yuchai Machinery Co. Ltd (Yuchai Diesel) and Rolls-Royce have signed an agreement to deepen collaboration and expand their product range.

China Yuchai International Limited, one of the largest powertrain solution manufacturers through its main operating subsidiary in China, Guangxi Yuchai Machinery Company Limited, recently announced that Yuchai's Marine and Genset Power subsidiary and Rolls-Royce's Power Systems signed an agreement to enter into a second phase cooperation and development of their 50/50 joint-venture entity, MTU Yuchai Power Company Limited.

Pursuant to the agreement, MTU Yuchai Power will extend the production and localisation of the mtu Series 4000 for both Power Generation and Oil & Gas segments. The joint venture will also undertake the production and sales of the mtu Series 2000 and the Yuchai branded VC series diesel engines to address the rapid growth in domestic and overseas power generation markets. By adding new products from both parent companies, the joint venture is poised to bolster its manufacturing capabilities and extend new product offerings to meet growing demand. With its second phase scheduled to commence mass production and operation in the second half of 2025, MTU Yuchai Power is strategically positioned with more product offerings to address new market opportunities.



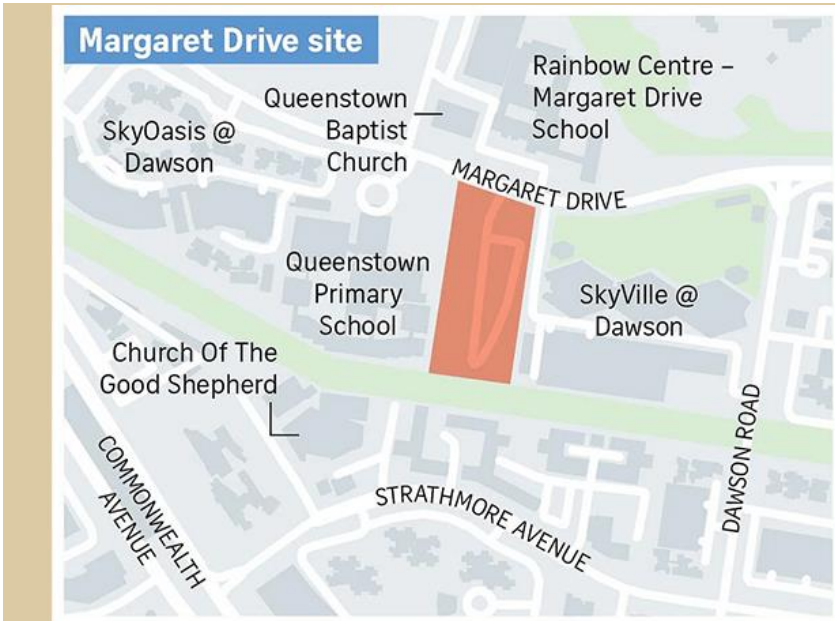
In Yulin (China), the MTU Yuchai Power joint venture manufactures MTU Series 4000 power generation engines. Rolls-Royce and Yuchai have now agreed to expand the product range.

Since its establishment in 2017, MTU Yuchai Power has produced and sold more than 2,000 units of mtu Series 4000 to customers including data centres and semiconductor fabrication plants. The Series 4000 successfully created a high-end engine market category in China for power generation application.



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Mr. Weng Ming Hoh, the President of China Yuchai, commented, "Since day one, MTU Yuchai Power engines stood for remarkable performance and outstanding quality. The mtu Series 4000 and 2000 and the Yuchai VC engines are high-quality engines from both parent companies. New products and higher supply in the second phase of our joint venture are expected to capture more market opportunities and continue our growth momentum in China and abroad."



Hong Leong Holdings Takes The Queens(town): Winning The Margaret Drive Government Land Sale Site

The state land tender in Margaret Drive saw a top bid of \$497 million in highly sought-after Queenstown. (Source: The Straits Times)

A joint venture consisting of Hong Leong Holdings' Intrepid Investments, Hong Realty, and GuocoLand was awarded the government land sale (GLS) site on Margaret Drive, with a top bid of \$497 million or \$1,154 psf per plot ratio (ppr). The 102,498 sq ft, 99-year leasehold site could be developed into a 460-unit private condo.

Located in Queenstown, the Margaret Drive residential site was launched for sale in May under the Confirmed List of the 1H2024 GLS programme. It is within walking distance of the Queenstown MRT station on the East-West Line and next door to Queenstown Primary School.

The site is also adjacent to SkyOasis @ Dawson, where a premium five-room flat of 1,195 sq ft was sold in June at the record-breaking price of \$1.73 million (\$1,444 psf).



Margaret Drive

Land use	Residential (non-landed)
Estimated site area	0.95 ha
Gross plot ratio	4.2
Estimated housing units	460
Estimated launch date	May 2024

Land details of the Margaret Drive government land sale site. (Source: The Business Times)



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Mr Mohan Sandrasegeran, head of research and data analytics at SRI, says that the Margaret Drive GLS site may benefit from the new amenities at the future Tanglin Halt HDB estate when it is redeveloped. It is expected to have a new hawker centre, market and polyclinic under one roof, on top of 5,500 new homes.

Ms Tricia Song, CBRE's head of research for South-east Asia, believes that the project will be supported by HDB upgraders in the vicinity. This is given the median price of four-room flats in Queenstown hitting \$897,500 in the first quarter of 2024, and reports of a record sale of a five-room flat in Margaret Drive at \$1.73 million.

Ms Chia Siew Chuin, JLL's head of residential research for Singapore, noted that the high resale HDB prices in Queenstown suggest a higher affordability threshold and more robust upgrading demand.

Congratulations to the consortium!



A Space For Our Dreams: A Look At Singapore In The Future

The Draft Master Plan 2025, entitled "Space for our dreams", consists of four key themes from the broader strategies of the Long-Term Plan. The theme focuses on Shaping a Happy Healthy City, Enabling Sustainable Growth, Strengthening Urban Resilience, and Stewarding Our Nature and Heritage.

The Draft Master Plan 2025 outlines a comprehensive land use and development plan for Singapore over the next 10 to 15 years, for a more liveable, inclusive and endearing city.

The plan outlines concrete actions and initiatives to be implemented across various sectors, aiming to ensure a prosperous and sustainable future for all Singaporeans. Through this, URA aims to build a stronger community while catering to diverse aspirations, meet evolving needs to sustain a vibrant economy, protect against the effects of climate change and respond nimbly to any crisis, and foster a sense of belonging and enhance its natural capital.

Sustainable development is a major theme in the Draft Master Plan, while new neighbourhoods and lifestyle areas are in progress, URA also wants to redevelop brownfield sites in Central areas into new housing estates. These include Bukit Timah Turf City, the former Keppel Club golf course, the Old Police Academy at Mount Pleasant, and the foothills of Pearl's Hill City Park.

Moving towards a more inclusive community, the government will introduce a mix of public and private housing in these areas. Pearl's Hill will see 6,000 new homes in the next decade with a mix of private and public housing. Mount Pleasant will see 5,000 new public housing units in the future.

These new neighbourhoods will be gazetted as car-lite and designed as a "10-minute neighbourhood", where key amenities and public transport are within a 10-minute walk; it includes Bukit Timah Turf Club, Pearl's Hill, and Marina South.

New enclaves such as Marina South will also be a "sustainable town". In such areas, all the developments will be required to attain the highest BCA sustainability rating, the Green Mark Platinum Super Low Energy (SLE). Developers are encouraged to plant native species based on the National Parks Board's Landscape Master Plan to allow the movement of wildlife and provide shelter for pedestrians.

"Long Island", first announced in 2019, is a new 20-km coastline in the eastern region that will be reclaimed to protect Singapore's eastern coastline. It will have a new reservoir, with waterfront, water sports activities and multi-functional spaces for homes, recreation, and nature.

Reimagining spaces



URA Recreation Master Plan 2025, is designed to create more recreational spaces across the island and to create identity nodes for different areas (Source: URA)

At Jurong Lake District, the Jurong Lake Gardens is now a 90ha national garden, Singapore's first in a suburban area. The new Singapore Science Centre with a 592,020 sq ft campus will have a prime frontage of the garden. It sits on a 7.4ha site next to Chinese Garden MRT Station and is scheduled to be completed in 2027.

URA is also exploring more leisure and living options in idyllic areas. For instance, Changi Point will be developed into an inclusive leisure spot anchored by a sports and recreation centre and an arts and heritage centre. It could also be a future retirement village, through adaptive reuse of the heritage buildings.

Island getaways



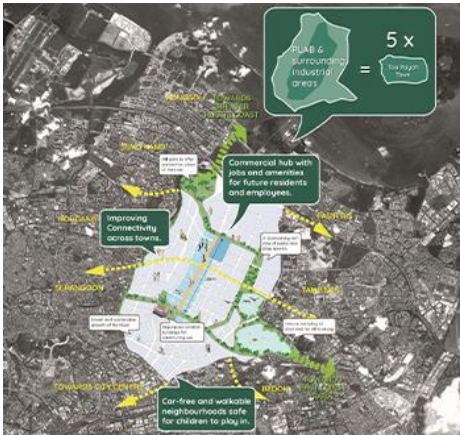
Sentosa Island and the neighbouring Pulau Brani will be positioned as a leisure and tourism destination with world-class attractions, new beach experiences and wellness facilities (Photo: Samuel Isaac Chua/EdgeProp Singapore)

In the south, Sentosa Island and the neighbouring Pulau Brani will be positioned as a leisure and tourism destination with world-class attractions, new beach experiences and wellness facilities. The nature and heritage trails will also be expanded.

Pulau Ubin's natural beauty and heritage will also be preserved, but plans are underway to improve its accessibility from the mainland of Singapore.

Identity nodes

URA aims to create unique identities for different areas while preserving their heritage. This is done through conservation and adaptive reuse of existing buildings and structures.



Paya Lebar Airbase will be redeveloped into a new town with 150,000 homes (Source: URA)

For instance, Paya Lebar Airbase will be redeveloped into a new town with 150,000 homes. Built in the 1950s, it served as Singapore’s international airport. When Changi Airport was built in 1981, Paya Lebar Airbase became a military airbase for the Republic of Singapore Air Force. The airbase will be decommissioned in 2030.

Plans are underway to create a distinctive identity anchored on the site’s aviation history, with old buildings, such as the airport tower, hangars and even runways, repurposed for recreational and community use.

