



*Celebrating our 50th Anniversary*

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**Singapore, 22 September 2005**

### **Hospitality industry leaders and academic administrators meet to discuss roadmap for the Cornell-Nanyang Institute of Hospitality Management**

Industry stalwarts and leading academic administrators will gather to discuss the development and future plans for the Cornell-Nanyang Institute of Hospitality Management (CNI) and discuss its role in grooming middle and senior management talent for the booming hospitality industry in Singapore and the region. This is the first time the industry leaders and academic administrators are meeting as members of CNI's Joint Advisory Board.

CNI is an alliance between Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration and NTU's Nanyang Business School. To be open for enrolment next year, it offers a first-of-its-kind joint graduate degree program in hospitality management in Singapore.

The Joint Advisory Board will hold a separate dialogue session for the media to give insights into the plans for CNI as well as to comment on CNI's role in relation to current industry trends, such as regional competition for tourism dollars, integrated resorts and service standards.

The board members will also elect the positions of chair and vice-chair. The chair shall be elected from among the Cornell and NTU members by majority vote to serve a three-year term, and shall rotate between the representatives of Cornell and NTU.

Mr Philip Yeo has been proposed as chair-designate, subject to the formal ratification and bylaws of the chair election at the first meeting. The proposed vice chair-designate, is Mr Michael Chiu.

In addition, Dr Judy Siguaw, Mr Lim Neo Chian and Mr Gong Wee Lik will serve as non-voting ex officio members of the Joint Advisory Board (*please refer to the annex for individual profiles of the Joint Advisory Board*).

The Joint Advisory Board provides advice to the Deans of CNI, Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration and NTU's Nanyang Business School, as well as to the parties' governing boards. It is primarily responsible for the review and evaluation of the joint masters program and other activities of CNI. The board will assist local operations at the Singapore venue and will also help to secure fundraising support for the joint programme.

The board will meet twice annually, with members serving for three years. The inaugural Joint Advisory Board meeting is held from 21 – 23 Sep 05.

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### ***About Cornell-Nanyang Institute of Hospitality Management***

The Cornell-Nanyang Institute of Hospitality Management will offer Asia's first graduate hospitality management program beginning July 2006. Up to 50 students per class will spend equal periods of time at NTU's campus and at Cornell's campus in Ithaca, New York. The collaboration unites Cornell's School of Hotel Administration, the world's leading hospitality management school, with NTU's Nanyang Business School, one of the leading business schools in Asia, in what is the first joint degree program for both institutions.

The program is aimed at cultivating Asia-centric leadership and bringing world-class standards to the fast-growing Asian hospitality industry. The program is accredited by the International Association for Management Education (formerly the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business) and by EQUIS, the accreditation body of the European Foundation for Management Development. The Cornell-NTU collaboration is supported by the Singapore Tourism Board and the Economic Development Board, with the International Hotel Management School Pte Ltd playing a lead industry role.

For more information, visit [www.cni.ntu.edu.sg](http://www.cni.ntu.edu.sg)

### ***About Cornell University School of Hotel Administration***

The Cornell University School of Hotel Administration is shaping the global knowledge base for hospitality management through leadership in education, research and industry advancement. The school provides management-level instruction in the full range of hospitality disciplines, educating the next generation of leaders in the world's largest industry. Founded in 1922 as the nation's first collegiate course of study in hospitality management, the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration is recognized as the world leader in its field.

For more information, visit [www.hotelschool.cornell.edu](http://www.hotelschool.cornell.edu)

### ***About Nanyang Technological University***

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is an established tertiary institution with 12 Schools, including three new schools -the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Art, Design and Media, and School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

NTU has a distinguished lineage with roots that go back to 1955. Today, we are a research-intensive university ranked among the top 50 in the world. Our strength in science and engineering is acknowledged globally. We have a business school with an MBA programme that is among the top 100 in the world, an internationally-acclaimed National Institute of Education, one of the best communication and information schools in Asia, and a biological sciences school at the forefront of Singapore's life sciences initiative. The Institute of Defence & Strategic Studies is a world authority on terrorism.

Our New Undergraduate Experience featuring a holistic education including residential living and international experience has received external endorsement for its comprehensive curriculum featuring a rich selection of minors.

For more information, visit [www.ntu.edu.sg](http://www.ntu.edu.sg)

**CNI Joint Advisory Board Members**

*Proposed Chair:*

**Mr Philip Yeo** is the Chairman of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR) and Co-Chairman of the Singapore Economic Development Board. He also serves on the CapitaLand International Advisory Panel, providing inputs on the group's property, hospitality and property-related products and services.

*Proposed Vice-chair:*

**Mr Michael Chiu** is Chairman and President of Prima Donna Development Corporation and affiliated companies based in Los Altos, California. The companies are involved in the ownership, development, and management of hotels, residential, commercial and retail properties.

**Ms Margaret Ferguson** is the Associate Dean of Business Administration, School of Hotel Administration. She has nearly 20 years experience in financial, project and human resources management, including her recent role as project manager for the Cornell Hotel School's \$16.2 million addition, the Robert A. and Jan M. Beck Center.

**Professor Hong Hai** is the Dean of the Nanyang Business School. He is also a director of several public-listed companies, including China Merchant Holdings (Pacific) Ltd, IDT Holdings (Singapore) Ltd, Singapore Airport Terminal Services Ltd, Poh Tiong Choon Logistics Ltd, and Asia Food and Properties Ltd.

**Professor Sheryl Kimes** is a professor and the Richard J. and Monene P. Bradley Director for Graduate Studies at Cornell University. She will assume the position of Interim Dean of the Cornell Hotel School on 1 July 05. She researches on yield management, hotel location, and service quality. She has provided consulting and training for Starwood Asia-Pacific, Starwood Europe, Troon Golf, and Chevy's FreshMex Restaurants.

**Mr Kwek Leng Beng** is the Executive Chairman of the Hong Leong Group Singapore, one of Singapore's largest private sector conglomerates engaged in a wide range of businesses worldwide. Among the group's core businesses is hotel ownership and management, under its subsidiary, Millennium & Copthorne Hotels.

**Mr Edward Kuok** is the Chairman of Shangri-La Asia Limited which is engaged in the ownership and operation of hotels and associated properties and the provision of hotel management and related services. He is also the Chairman of EDSA Properties Holdings Inc. and Kuok Philippine Properties, Inc.

**Mr Kevin McGovern** is the Chairman and CEO of McGovern Capital LLC, which provides intellectual property rights strategy, and originates and implements capital formation, joint ventures and business alliances.

**Mr James Mingle** is the Cornell University Counsel and Secretary of the Corporation. He has more than 25 years of experience as a senior executive in university legal and educational affairs.

**Mr Ratan Tata** is the Chairman of Tata Sons Limited, the apex body of the Tata Group. One of the major Tata Group companies is Indian Hotels, which operates the Taj hotels, palaces and resorts, and is the largest hotel chain in India. Tata Group also manages the Institute of Hotel Management, Aurangabad.

Non-voting ex officio members

**Dr Judy Sigauw** is the Dean of CNI and is currently a professor of marketing and holds a J. Thomas Clark Chair in Entrepreneurship and Personal Enterprise in the School of Hotel Administration at Cornell University.

**Mr Lim Neo Chian** is the Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive of the Singapore Tourism Board, an economic development agency for one of Singapore's key service sectors.

**Mr Gong Wee Lik** is the Deputy Managing Director (International) of the Economic Development Board. He has held key portfolios in EDB in industry development, services development, international manpower and international operations, including international positions in London and Stockholm.