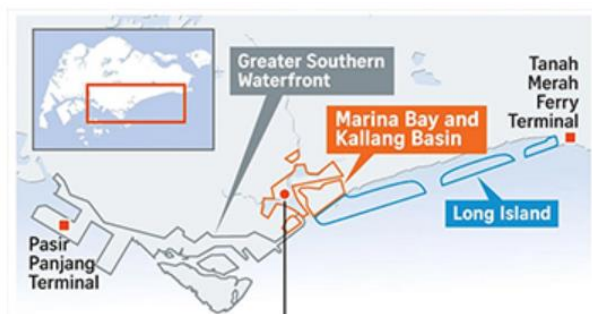
In the lead-up to the Draft Master Plan 2025, the government has announced new developments in various parts of Singapore — from the north to the northeast, west, central, and eastern regions.

National Day Rally 2024

Prime Minister Lawrence Wong announced that Singapore is set to remake its southern coast with a continuous 120km-long waterfront stretching from Pasir Panjang Terminal to Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal, offering many possibilities to imagine and build its future city.

As part of this transformation, new homes will be added to waterfront precincts near the city, in Marina East and Nicoll – an area between Marina Bay and the Singapore Sports Hub in Kallang.

Singapore’s southern coastline will comprise the Greater Southern Waterfront, Marina Bay, Kallang Basin and the future Long Island project, which could create 800ha of reclaimed land off East Coast Park. On plans to remake the city centre, PM Wong shared that three water bodies – Marina Bay, Marina Channel and Kallang Basin – will form a “continuous waterfront in the heart of our city”.



A continuous 120km coastline in Singapore’s south will stretch from Pasir Panjang Terminal to Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal. The coastline will include the Greater Southern Waterfront, Marina Bay and Kallang Basin, and the upcoming Long Island. In the future, there will be five waterfront residential and mixed-use precincts in Marina and Kallang, offering homes near offices and recreational amenities.

Detailed plans for the Nicoll precinct, which spans about 59ha, are being studied in conjunction with the future Bay Central Garden. For Kampong Bugis, a future 17.4ha housing precinct that was set to have 4,000 private homes was removed from URA’s list of Government Land Sales sites in 2022 due to delays in soil remediation works.

Situated in the 150ha Marina East, Bay South Garden, Bay East Garden and the Founders’ Memorial will become a mainly residential precinct with a mix of housing options. A pedestrian bridge to link Bay South Garden with Bay East Garden and the Founders’ Memorial will also be built and is slated to open in 2028.

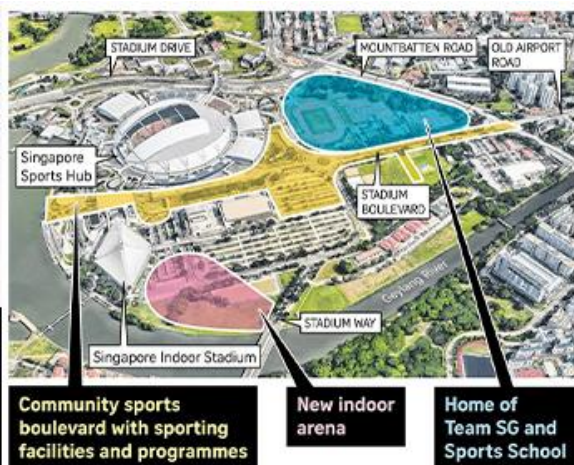
Over in the 88ha Tanjong Rhu, new homes are also being added to the more than 5,000 existing ones there. The Tanjong Rhu Riverfront I and II Build-To-Order projects launched in June are the first public housing projects there in 60 years.

Kallang Alive Masterplan

PM Wong elaborated on the master plan for the precinct around Kallang, he announced that the Singapore Sports School would be moved from its current location in Woodlands to the Sports Hub. The relocation will provide a strong base and new home for Team Singapore and allow young aspiring student-athletes to study and train alongside their senior counterparts in a central location.

This will be further enhanced by more new training and sports science facilities to ensure that Singaporean athletes are equipped and prepared to take on the best in the world.

PM Wong also shared details about the future of the Singapore Indoor Stadium, which will be replaced by a new 18,000-seat facility that will enable it to host major international events and allow more Singaporean athletes to enjoy the advantage of competing on home soil.



A new Sports School campus, a new 18,000-seat indoor arena, better facilities, for Team Singapore athletes, and a place for all Singaporeans to enjoy sports will be built in Kallang to turn it into a lifestyle destination for sports and entertainment events and sports participation. (Source: Ministry of Digital Development and Information and Straits Times Graphics)

Together, the plans for Kallang Alive and the Sports Hub aim to ensure that sports and athletes will remain a vital and central part of Singaporean society for years to come.

Rounding off his speech, PM Wong said he believes Singapore’s best days lie ahead, adding that the country has “new ambitions to pursue” and is “taking bold steps to turn our hopes into reality”.



Millennium Hotels And Resorts: Creating A Culture Of Learning And Development In The Workplace

Employees from Copthorne's King Hotel, Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, M Hotel Singapore, M Social Singapore, Orchard Hotel Singapore, Studio M Hotel Singapore, Grand Millennium Kuala Lumpur Hotel, Millennium Hotel Sirih Jakarta and The Heritage Hotel Manila received training on a comprehensive range of topics, from compliance, emotional intelligence, service recovery, and professionalism.

Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR) recently introduced new learning and development programmes to build a strong culture of learning across the hotel properties in the region.

Mr Victor Lau, Director for Global Learning & Development and Talent Management at MHR, explained that a strong focus on building a culture of learning as its core streamlines employees' development and succession plans while promoting the philosophy of shared knowledge. With a defined focus on training and development, employees will be engaged and remain committed with heightened well-being and confidence.

To remain relevant in the ever-changing landscape, training programmes are designed, developed, and improved by MHR's team of learning specialists.

In the first half of 2024, 874 employees across Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines were involved in 47 training hours involving Branding, Leadership, Service, and Grooming.



Employees from Singapore's hotel properties gathered at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel to better understand the DISC personalities to effectively manage various talent profiles.

Mr Andrew Tan, General Manager at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, shared that he was thrilled when the Learning & Development team announced a 3-day leadership course. He shared that the programme was empowering, from sharpening skills to fostering collaboration across departments.



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Mr Peter D. Gibbons, General Manager of Grand Millennium Kuala Lumpur Hotel, and Mr Farid Schoucair, General Manager of The Heritage Hotel Manila, both shared that the sessions were beneficial and insightful, with employees positively engaged and better equipped in succession planning and talent building.



Grand Millennium Kuala Lumpur Hotel, Millennium Hotel Sirih Jakarta, and The Heritage Hotel Manila employees in a serious (and fun!) discussion on learning points from the programme.

Moving forward with the positive momentum, the Global Learning & Development and Talent Management will introduce new programmes to enhance MHR's talents and to further their development. MHR employees can expect programmes on:

- **Leadership:** Empowerment and Motivation and SMART Goal Setting
- **Service:** Managing a Positive Mindset
- **Compliance:** Review and update new training for compliance requirements
- **Functional:** Food & Beverage and Front Office Service Standards – including Service Audits to ensure consistent service delivery



Hong Leong Holdings' Joint Venture Secures S\$847M Green Facility For Upper Thomson Road Residential Development

Springleaf Nature Park is a tranquil park by the river. Ideal for a jog, walk, cycle or a quiet break among nature. It is protected as part of the Central Nature Park Network. The park is home to more than 80 species of resident and migratory birds such as the White-throated Kingfisher, Blue-tailed Bee-eater and Long-tailed Parakeet. (Source: National Parks Board)

A Hong Leong Holdings' joint venture consisting of GuocoLand and Intrepid Investments, has secured a \$847.1 million green club facility to finance its upcoming residential development at Upper Thomson Road.

In April, the consortium was awarded a 344,700 sq ft, 99-year leasehold site along Upper Thomson Road through a Government Land Sale tender. The joint venture submitted a bid of \$779.6 million (\$905 psf per plot ratio) for the residential site.

Upper Thomson GLS site



SOURCE: ONE MAP GRAPHICS; HANNAH KWAK, BT

Springleaf New Town – In 2022, URA announced its plans for Springleaf estate in the north with the opening of Springleaf MRT Station. The addition of housing units in the precinct will help to leverage the improved accessibility in the area and meet housing demands while conserving biodiversity-sensitive areas. (Source: The Business Times)

The site is near a new cluster of private housing projects coming up in the Lentor Hills precinct, where six plots have been sold so far and five projects launched. The site is also within close proximity to the Central Catchment Nature Reserve and Springleaf MRT station.

On 20 August, it announced that the targeted launch for the Upper Thomson site would be in 2025. It comprises five 25-storey towers with 941 units. The development will also include a part of the former Seletar Institute (originally built as Upper Thomson Secondary School) to be conserved.



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The residential project will be the first private residential development to adopt a “biodiversity-sensitive approach”. It aims to attain the Building and Construction Authority’s Green Mark Platinum (Super Low Energy) award, along with the Maintainability badge. Under the Green Mark scheme, the badge is awarded to buildings that use smart facilities management technologies to ensure resource-efficient maintenance regimes.



In 2023, the joint venture partners secured \$498.6 million in green financing for Lentor Mansion, a 533-unit three 16-storey towers and three eight-storey towers, with a mix of two-bedroom and five-bedroom units.

Besides the Upper Thomson site, the joint venture partners previously secured a \$498.6 million facility for its Lentor Mansion residential development.



Guangxi Yuchai Machinery Launches Thailand Production Plant, Advancing Its Globalisation Strategy

At the opening ceremony, senior leaders of Yuchai, representatives from the Economic and Commercial Office of the Embassy of China in Thailand, key partners, and guests from various sectors witnessed this historic moment.

China Yuchai International Limited, one of the largest powertrain solution manufacturers through its main operating subsidiary in China, Guangxi Yuchai Machinery Company Limited, recently announced that Yuchai Machinery Power System (Thailand) Co., Ltd. has commenced production operations with the first K08 engine from the Thailand factory rolled off the production line and delivered to its customers. Senior executives from Foton Motor, SANY, Zoomlion, and Liugong attended the commencement of production.

Yuchai Thailand will mainly produce a range of diesel engines, natural gas engines, new energy power products and other products. Various series of Yuchai products will be manufactured and the first group of products include the K08, S06 and S04 series of engines. Annual production capacity will begin at 5,000 units and will expand to meet future market demand.

Yuchai's globalisation has been accelerating over the past decade due to the growing cooperation between China and ASEAN countries. Yuchai's direct and indirect export volume to ASEAN countries has increased to more than 20,000 units per year, accounting for a large share of Yuchai's overseas sales.

Yuchai Thailand further strengthens Yuchai's alliances with important partners such as Foton Motor, enhances product competitiveness, and increases penetration into the Southeast Asian markets.

Mr Weng Ming Hoh, President of China Yuchai, commented, "Yuchai Thailand is an important stepping stone to increase Yuchai's share of the ASEAN markets, solidify our partnerships with OEM customers and enhance our foundation for greater global growth."



A Snapshot Of Hong Leong Companies' 2024 Half Year Results

In May 2024, CDL acquired the 268-room Hilton Paris Opéra for €240 million (approximately S\$350.2 million). This iconic, freehold hotel has seen strong demand with notable high occupancy and average room rate (ARR), especially during the Paris 2024 Olympics.

City Developments Limited (CDL)

CDL achieved a 32.0% increase in net attributable profit after tax and non-controlling interest (PATMI) of S\$87.8 million (1H 2023: S\$66.5 million). The increase was supported by divestment gains as part of the Group's capital recycling efforts. Notably, results in the previous corresponding period in 2023 included the full recognition of revenue and profits from an Executive Condominium (EC) project, Piermont Grand, of which the Group owns 60%.

The Group achieved a lower revenue of S\$1.6 billion for 1H 2024 (1H 2023: S\$2.7 billion) as 1H 2023 included a S\$1.0 billion contribution from Piermont Grand, which was recognised in its entirety when the EC project obtained its Temporary Occupation Permit (TOP) in January 2023.

The investment properties and hotel operations segments saw a 21.3% and 10.8% increase in revenue for 1H 2024, respectively. The increase in the investment properties segment was mainly driven by the investment properties acquired in 2023, such as St Katharine Docks and the living sector assets.

Revenue for the hotel operations segment continued to increase steadily, with Revenue Per Available Room (RevPAR) growth across most regions further bolstered by the addition of the newly acquired Sofitel Brisbane Central hotel in December 2023 and Hilton Paris Opéra hotel in May 2024.

The Group registered a pre-tax profit of S\$155.4 million for 1H 2024 (1H 2023: S\$179.5 million) largely due to higher financing costs and lower profits from the property development segment.

The property development segment registered substantially lower profits in 1H 2024 vis-à-vis 1H 2023 due to the timing of profit recognition. Unfortunately, construction delays for certain projects resulted in lower-than-expected profit contribution in 1H 2024, whereas in 1H 2023, the Group recorded a substantial profit contribution from Piermont Grand and another completed joint venture (JV) project, Boulevard 88, which obtained its TOP in April 2023.

Higher financing costs were also recorded in 1H 2024 for this segment relating to projects that have yet to be launched, including Union Square Residences, Norwood Grand in Woodlands and the Lorong 1 Toa Payoh site.



work

The investment properties segment is the largest contributor to pre-tax profits for 1H 2024, supported by divestment gains on the sale of strata units in Citilink Warehouse Complex, Cititech Industrial Building and Fortune Centre, along with contributions from several acquisitions.

The Group's hotel operations segment also reported a healthy pre-tax profit for 1H 2024 and positive EBITDA for all regions, reflecting continued recovery momentum.

As of 30 June 2024, the Group maintained its robust capital position with cash reserves of S\$1.7 billion¹, and cash and available undrawn committed bank facilities totalling S\$3.7 billion.

After factoring in fair value on investment properties, the Group's net gearing ratio stands at 69% (FY 2023: 61%), following the acquisition of the Hilton Paris Opéra hotel and three Japan Private Rented Sector (PRS) properties, coupled with the share buyback of CDL's ordinary shares and preference shares as well as dividend payments.

For CDL's full 1H financial report, please visit [here](#).

¹Net of overdraft

CDL Hospitality Trusts (CDLHT)



Leading the charge towards our commitment to zero single-use plastics by 2050, Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel has introduced an in-room water filtration system in its guest rooms, reducing single-use plastic waste generated from traditional bottled water consumption by 20%.

For 1H 2024, NPI increased 5.9% (or S\$3.7 million) year-on-year ("yoy") to S\$66.5 million in tandem with the 6.8% yoy increase in gross revenue. NPI improvement was recorded in almost all the portfolio markets, except the UK market which was flat and New Zealand market which was down yoy. Although the pent-up demand post-pandemic tapered off in most markets, RevPAR growth for 1H 2024 was recorded across virtually all portfolio markets.

Interest costs for 1H 2024 increased yoy, mainly due to higher funding costs on the floating rate loans and interest expenses from additional amounts drawn. In 1H 2024, CDLHT increased one of its committed sustainability-linked revolving credit facilities by an additional S\$50.0 million, bringing the total amount of sustainability-linked facilities to S\$355.9 million.

The Singapore Hotels' performance in the second quarter was more muted as there were several weekday public holidays, weaker materialisation from keynote events, an increase in hotel supply and the oil spill near Sentosa (affecting W Hotel) which caused RevPAR to post a slight 0.9% drop compared to a year ago. 1H 2024 RevPAR for the Singapore Hotels increased by 7.7% yoy, driven by occupancy growth. NPI for the Singapore portfolio (including Claymore Connect) for 1H 2024 grew in tandem by 6.8% or S\$2.6 million yoy.



work

Total distribution to Stapled Securityholders (after retention for working capital) for 1H 2024 remained relatively stable at S\$31.4 million and DPS was 2.51 cents, flat yoy.

As at 30 June 2024, CDLHT had a gearing of 37.7% and debt headroom of S\$783.3 million (at 50% gearing limit), with cash reserves of S\$64.9 million and S\$648.5 million¹ of credit facilities.

For CDLHT's full 1H financial report, please visit [here](#).

¹Comprising approximately S\$237.9 million committed unsecured revolving credit facilities, S\$10.6 million undrawn committed term loan facility and S\$400.0 million uncommitted bridge loan facilities

Hong Leong Finance (HLF)



As part of its ongoing journey to meet the evolving needs of its customers, Hong Leong Finance launched HLF Digital, a mobile device app and web portal which provides customers with convenient 24/7 access to their accounts and a range of related financial services.

HLF reported a net attributable profit of S\$52.6 million for first half-year ended 30 June 2024, grew 12.9% or S\$6 million from the same period last year, driven by higher net interest income at an expanded net interest margin of 1.6%.

Net interest income rose 11.1% to S\$112.7 million on the back of improved assets yields, outpacing the elevated funding cost year-on-year.

Fee and commission income declined by 9.2% to S\$4.0 million for first half-year 2024 on subdued large mortgage lending activities in financial markets.

Total operating expenses increased slightly by 5.6% to S\$55.7 million for first half-year 2024 mainly due to higher staff cost from annual salaries increment and resources to enhance regulatory compliance and risk management with our focus in business transformation. It was partially offset by the broad-based decline in the operating expenses with tightened cost control.

Net allowances for loans and other financial assets were a net write-back of S\$2.1 million for first half-year 2024 as compared to S\$2.7 million in the corresponding period. This included a reversal of S\$1.6 million in allowances for non credit-impaired loans with improved risk parameters and a reversal of S\$0.2 million in allowances for credit-impaired loans with loan repayment. Asset quality remained resilient as the Group continued to exercise prudence in its credit risk management and underwriting parameters with adequate loss allowances to cover the loan portfolio. The non-performing loan ratio remained stable at 0.7%.

Net loan assets totalling S\$11,538 million as at 30 June 2024, down by 1.0% or S\$121 million over the previous year's base of S\$11,659 million as at 31 December 2023 and 1.1% or S\$127 million over corresponding period as at 30 June 2023. The loan portfolio remained largely secured.



work

In tandem with the reduced loan assets, deposits and balances of customers decreased to S\$12,153 million as at 30 June 2024, representing a decrease of 3.9% or S\$495 million over the previous year's base of S\$12,648 million as at 31 December 2023 and 0.1% or S\$11 million over corresponding period as at 30 June 2023.

Cash and cash equivalents including statutory deposit with the Monetary Authority of Singapore ("MAS") together with Singapore Government debt securities, MAS Bills and MAS FRN held as liquid assets amounted to S\$2,915 million as at 30 June 2024 (31 December 2023: S\$3,209 million). The Group maintained liquidity above regulatory Minimum Liquid Asset ("MLA") and remained highly liquid to maneuver the market uncertainties.

Group shareholders' funds as at 30 June 2024 totalled S\$2,073 million (31 December 2023: S\$2,060 million) with net asset value at S\$4.62 per share (31 December 2023: S\$4.59 per share). The Group's Capital Adequacy Ratio stood at 16.9% as at 30 June 2024, well capitalised above regulatory requirement to support lending activities.

For HLF's full 1H financial report, please visit [here](#).

Hong Leong Asia (HLA)



Demand for building materials in ready-mix concrete continued to be strong, led by public sector projects in Singapore. Both powertrain solutions and building materials units registered robust growth.

HLA achieved attributable net profit of S\$49.5 million for the half year ended 30 June 2024 ("1H2024").

Group revenue increased 8.5% yoy to S\$2.3 billion, with robust growth at both powertrain solutions ("Yuchai") and building materials units ("BMU"). The Group's profitability was lifted by strong performance at both Yuchai and BMU on the back of improving market conditions in Singapore, Malaysia and China.

In China, Yuchai's revenue grew 9.3% yoy to S\$1.9 billion, with reportable segment profit after tax of S\$61.9 million, up 28.8% yoy. Total number of engines sold in 1H 2024 increased 16.3% yoy to 192,743 units led by truck and bus/industrial engines sales volume growth. Higher gross margins were also realised by ongoing cost reduction efforts and better sales mix toward heavy-duty vehicle engines and industrial engines.

In Singapore and Malaysia, BMU revenue grew 5.0% yoy to S\$321.5 million, with reportable segment profit after tax of S\$42.0 million, representing growth of 35.2% yoy. Demand for building materials in ready-mix concrete continued to be strong, led by public sector projects in Singapore. HLA's prefabrication business in R3 Precast was affected by the slow project offtake in the industry although the order book continues to grow.

In Malaysia, notwithstanding challenges in rising energy and transportation costs with the removal of diesel subsidies, Tasek's profitability was lifted by higher sales volumes and selling prices, bolstered by the softening of coal prices.

The Company is pleased to announce an interim dividend of S\$0.01 per share.



work

Market Outlook

In China, Yuchai is doing well with strong unit sales growth in almost all segments. The key statistics from China Association of Automobile Manufacturers' Report shows commercial diesel vehicles unit sales growing at 4.4% yoy in 1H 2024. In July 2024, China's National Development and Reform Commission announced a RMB 300 billion stimulus programme to encourage businesses and consumers to scrap old vehicles and equipment and replace them for newer versions. The stimulus programme is seen as a net positive for the powertrain industry and is likely to be felt as business confidence improves and the programme is drawn down. In the meantime, Yuchai continues to invest in R&D initiatives to improve its powertrain portfolio, including the development of new energy solutions.

In Singapore, BMU in Singapore expects its order books in the Precast and Ready-Mix Concrete segments to continue to grow from public and private sector projects. This is in line with the Building and Construction Authority's projection of the total value of construction contracts to be awarded in 2024. Our innovation with the introduction of the larger 12 cubic metre ready-mix concrete trucks to counter a shortage of drivers has improved our operational efficiency and productivity gains.

In Malaysia, BMU in Malaysia ("Tasek") expects demand to continue to improve with the increased infrastructure development expenditure. Overall costs are expected to rise with the recent removal of diesel subsidies. Tasek is focused on improving its operational efficiency and increasing the use of recycled materials as well as alternative raw materials and fuels in our ongoing efforts to be more sustainable.

For HLA's full 1H financial report, please visit [here](#).

Hi
Life!

meals & deals



*Bienvenue!
In The City
Of Love,
Fashion,
And Lights*

M Social Paris is a home away from home where style meets comfort.

Unveil the magic of Paris and enjoy best vacation perks with Paris Exploration at M Social Hotel Paris.

Explore the hidden gems of this enchanting city and create memories to last a lifetime with the "Paris Visite Card". Immerse yourself in the timeless beauty of the iconic Eiffel Tower, Louvre Museum, Paris Fashion, and French cuisine in Paris.

The Paris Visite Card offers numerous benefits to travellers exploring the vibrant city of Paris. It provides unlimited travel on the metro, RER, buses, trams, and the Montmartre funicular, making it very convenient to navigate the city and reach desired destinations. It also grants access to various zones, allowing travellers to venture beyond the city center and explore the surrounding regions.

For more information and reservations, please visit M Social Paris [here](#).

** Information correct at time of print.*

Hi
Life!

meals & deals



Yunnan Wild Mushrooms Delicacies At Man Ho Chinese Restaurant

Back by popular demand, the Yunnan wild mushroom feast returns to Michelin-starred Man Ho Chinese Restaurant at JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong, with Executive Chinese Chef Jayson Tang's newly curated dishes featuring over 10 varieties of fresh and dried mushrooms.

Unveil delectable creations such as “Braised Catfish Maw with Morel Mushrooms and Duck” (HK\$388 per guest). The tender catfish maw is stuffed with sautéed morel mushrooms, foie gras, duck meat and dried tangerine peel, and then braised in a luscious morel mushroom sauce to elevate the aroma.

The unique flavour and meaty texture of mushrooms star in “Braised Pork Knuckle with Sarcodon Aspratus Mushrooms and Black Garlic” (HK\$288 per portion). Also known as the black tiger palm mushroom, the prestigious Sarcodon Aspratus mushroom is used in braising the pork knuckle and stir-frying the glutinous rice, resulting in a harmony of bold flavours.

This and more delicacies are available now until 27 September 2024. An 8-course tasting menu is also available at HK\$1,388 per guest (minimum four guests). The above prices are subject to a 10% service charge. Menu items and prices are subject to change without prior notice.

For reservations, please call +852 2810 8366 or email jwmarriott.hk@marriotthotels.com.

** Information correct at time of print.*



Unlock A Lively Feast Of Shunde Cuisine At Grand Millennium Hongqiao

Journey through the flavours of Shunde (a district in Foshan city, Guangdong province), at Grand Millennium Shanghai Hongqiao. Savour dishes like Baked Salt Chicken with Ginger and Onion, and Deep Fried Spring Roll Stuffed with Milk Custard.

Shunde (or Shun Tak in Cantonese) is an important birthplace of Cantonese cuisine. Cuisine is a common gene passed down from generation to generation in Shunde. The Shunde Cuisine Journey is underway at the Spectrum Chinese Restaurant of Grand Millennium Shanghai Hongqiao.

Helmed by the Hong Kong Chef Lei Yuyang, with meticulously researched and developed of Cantonese chef team, each and every dish is full of Shunde's local customs and flavours, bringing you a lively taste buds feast.



Grand Millennium Shanghai Hongqiao's Spectrum Restaurant features 9 private dining rooms making it perfect for intimate dinners, corporate lunches, and celebrations.

For reservations, please visit Grand Millennium Shanghai Hongqiao [here](#).

** Information correct at time of print.*



Wow! Celebrate Singapore's 59th Year With Orchard Café's Singalicious SG59 Buffet

A guaranteed "shio-ness" mouth-watering spread of Singapore delights at Orchard Café in Orchard Hotel.

From now until 31 October 2024, experience local prime favourites where Singapore's vibrant flavours come to life, all crafted by our masterful chefs as one, as you savour an exquisite assortment of fresh seafood, luxurious roasts, and tantalizing creations, each a testament to their culinary expertise.

Special highlights include Singapore Chilli Crab with Fried Mantou, Nyonya Baked Salmon with Otak-otak, Oyster Omelette, Baked Oyster with Sambal Mentaiko, Laksa Infused Wagyu Beef Rump, Char Siu Pizza, Mutton Shank Curry, and Signature Durian Penganan.

And if you dine by 30 September, the 2nd diner gets 59% off!

For more information and reservations, please visit Orchard Café [here](#).

** Information correct at time of print.*

Hi
Life!

meals & deals



Knock Your Summer Out Of The Park With Baseball Getaways At The Biltmore Los Angeles

Dodger Stadium is home of the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team for over 50 years. It is also the third oldest ballpark in Major League Baseball.

Make it a game-day getaway at The Biltmore Los Angeles. Enjoy a discounted room rate, waived late check-out fee, 15% off appetizers at Gallery Bar & Grill and discounted parking of US\$35 (overnight).

With the hotel just two miles away from Dodger Stadium, you can be sure it will be a home run all season long.

Limited time deal, subject to availability. The offer is available only at The Biltmore Los Angeles.

For more information and reservations, please visit The Biltmore Los Angeles [here](#).

** Information correct at time of print.*



Sedap! Pocket-Friendly All-You-Can-Eat Nasi Padang? Head To M Hotel For Lunch!

Look no further than M Hotel Singapore for Head Chef Nazrin's (left photo) delicious buffet feast of Nasi Padang, a traditional Indonesian spread of meats, fish, vegetables and spicy sambals (or chilli paste) eaten with rice.

With a wallet-friendly buffet price of \$32.80++ (wef. 1 Sep), enjoy unlimited servings of over 30 different padang dishes without nuking your wallet. Whet your appetite with cold starters like the Rojak Cingur, Gado Gado, and indulge in a heartwarming bowl of Sup Buntut or Soto Ayam at our live noodle station. You will also discover familiar and authentic Nasi Padang dishes prepared using heritage recipes including Beef Rendang, Udang Sambal Petai, Ayam Kari Kelapa, and other favourites like Begadil, Sayur Lodeh enjoyed together with three varieties of rice – Nasi Putih, Nasi Kuning, and Nasi Merah, best with chef's Sambal Belacan, and Sambal Hijau Balado. Sedap!

For those with a sweet tooth, indulge in up to five different desserts including the Bolu Gulung, Pulut Hitam, Singkong Rebus, Es campur to round up your feast.

Bold, Fresh and Flavourful: Discover Chef Nazrin's Signature Dishes

Look out for The Buffet Restaurant's Head Chef Nazrin as he brings his innovative and adventurous passion for food to your table. With a deeply rooted love for traditional cuisine, watch as he re-creates time-honoured dishes such as Gulai Kambing, Gulai Ayam, Soto Kambing and the well-loved Assam Pedas Oxtail, served with toasted bread. These highlights are available on rotation, ensuring an exciting spread daily.

Available Monday to Friday, 12pm to 2:30pm at S\$32.80++ per adult or S\$16.80 per takeout box. For reservations, please visit M Hotel Singapore [here](#).

** Information correct at time of print.*



Chomp Your Way Through Hunan And Canton At Grand Millennium Beijing

Get your chopsticks ready and taste your way with authentic Hunan and Cantonese delights at Yao Chi Chinese Restaurant in Grand Millennium Beijing.

Yao Chi Chinese Restaurant at Grand Millennium Beijing selects fresh ingredients and brings authentic Hunan and Cantonese cuisine to diners with excellent cooking skills.

Don't miss the chance to savour the unique charm of Hunan and Cantonese cuisine like Bitter Melon with Passion Fruit, Steamed Turbot Fish with Chilli, Black Barbecued Pork, and Fried Lamb with Chilli at Yao Chi Chinese Restaurant, and experience the wonderful time of midsummer with friends and family together with the recommended dishes.



Bitter Melon with Passion Fruit is a refreshing dish that perfectly complements the sweet and sour taste of passion fruit juice.



Turbot fish is loved by people for its delicious taste, rich nutrition, and few bones. Together with Liuyang chili, this dish of Steamed Turbot with Chilli with its unique spiciness and authentic taste is fully displayed.

For reservations, please visit Yao Chi Chinese Restaurant [here](#).

** Information correct at time of print.*



play



M Social Suzhou Gyms Up In Style With Stretches And More!

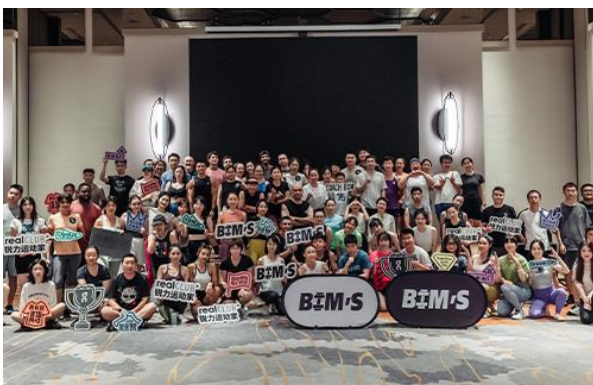
More than 100 fitness enthusiasts participated in M Social Suzhou's "Long Time No Gym" event for a healthier lifestyle.

Long time no gym! M Social Hotel Suzhou recently teamed up with On Sportswear company, BIM GYM, and HSBC to promote a stylish and healthy lifestyle with the joy and benefits of exercise.

The event included a dedicated booth that showcased latest fitness trends and tips, a professional sports gear exhibition by On Sportswear, and an interactive experience with a workout session and free fitness consultation by BIM GYM's professional trainers.

All participants also received special deals including dining and accommodation discounts at M Social Suzhou.

Through resource sharing and mutual support, all parties aim to deeply instil the concepts of health and positivity into the hearts of the people.



The participants beam with smiles as they pose for a photo in M Social Suzhou's ballroom after their workout.



play



A Fun Day In The Sun With Tasek's Fun-tastic Sports Day

It was fun, games and laughter galore as more than 250 staff employees from Tasek pitted against each other in some friendly rivalry at Tasek's Fun-tastic Sports Day.

The saying "A team that plays together stays together" cannot be more true for Hong Leong Asia's subsidiary Tasek Corporation Berhad.

At the recent annual sport meet, more than 250 Tasekians came together for a sunny morning of fun and games. While team assignments were random, everyone wasted no time in bonding and strategising to win their matches in games like Ping Pong Ball Race and Flour Passing.



Staff participants warming up and flexing their muscles with morning stretches before starting their day with team competitions like Ping Pong Ball Race and Flour Passing.

The Blue Team emerged victorious. But judging from the cheers and laughter all round, everyone was a winner when it comes to having fun!

Staying cool and green was also top in their minds with everyone bringing their own tumblers for water and cold drink refills.

Tasek Fun-tastic Day may be over, but we are sure Tasekians are already looking forward to next year's edition!

Hi
Life!

play



Stay And Explore With Studio M's Lion City Bike Tour

Planning to explore the vibrant city of Singapore and immerse yourself in its rich cultural heritage? For all outdoor enthusiasts, Studio M Singapore has the perfect offer for you!

In partnership with Bike Around Tour, Studio M Singapore is presenting an eco-friendly way to discover the cityscape and historical charm of our metropolitan garden city through guided bicycle tour.

Choose your favourite room type (stay for at least 2 Days 1 Night) and enjoy daily breakfast buffet for two. Wake up feeling refresh and join Bike Around Singapore on a 4-hours Lion City Bike Tour for 2 person from 9am to 1pm. Ride through Singapore downtown, Formula 1 track, Marina Bay, Chinatown, Little India, Kampong Glam, and many exciting places in small group together with a licensed local tour guide.

Bicycles and refreshing local snacks are provided to keep you energised, plus tour guides to share top recommendations on best local haunts to eat, visit and play.

Please visit [Studio M Singapore](#) and book your stay today!



play



CDL Has Fun Fiesta With The King Of Fruits!

A total of 200 durian aficionados were treated to a feast of 400 kg of durians at Republic Plaza (CDL's flagship building), as part of the company's monthly staff gatherings to promote camaraderie and workplace cohesion.

A total of 200 CDL staff employees donned the vibrant new CDL corporate polo shirts and gathered for the much-anticipated Durian Fiesta. Available in striking shades of blue and orange, the polo shirts, made from a blend of 52% organic cotton and 48% recycled polyester, reflect CDL's commitment to sustainability.

The dual-colour theme gave employees the freedom to express their individuality while promoting a shared sense of belonging and unity. In CDL, we call this unity in diversity.

The irresistible aroma of durians filled the air as laughter and lively conversation resonated across the event space, creating an atmosphere brimming with excitement and camaraderie.



Enjoying the camaraderie as the teams from Property Development (left photo) and Asset Management (right photo) delighted in the durian feast.

A whopping 400 kg of durians were consumed! The varieties included 200kg of Grade A Mao Shan Wang, 100 kg of Sultan King D24, and 100 kg of D13. There was also a myriad of tropical fruits like coconuts, mangosteens, and longans for all to enjoy.

This event was thoughtfully organised by CDL's dedicated Staff Connect Committee, a team of enthusiastic employees committed to fostering workplace cohesion and well-being. From the Annual Dinner & Dance to the monthly "Don't Say Bo Jio" employee gatherings, the committee creates opportunities for colleagues to connect



play

outside the office. They also promote wellness through lunch talks, sports events, and other health-focused activities.

CDL recognises that workplace cohesion is key to a positive work culture. Events like the Durian Fiesta allow employees to strengthen teamwork and build lasting bonds.



HLGSRC:
Where
Adventures
Await And
Memories Are
Made!

A highlight activity this quarter was the 3D2N getaway to Cameron Highlands, where participants explored unique locations, trekked through the enchanting Mossy Forest, and even tried their hand at vegetable harvesting.

Hong Leong Group Sports & Recreation Club (HLGSRC) has had a busy few months, with a variety of exciting activities and competitions for our employees across the Group! Here are some highlights of the events that were organised.

Go-Karting

30 staff, together with friends and family, geared up for an exhilarating experience of real-life racing and gaming around a 3-level racetrack at HyperDrive, Palawan Beach at Sentosa, Asia's first indoor gamified electric go-kart circuit on 6 July 2024.



Everyone's a winner! Staff from HL Building Materials Pte Ltd and City Developments Ltd posing at the winner's podium.

Participants immersed themselves in the ultimate interactive race experience with special lighting and sound effects where they collected "weapons" to sabotage competitors or "boosts" to turbo-charge themselves to the finish line!

3D2N Cameron Highlands Getaway

HLGSRC, in collaboration with Copthorne Hotel Cameron Highlands, organised a 3D2N trip to Cameron Highlands from 20 – 22 July 2024.



play

Upon arrival, the 47 travellers were warmly welcomed by the General Manager of Copthorne Hotel Cameron Highlands, Mr Patrick Tee. After settling into their rooms, participants enjoyed a sumptuous BBQ and buffet steamboat dinner at the hotel.

On the 2nd day, participants were brought to one of the most iconic attractions in Cameron Highlands – the Sungei Palas Tea Garden. Located on a hilltop, they stood amazed at the beautiful backdrop of undulating tea fields as far as the eye could see. From there, they took an adventurous trek into the enchanting Mossy Forest, a quiet but fascinating labyrinth of branches and stems intertwined in the huge canopy of trees.

To cap off the day, they visited a vegetable farm and experienced hands-on how vegetables are grown and harvested, harvesting produce for their own steamboat buffet dinner.



Participants celebrating surviving the trek through the mossy forest.



"Green acres is the place for me; Farm livin' is the life for me..."

As a "bitter" ending to the trip, participants indulged in a durian sampling experience at Bentong Durian Farm before making their way back to Singapore.

NDP Preview Dinner

Atlantic Restaurant at the Tower Club was packed to the brim on 27 July 2024 for the highly anticipated and overwhelmingly subscribed National Day Preview Dinner. 95 participants, consisting of 34 staff and their families, enjoyed the National Day Preview spectacular fireworks show while savouring an exclusively curated dinner.

Golf

Golfers from across the Hong Leong Group of companies came together on 4 August 2024 to showcase their skills on the greens of Orchid Country Club. Despite the gloomy weather and delays in play due to rain, spirits remained high, and the golfers used the time to socialise and bond over their shared passion for the sport.



Hong Leong Group golfers excited to start the tournament.



Ms Kwek Pei Xuan, President of the HLGSRG, presenting prizes to the tournament winners. 1st photo: Tournament champions, Mr Mark Lim from CDL (extreme right) and his guest. 2nd photo: 1st runner up, Mr Goh Chin Siang, CBM (2nd from left), Mr Glenn Teo, CBM (2nd from right) and their guests. 3rd photo: (starting from 2nd from left) Mr Vincent Ang, HL Building Materials, Ms Seow Yiling, CBM, Mr Mak Khay Ming, HL Building Materials and Mr Goh Say Joo, CBM.

Congratulations to all the winners for overcoming both the elements and competition to emerge victorious!

Culinary Class

In partnership with Tower Club, staff enjoyed a culinary workshop led by renowned New Zealand chef Jenna White on 17 August 2024.

Chef Jenna demonstrated her exceptional Pavlova Roulade with Tropical Salsa, a dessert that seamlessly blends a delicate, cloud-like meringue with the vibrant flavours of tropical fruit, to a cozy crowd of 14 participants.



Mr Andy Tan, Millennium Hotels & Resorts, and Ms Jacqueline Ho, Orchard Hotel Singapore, eagerly taking notes in hopes of successfully replicating Chef Jenna's Pavlova Roulade at home.

After the demonstration, participants savoured a 3-course light lunch made specially with the freshest ingredients from New Zealand, and enjoyed some time of interaction with Chef Jenna, as well as her delicious Pavlova Roulade.



Participants delighted to take a photograph with chef Jenna White after the enjoyable culinary workshop.



care



CDL's Chief Sustainability Officer In Winning The Global Race To Zero: "Green The Built Environment"

As CDL's first Chief Sustainability Officer, Ms Esther An quickly championed an ethos that still guides its business practices today: "Conserving as we Construct".

A pioneer in sustainability, City Developments Limited (CDL) was the first organisation in Singapore to begin publishing sustainability reports in 2008 and the first Singapore firm to issue a green bond in 2017. Proceeds from its first green bond were used to repay a loan spent on retrofitting and upgrading efforts at Republic Plaza, its flagship headquarters, to maintain high levels of building performance in energy and water management.



CDL's first dedicated report which describes its economic, social and environmental activities. It provided an in-depth look at its operational functions in project development and property management of residential and commercial developments in Singapore

CDL's Chief Sustainability Officer Ms Esther An shares, "At the time, we had to explain to local banks how green financing would work for buildings. Today, sustainable finance is becoming mainstream, and banks are well versed in supporting green buildings and climate action."

In 2007, it launched a "1°C Up" campaign to encourage its tenants to raise their air-conditioning temperature to save energy. Over the years, it has led green efforts, for example, energy-efficient retrofitting and initiatives that have saved approximately S\$42 million in energy savings from 2012 to 2023.



care

In 2014, CDL was the first Singapore real estate company to launch the Green Lease campaign for its tenants, with the support of the Building and Construction Authority (BCA). In 2017, it achieved 100% participation from its retail and office tenants.

In 2024, it became the first corporation in Singapore to adopt the global Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) framework. In its latest sustainability report, it set out its strategy and actions to minimise its impact on nature and mitigate nature-related risks, among other TNFD-recommended disclosures.

Esther says: “In the early days of our sustainability journey, most in the built environment sector saw sustainability only as a cost. Now, more businesses consider sustainability initiatives an important investment to generate long-term value, to reduce their climate-related risks, capture opportunities, and get ahead of environmental regulations. We’re glad that we started our environmental journey early and are pioneers in many areas, including reporting on the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures in 2017, and the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, which we published in March this year.”

The Four I’s of Sustainability

She notes that real estate companies have a social responsibility to reduce their carbon footprint, given that buildings and construction account for nearly 40 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. “Apart from new developments, it is crucial to better manage buildings and their operations, and continual efforts to retrofit older buildings are key because some 70 per cent of buildings that exist today will still be around in 2050.”

CDL has articulated four key pillars in its sustainability strategy: Integration, Innovation, Investment and Impact. “Integration is critical to effectively embed sustainability into your business strategy and operations. Innovation enables you to accelerate change and impact by developing or adapting solutions.”



CDL was the first developer in Asia to adopt Prefabricated Prefinished Volumetric Construction (PPVC) for a large-scale residential development. (Pictured: Brownstone Executive Condominium launched in 2015).

“Investment is essential to deploy technologies and solutions for decarbonisation. Businesses with strong sustainability strategy and performance have better access to responsible investment and sustainable finance. Most, if not all, companies need the support of banks and investors for long-term growth.”

As for impact, Esther points out that every business decision matters. She explains: “Everything we do has positive or negative consequences, or both. That is why sustainability reporting is essential. What you don’t measure, you don’t know, and what you don’t know, you can’t manage. If you want to improve performance and be future-ready, you need to identify and work on gaps.”



care

By tracking past and present performance, companies can embark on and hone their forward-looking scenario planning. “The cost of inaction can be substantial if companies are not prepared for the physical and transitional risks that lie ahead. CDL has conducted three rounds of climate change scenario studies since 2018. This has allowed us to gain insight into potential risks caused by more severe and frequent climate threats, new regulations and changing expectations of investors, financiers and insurance companies.”

Going Green for the Long Haul



CDL's climate transition plan sets out its interim and long-term emissions reduction targets and outlines the strategies and measures to meet its targets. The action plan lays out how CDL will achieve its sustainability strategy by pivoting existing assets, operations, and business models towards a trajectory that aligns with the latest and most ambitious climate science recommendations.

As CDL forges ahead in sustainability, it has always had the full support of its board and management. She highlights: “Leadership commitment is key to sustainability integration. More companies have been stepping up on building or enhancing their sustainability capabilities in recent years. To be effective, the sustainability portfolio needs to be empowered as an independent and dedicated unit for it to ensure that ESG can be integrated into every business and operational unit. Parking sustainability under the remit of risk management, finance or corporate communications is not advisable as the expertise required is very different.”

She shares that the Group Chief Executive Officer, Mr Sherman Kwek, is dedicated to further enhancing CDL's sustainability leadership by integrating it into the company's GET (Growth, Enhancement and Transformation) strategy he has established. She says: “I think the fact that CDL is a listed company with Hong Leong Investment Holdings as its major shareholder is an advantage. Like many successful global family businesses, it takes a long-term view to sustain growth by future-proofing its business for investors and generations to come.”

She is also doing her part to ensure the firm's continued care for the environment and pursuit of ESG excellence, by nurturing the next generation of sustainability leaders within the company and the community at large.



The Singapore Sustainability Academy (SSA) is the first major People, Public and Private (3P) ground-up initiative and zero-energy facility in Singapore dedicated to capacity building and thought leadership for climate action and the SDGs. It involves an extensive partnership with six government agencies and 15 industry and non-governmental organisation (NGO) partners. As of 31 December 2023, the SSA has hosted over 970 sustainability-related training programmes and advocacy events, attracting close to 33,400 attendees. As the pot of seeds for sustainability, it features 3,200 square feet of solar PV panels on its roof, generating 60,000 kWh per year.



care

On building sustainability talents and the future of SSA, she explained, “I hire people who are passionate about sustainability, and help them to develop the skills and expertise they need. CDL has long been committed to raising awareness and building sustainable communities through its active stakeholder and community engagement programmes. Its Singapore Sustainability Academy, the country’s first ground-up initiative on sustainability, supported by 6 government agencies and 15 founding industry and NGO partners, has hosted more than 1,000 events and training courses for some 35,000 visitors since its opening in June 2017. With a fast-growing network, the Academy is a strong force for positive change and impact.”



care



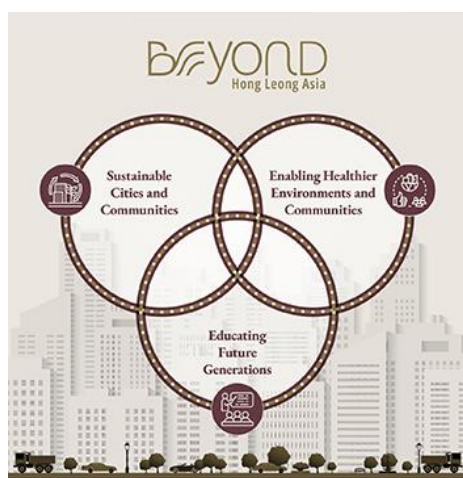
BeyondHLA: Hong Leong Asia's Corporate Responsibility Initiative To Build Sustainable Cities, Healthier Communities, And Educate Future Generations

Ms Kwek Pei Xuan, Hong Leong Asia's Executive Director and Head of Sustainability & Corporate Affairs, guiding students from Xingnan Primary School through their thought processes on a build model.

Hong Leong Asia (HLA) is on a mission to empower HLAsians and inspire industry partners to make a meaningful and sustainable difference in people's lives and work.

From reducing the environmental impact of its products and operations, and supporting sustainability workshops for primary school students, to mobilising HLAsians and communities for beach clean-ups and more, the HLA Group is committed to continuous community support and endeavours to drive transformative, generational impact for more liveable and sustainable cities of the future.

To reflect the HLA's commitment to inspire and empower future generations to build a more equitable, prosperous world, and an increasingly focused approach to sustainability, HLA officially launched its corporate responsibility initiative, BeyondHLA.



The approach focuses on (i) "Sustainable Cities and Communities", (ii) "Enabling Healthier Environments and Communities" and (iii) "Educating Future Generations", outlining Hong Leong Asia's unwavering commitment to a sustainable future.



care

BeyondHLA's strategic three-pronged approach is an extension of its Founder's legacy of giving through education, supporting sustainable cities and communities, as well as community engagement.

Outreach Programme

Educating future generations is an important part of BeyondHLA, especially when it concerns existential global challenges like climate change.

Under BeyondHLA's Youth4Planet Challenge, over 40 HLAsians volunteered with Xingnan Primary School to share about sustainability, the built environment, and transportation sectors.

Mr Andrew Yeo, Senior HR Manager at HL Building Materials, explains his reason for volunteering: "I find great joy working with children, and by engaging them at an early age, we can instill lifelong habits and values that promote conservation and respect for our planet."



The students were engaged in brainstorming ideas and putting their hands together to bring their sketches to life. They learnt time management, communication, and collaboration – an important life skill for students to learn!

The students were transported to a world where any idea could take flight, designing a future vehicle to a launch complex tailored to a region's unique climate – from icy polar landscapes to lush tropical and vast deserts.

By empowering students to "Make-break-learn-repeat", HLA believes it builds creative confidence in our future problem-solvers by tapping into the young's creativity to focus on bringing stories to life, and just not about building.

Leveraging on its regional reach, its heritage of pioneering ideas with engineering and technological ingenuity, as well as the talent and expertise of over 9,000 employees, HLA looks forward to partnering with key stakeholders and staff to uplift the communities the company operate in to inspire the next generation workforce and safeguard the future of our planet.



care



Millennium Hotels And Resorts Middle East: Extending Love To The Community And Caring For The Environment

Millennium Hotels and Resorts MEA is committed to giving back to the community and environment, enriching the Group's purpose and positive impact on its communities.

Giving Back to the Environment

On the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, Millennium Hotels and Resorts MEA was recognised by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment UAE for the Group's dedication and commitment to protecting and restoring the mangrove ecosystem through its tree-planting initiatives.



Mr Samuel Njoroge, Regional Quality Assurance Manager at Millennium Hotels & Resorts MEA, receiving the award from the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment.

Mr Samuel Njoroge, Regional Quality Assurance Manager at Millennium Hotels & Resorts MEA said, "It was such an honour to receive this recognition on behalf of Millennium Hotels & Resorts MEA. We are excited to be part of this important movement as a hotel group, contributing to impactful environmental efforts and playing our part in reducing our carbon footprint.

Our efforts in planting and restoring mangroves not only support biodiversity but also help combat climate change by sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. We are thankful for this esteemed recognition and to all who have supported our initiatives."



care

Spreading Love and Joy to Children

Grand Millennium Al Seef Basra volunteered at a children's hospital and prepared gifts and food for the children to spread some love and cheer. This meaningful event demonstrates the hotel's ongoing commitment to the community by creating joyful experiences for children battling illnesses.

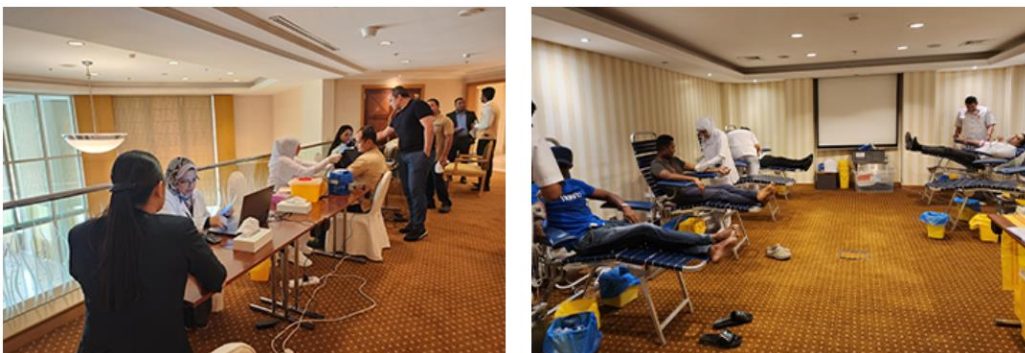


Volunteers prepared a truck of gifts and food for the children undergoing care in the hospital.

The event was marked by an atmosphere of warmth and happiness and the hotel staff volunteers ensured the spirits of these special children were lifted. Grand Millennium Al Seef Basra is deeply honoured to be part of their journey, celebrating their strength and resilience.

Giving Blood, Saving Lives

Cophorne Al Jahra Hotel & Resort recently collaborated with Kuwait's Ministry of Health to organise a blood donation drive for staff at the hotel premises.



Hotel staff from various departments participating in the blood donation drive.

A crucial part of saving lives, blood contains many life-saving components that treat different illnesses and injuries. For many patients, blood donors are their lifeline, especially during medical emergencies such as accident survivors, major surgeries, blood disorders, and newborns with medical conditions.

The hotel appreciates all staff for their efforts behind the scenes and donations. Together, we are a community of lifesavers.



From Construction Sites To Hotels: CDL's Strong Commitment To Workers' Safety, Health And Well-being

CDL's Group CEO, Mr Sherman Kwek, leads a site inspection and engagement at Amber Park, joined by members of the Board of Directors, ExCo, and senior management, to commend the team for their dedication and adherence to Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) standards.

City Developments Limited (CDL) remains steadfast in its dedication to workers' safety, health and well-being through proactive and monthly engagements led by the Management Executive Committee (ExCo) and senior management, representing the Board of Directors.

These comprehensive visits encompass CDL's corporate office, managed properties, construction sites, properties operated under Millennium Hotels and Resorts ("MHR") and offices of its subsidiaries, underscoring its leadership's commitment to the highest safety standards in line with the Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) requirements on Workplace Health and Safety.



CDL's Group CEO, Mr Sherman Kwek, distributes mosquito repellent sprays and highlights the crucial importance of dengue prevention measures at Irwell Hill Residences.



CDL's Group Chief Operating Officer, Mr Kwek Eik Sheng, who is also an Executive Director of MHR, engages with staff at M Social Hotel to reinforce slip, trip and fall prevention measures and distribute bags to promote maintaining a three-point contact for safety.



care



CDL's Group General Manager, Mr Chia Ngiang Hong shares insights and learnings with staff at City Serviced Offices on recent slip, trip, and fall incidents to enhance safety awareness.



CDL's Group Chief Financial Officer, Ms Yiong Yim Ming interacts with workers at City Industrial Building to gain insights into their work environment and address any concerns.

Recent visits have zeroed in on critical safety issues including heat stress management and prevention of slip, trip, and fall incidents—common hazards in Singapore's environment. To support our workforce, the CDL team distributed portable fans, bags, and fruits, and provided practical tips on staying hydrated. These efforts ensure that safety remains a top priority across CDL's operations.

At CDL, our commitment to safety and well-being is championed at every level, from the Board of Directors to operation teams. Through detailed inspections, ongoing engagements and close collaboration with contractors and subsidiaries, we strive to maintain a safe and healthy working environment across all CDL-managed properties, projects, and business units.



CDL's Head of Property Development Division, Ms Lee Mei Ling and Head of Green Building, Decarbonisation and Safety (GBDS), Mr Allen Ang, lead an engagement with workers at Newport Residences, recognising their efforts and distributing fans and fruits to support heat stress management.



CDL's Head of Global Asset Management Division, Ms Callie Yah leads a detailed kitchen inspection at Tower Club with its General Manager, Mr Andrew Mah, to ensure compliance with safety and hygiene standards.



A Heart For the Community: CDL Group GM Mr Chia Ngiang Hong Helps Inmates On Their Rehabilitation Journey

Mr Chia Ngiang Hong, CDL Group General Manager, actively engages in community work and grassroots activities. The Public Service Star (Bar) Award recognises his service as Chairman of the Home Detention Advisory Committee.

Many of our leaders contribute their expertise and time beyond the workplace, reflecting a heart for the community.

Mr Chia Ngiang Hong, Group General Manager of City Developments Limited (CDL), recently received the National Day Award - The Public Service Star (Bar) for serving as the Chairman of the Home Detention Advisory Committee under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The National Day Awards recognise various forms of merit and services to Singapore. Mr Chia was previously awarded the Public Service Star in 2013 and the Public Service Medal in 2008.

Beyond being an industry veteran, he actively engages in community work and grassroots activities and had served as a Justice of the Peace.

We catch up with Mr Chia to learn more about his meaningful work as Chairman of the Home Detention Advisory Committee and what this National Day Award means to him.

Q: How did you begin your involvement with Singapore Prison Service and the Home Detention Advisory Committee?

After my appointment as Justice of the Peace in 2008, I volunteered to serve in the Board of Visitors (BOV) and Board of Visiting Justices (BOVJ) under Singapore Prison Service (SPS) and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

We visit the various prison complexes and related facilities on regular basis and meet up with inmates to check on their welfare in prison, including the condition of their accommodation, meals, medical needs and the prison programmes. Sometimes, we also check on whether they require other assistance, such as for family-related concerns (especially for those with young children) or other aspects of their well-being.

After our visits, we provide relevant feedback to SPS to address the concerns brought up. SPS staff will then review the feedback seriously and report back to us with their recommendations or remedial actions, or any other assistance to be provided.

SPS also organises regular sharing and feedback sessions to keep us posted on latest developments. We learn a lot from these sessions and provide feedback and suggestions on how to improve the prison conditions and services and ways to make rehabilitation more progressive so the inmates can reintegrate back into society more effectively.



voices

Along the way, I was invited to sit on the Home Detention Advisory Committee (HDAC) before becoming the Chairman subsequently.

Q: As Chairman of the Home Detention Advisory Committee, what are your responsibilities and what do you hope to achieve?

Prisoners who have served at least 14 days of a prison sentence longer than four weeks are eligible to serve a certain duration of the balance sentence under home detention, instead of in prison as part of an initiative to prioritise their rehabilitation. SPS officers will evaluate eligible cases and submit their recommendations to the HDAC for review.

As Chairman of the HDAC, together with the rest of the committee members, we will evaluate each case and provide our opinion and feedback. We will either accept, reject or modify the recommendations, ensuring that they comply with the existing laws and regulations and that there is consistency in the various cases.

Our objective is to give deserving inmates a chance to have an earlier release so that they can get on with their rehabilitation journey sooner rather than later. It is also important to ensure that they have the appropriate family or other support during the home detention period and suitable employment opportunities to facilitate their rehabilitation journey.

Q: What drives you to volunteer in this capacity despite your busy work schedule?

This function is meaningful and important as we are helping inmates to return to society as useful citizens as soon as practicable. Our objective is to prioritise their rehabilitation journey so that they can reconcile with their families and take on responsible roles in society. We hope this would reduce the recidivism rate and see more inmates reintegrating into society to lead normal lives.

Q: Are there any memorable encounters you have experienced in this role that you can share with us?

We had a case where an inmate was desperately seeking approval for early release to attend to some important and urgent family issues which required his presence. Though the application was granted, the date of release was moderated to a later date due to an earlier offence.

We reviewed the case and found that the earlier offence was committed some years back and under the prevailing rules should not adversely affect his release date. We then proceeded to rectify the recommendation and grant him early release so that he could settle his urgent family matters.

Q: What does receiving the Public Service Star (Bar) Award mean to you?

It is an honour to be awarded this prestigious National Day Award by the President of Singapore. I am humbled by the generous recognition accorded to me by SPS and MHA.

It has been a very meaningful and fruitful journey working with the SPS and MHA all these years to do my little bit to make some difference in the lives of the inmates, ex-offenders and their families, and hopefully promote a more humane, inclusive and kinder society.

Besides my involvement in the SPS and MHA, I am also active in the grassroots movement, serving as Honorary Chairman in the Bedok Citizens' Consultative Committees (CCC). I was recently appointed as a Grassroots Mentor and sit as Committee Member of the Grassroots Mentor Committee.

The Charity sector is also close to my heart and I am currently serving as the Chairman of the Arc Children's Centre, an IPC registered charity supporting the growth and development of children with life-threatening illnesses, mainly cancer, and their siblings and families.



getting to know you



Five Reasons To Live At The Castings, Manchester's New Stylish Rental Apartments

Be greeted by a warm and stylish reception lobby when you come home to The Castings.

Ms Phoebe Jobling, property writer for Manchester Evening News, was invited to The Castings in Piccadilly East to see what it has to offer its tenants. Read on to find out the five things that made her want to live there!

‘Anyone who has rented in Manchester in recent years will know that it isn't short on its offering of shiny new apartment buildings. New built-to-rent schemes have been popping up left, right and centre across the city over the last few years to keep up with soaring demand.

Whilst the main struggle today often comes down to finding somewhere that's somewhat affordable, it can also be difficult to decide which building is right for you.

As someone who currently rents in Manchester, I had three main priorities when I was looking for my new home last year - location, price and amenities. And it is the latter in itself that would make me choose The Castings in a heartbeat if I was to move again.



The spacious apartments are well furnished and designed for modern living.

The design-led development is made up of 352 new homes, consisting of studio, one, two and three bed apartments which aim to 'redefine modern living in Manchester.' Ahead of its launch, The Castings community manager, Dave Evans, said: "The focus for us has been to create much more than just apartments; it's an experiential way of living."



getting to know you

Here are the five things that stood out to me the most:

Luxury Residents Lounge and Media Room



Residents can enjoy mingling at the cosy lounge or a movie night at the media room.

The biggest stand out for me was the residents lounge - a space available for all tenants to use as and when they like. You'd be forgiven for thinking this was a fancy bar in London, with its plush sofas, gold detailing and luxury lightening.

Aside from the reception area, this was the first room I saw, so it was clear from the get go that no expense had been spared on the interior of this building. Often when living in an apartment you're tied down to just having your own living area to relax in, so the idea of coming here for some R&R or to meet with friends would be a dream.

It's also kitted out with a pool table and a variety of board games, making it a great place to socialise with fellow residents. There is also a Media Room which you can hire out for a film night with friends, complete with an 85" TV and a cosy corner sofa - and there was also talk of the team getting a PS5 for budding gamers to use.

Private Dining and Kitchen Space



The Sky Lounge is ideal for hosting small gatherings, with a private dining room complete with a fully-equipped kitchen.

This stunning space named the Sky Lounge is another one of the shared spaces that all residents can relish in. Its sleek design has been carefully thought out to create a bright and spacious room that tenants can go to as an extension of their own apartment.

It has a private dining room, complete with a fully equipped kitchen, which you can hire out if you want to host your friends and family for the night - but might not necessarily have enough space to do so in your flat. The room has a table large enough to seat 10 guests as well as a gorgeous lounge space where you can host drinks and small gatherings.



getting to know you

Gym and Wellness Studio



Fitness enthusiasts will be impressed by the modern, well-equipped gym and the soothing wellness studio.

During my visit to The Castings, I was invited to try out the gym with a workout hosted by Barry's instructor Meg Landi. I knew even before the workout began that I would be impressed by the facilities as it had heaps of high-tech Technogym equipment such as a squat rack, cable resistance machines and a StairMaster.

As well as the gym being well-equipped, spacious and modern in its design, it also has a beautiful wellness studio attached to it - something that I'm pretty sure is unique to The Castings. Complete with big windows letting in lots of natural light and lush greenery, this relaxing space allows you to feel zen and is the perfect place to stretch off, practice yoga or meditate.

Home Working Hub



Work in comfort at the spacious home working hub, with booths and a meeting room available if you require more privacy.

If you're like me and you work from home as well as working in the office, I often find that I don't necessarily enjoy working in my apartment - the same space where I eat, relax and sleep. Having a home-working hub within your apartment building is definitely something that I envy about The Castings.

Being able to go somewhere else to work that is just a few minutes away from your home is more than ideal. The home working hub here offers the perfect workspace with a spacious room that contains 12 desk spaces, as well as three booths if you want a little more privacy. There is also a meeting room that you can book if you have an important meeting to attend.



getting to know you

Rooftop Views



Take in 360-degree views of some of Manchester's finest landmarks at the rooftop terrace, with ample seating and even some fun hanging hammock chairs.

Last but certainly not least, who doesn't love a good view? Many people who want to rent in Manchester dream of having somewhere with a nice view where you can enjoy the city, and you can't put a price on that.

The main rooftop terrace at The Castings sits on the 21st floor and boasts 360-degree views of some of the city's finest landmarks, as well as Ancoats and New Islington down below.

Living in an apartment means you sacrifice having a garden, but the rooftop terrace has plenty of seating areas so you can sit and have drinks with friends in the sun, or relax and read a book in the fresh air. There are also two other terraces on the first floor which come with fun hanging hammock chairs.

Rent at The Castings starts from £1,180 per month for a studio apartment, £1,310 for a 1-bed apartment, £1,525 per month for a 2-bed and £2,165 for a 3-bed apartment. ,

Find out more about The Castings [here](#).



congratulations / appointments



Hong Leong Companies Make The Rank On Scorecard For Governance And Transparency

CDL and CDLHT snagged #2 in their respective categories.

Clockwise from top left corner: Republic Plaza (City Developments Limited); Hong Leong Finance; ; HL-Sunway Prefab Hub (Hong Leong Asia); Cophorne Cameron Highlands (HL Global Enterprises); Pullman Munich Hotel (CDL Hospitality Trusts).

Our Hong Leong Group of companies was recently ranked on the Singapore Governance and Transparency Index (SGTI) 2024, a scorecard that ranks Singapore Exchange-listed companies on corporate governance practices, timeliness, accessibility, and transparency of their financial disclosures.

SGTI is jointly conducted by SID, CPA Australia and the Centre for Governance and Sustainability at the National University of Singapore Business School. The index has two categories: a general category ranking all Singapore-listed companies, and another that ranks real estate investment trusts (REITS) and business trusts.

Currently in its 9th year, the SGTI has placed a greater emphasis on sustainability disclosures and practices. Our companies are ranked as follow:

General Category

- City Developments Limited (#2)
- Hong Leong Asia (#14)
- Hong Leong Finance (#21)
- HL Global Enterprises (#141)

REITs and business trusts category

- CDL Hospitality Trusts (#2)

According to SGTI, the index revealed that companies in the general category received an overall score of 69.3 points for their performance in the areas of shareholder rights as well as environmental, social and governance practices. This was lower than their score of 74.8 points the previous year.

In the Reits and business trusts category, the mean score stood at 86.6 points, slightly lower than 89.3 points last year.



congratulations / appointments



CDL And HLA Shine Through At The Singapore Corporate Awards

A joyous HLA team with its board of directors, senior management and staff celebrating their double wins. CEO Mr Stephen Ho holding the award for “Best Managed Award (Gold)” and Head of Sustainability and Corporate Affairs Ms Kwek Pei Xuan with the award for “Best Annual Report (Silver)”.

City Developments Limited (CDL) and Hong Leong Asia (HLA) were among 36 companies and six business leaders lauded for their accomplishments in corporate governance at the 19th edition of the Singapore Corporate Awards (SCA), 27 August 2024. The awards ceremony was held at The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore, with Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Mr Heng Swee Keat as the Guest-of-Honour.

CDL won two accolades under the large cap category for ‘Best Risk Management (Bronze)’ and ‘Distinction in Sustainability Reporting’, a new award introduced this year for exemplary sustainability reporting.

HLA also clinched double wins in the mid-cap category for ‘Best Managed Board (Gold)’ and ‘Best Annual Report (Silver)’.

When asked how boards find the right balance for the company’s broader business strategy, HLA CEO Mr Stephen Ho said, “Boards must balance sustainability initiatives with business strategies which means having a clear understanding of the company’s defined corporate purpose to ensure business resilience and long-term success. For HLA, we are guided by a shared vision to develop and deliver sustainable and innovative urban solutions for cities of the future. This has helped us to strengthen alignment across the organisation and integrate our core values and principles across our operations.”

In his speech, DPM Heng said boards “play a broader and more strategic role in the coming years” as changes across the global business landscape continue to take place and make greater impact. He also said more can be done to help companies strengthen corporate governance, particularly smaller companies with less resources.

The SCA is jointly organised by the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA), Singapore Institute of Directors (SID) and The Business Times (BT), and supported by Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority of Singapore (ACRA) and Singapore Exchange (SGX)



congratulations / appointments



A jubilant CDL team celebrating their wins at SCA 2024 with Head of Enterprise Risk Management Mr Reagan Lim and Chief Sustainability Officer Ms Esther An holding their respective awards for “Best Risk Management (Bronze)” and “Distinction in Sustainability Reporting”.



congratulations / appointments



Mr Luca Medda Appointed General Manager Of Millennium Place Barsha Heights In Dubai

Luca brings with him over 30 years of experience in the hospitality industry and was previously Cluster General Manager at the Grand Millennium Hotel & Millennium Executive Apartment in Muscat.

Millennium Place Barsha Heights is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Luca Medda as its new General Manager.

Luca will oversee all aspects of the hotel's operations, ensuring the consistent delivery of exceptional guest experiences, while also driving strategic initiatives to enhance the hotel's market positioning.

With over 30 years of extensive experience in the hospitality industry across nine countries, Luca brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to this role.

An accomplished hotelier, Luca has held several senior positions, most recently serving as Cluster General Manager at the Grand Millennium Hotel & Millennium Executive Apartment in Muscat, Oman. During his tenure, he managed the largest hotel inventory in Muscat and led the successful pre-opening of Studio M in Muscat.



congratulations / appointments



Mr Glenn Nobbs Appointed General Manager of Grand Millennium Muscat

Glenn has been an integral part of Millennium and Copthorne Hotels in the Middle East and Africa and is poised to lead Grand Millennium Muscat into a new era of excellence.

Grand Millennium Muscat has appointed Mr Glenn Nobbs as its new General Manager.

Glenn steps into this role following a successful five-year tenure as General Manager at Millennium Place Barsha Heights in Dubai. His appointment marks a significant step in the hotel's ongoing commitment to enhancing guest experiences and maintaining its position as a leading luxury destination in Muscat.

Glenn brings with him over 25 years of extensive experience in the global hospitality industry, having worked with some of the most prestigious hotel brands worldwide. His leadership and expertise are expected to further elevate the standards at Grand Millennium Muscat, ensuring that the hotel continues to deliver exceptional service and a luxurious experience for its guests.



congratulations / appointments



Hong Leong Asia Welcomes Ms Josephine Lee As Group CFO

With over 25 years of experience across different industries and geographies, Josephine will oversee the Group's financial operations in Singapore, Malaysia and China

Hong Leong Asia (HLA) is pleased to welcome Ms Josephine Lee as Group Chief Financial Officer. Ms Lee will lead the Group's finance function and oversee the financial operations in Singapore, Malaysia and China.

Her responsibilities include the Group's overall financial plans and accounting practices, financial reporting and controls, planning and analysis, risk management, audit and treasury. She will also partner business units to enhance the competitiveness and profitability of the Group and ensure that business performance is in line with HLA's overall business strategy.

Ms Lee has over 25 years of experience across a wide spectrum of industries and geographies, having accumulated extensive experience in the areas of financial planning and reporting, capital markets and fund raising, corporate governance, corporate strategy, treasury management, mergers and acquisitions, as well as audit and control.

Prior to joining HLA, Ms Lee was the Finance Director at Ho Bee Land Limited. She also held numerous senior finance roles including Chief Financial Officer at Frasers Hospitality Asset Management Pte Ltd and Frasers Hospitality Trust Management Pte Ltd, and Finance Director at Venture Corporation Limited.



congratulations / appointments



One80 At Cophthorne Hotel Wellington Oriental Bay Wins Best Burger Again!

One80 Chef Chetan Pangam with his award-winning burger, Nawabi Galouti. The burger won this year's Burger Wellington competition.

A lamb burger created by One80 at Cophthorne Hotel Wellington Oriental Bay has won the Burger Wellington competition, the second year in a row the restaurant has taken the top prize.

The winning burger Nawabi Galouti, created by Chef Chetan Pangam, follows last year's winning entry, the Goan Chicken Ros Pao burger. This is the first time in Burger Wellington's 15-year history that a restaurant has won twice in a row.

So, what is it about One80 that makes its burgers so darn delicious? It was a lot of things, Chef Pangam said -- time, effort, and lots of love among them -- but teamwork was the main thing. "A lot of lot of hard work, consistency, and just good, good flavours."

While this year's theme was 'play with your food,' Chef Pangam said he didn't want to lose track of the importance of the actual ingredients in the meal. He said using local suppliers was a huge part of the restaurant's culture, and a huge part of their success.



The Nawabi Galouti burger was inspired by the Awadhi Nawabs, who lived in Northern India in the 17th century.

The lamb provided by Lumina had been fed a diet of chicory and clover for 35 days, so the burger came with a punnet of chicory on the plate for customers to smell and eat.



congratulations / appointments

As nod to his Indian heritage, Chef Pangam said all his food was a spin on modern Indian cuisine, with flavour and taste being the key pillars. The burger had been inspired by the Awadhi Nawabs, he said, who lived in Northern India in the 17th century. They were known for smoking cigars, eating rich food, and having no teeth, he said.

As One80 won the competition the previous year, Chef Pangam was allowed to create a Garage Project beer. The beer, called Susegad, was paired with this year's burger.

Garage Project head brewer Mr Pete Gillespie said the beer had paired perfectly with the burger. "Pulling off a win two years in a row is an amazing achievement, especially given the incredible level of quality and creativity we've seen across the board in this competition. Congratulations to the team at One80."