

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

### CNI PRESENTS THE DEAN'S DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES 2008

Senior hospitality executives from leading organizations including CBRE Hotels, Home Inns, Raffles, St James Power Station, Tiger Airways, and Zuji Travels will share their views on the current and future status of the hospitality industry commencing March 28

19 March 2008 (CNI) – SINGAPORE – Starting March 28, 2008, Dr. Judy Siguaw, Dean, Cornell-Nanyang Institute of Hospitality Management will host movers and shakers from the Asian hospitality industry. This lecture series held every Friday from March 28 to May 9, aims to promote excellence and dedication to success through the teachings of the hospitality industry's most seasoned leaders and young rising stars. The distinguished speakers will share their views about successful management styles, possible career paths, critical industry-related issues, and qualities conducive to successful business leadership. Master of Management in Hospitality (MMH) students have an unparalleled opportunity to learn and to see how hospitality leaders view the current and future status of the industry.

The Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series has hosted the most influential and accomplished leaders from every segment of the hospitality industry and in 2008, CNI welcomes :

- **Diana Ee-Tan**, Managing Director, Raffles Hotels & Resorts – March 28, 2008
- **Dennis Foo**, Chief Executive Officer, St James Power Station – April 4, 2008
- **David Sun**, Chief Executive Officer, Home Inns & Hotels Management Co Ltd – April 11, 2008
- **Tony Davis**, Group CEO & President, Tiger Aviation, Pte Ltd – April 18, 2008
- **Robert McIntosh**, Director, CBRE Hotels Asia Pacific – April 25, 2008
- **Philip Ho**, General Manager Singapore & Taiwan, Zuji Travel Pte Ltd – May 9, 2008

The lectures are open to students and guests who register with the Cornell-Nanyang Institute of Hospitality Management, and will be held at the CNI campus at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore . The lectures will be held from 10am until 11am. To register, please visit [www.cni.ntu.edu.sg](http://www.cni.ntu.edu.sg).

- ENDS -

#### SYNOPSIS OF THE DEAN'S DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS

##### **Diana Ee-Tan, Managing Director, Raffles Hotels & Resorts**

In her career in tourism and hospitality spanning more than 18 years, Diana has held senior management positions in both marketing and operations. As Raffles expanded, Diana played a

significant role in building its capabilities in sales, distribution, e-commerce, brand development and marketing. Diana led Raffles to receive numerous awards including The Strongest Singapore Brand Award 2003 by the International Enterprise Singapore. Her wealth of international experience includes the pre-opening and operations of hotels in Cambodia, China, Middle East, the Americas and Caribbean.

As Managing Director, Diana has responsibility for the brand strategy of Raffles. Raffles Hotels & Resorts was ranked second among the world's top hotel brands in the 2006 Condé Nast Traveler Business Travel Awards. Its flagship Raffles Hotel Singapore was named Best Boutique Hotel in Asia Pacific while Raffles Beijing, Raffles L'Ermitage and Raffles Dubai are regarded as among the finest hotels in the world.

#### **Dennis Foo, Chief Executive Officer, St James Power Station**

Formerly the Executive Director of Europa Holdings, Dennis Foo is well-known for transforming Europa from a coffee shop in Changi to Singapore's largest chain of pubs and discotheques. The company was ranked third on the Enterprise 50 list. In 2001, Dennis set up Dennon Entertainment, the holding company of Devils Bar at Orchard Parade Hotel.

Currently the CEO of The St. James Pte Ltd, Dennis was a member of the Tourism Working Group of the Economic Review Committee in 2002, and chaired the task forces for Nightlife and Food & Beverage, during which, he wrote the white paper for the Integrated Resort. In 1999, he won the Tourism Entrepreneur of the Year Award, and was one of the people honored by the Overseas Union Bank's 'OUB Salutes Singapore's Top 300 Movers & Shakers' in 2000.

#### **David Sun, Chief Executive Officer, Home Inns & Hotels Management Co Ltd**

David Sun is the CEO of Home Inns & Hotels Management Co Ltd, one of China's most successful hotel chains, which has built its brand around the qualities of cleanliness, warmth, comfort, convenience, and value to customers. David graduated from Shanghai Medical University and worked in Australia until 1997, when he returned to China as General Manager of Marketing for Lotus Supercenter. In 2000 David became the Vice President of marketing and operations at B&Q China. In 2005 he became the CEO of Home Inns & Hotels Management Co Ltd.

#### **Tony Davis, Group CEO & President, Tiger Aviation, Pte Ltd.**

Tony Davis, Group Chief Executive and President of Tiger Aviation, has over 20 years experience in both full service and low cost airlines. Tony has been responsible for the rapid expansion of Tiger Airways from a fledgling airline into one of Asia-Pacific's leading low fare carriers in a short span of just three years. He holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration from Lancaster University. For the first nine years of his career, he worked at British Airways in various management capacities while stationed in London and New York. He was also stationed in the Middle East with Gulf Air in Bahrain. After which, Tony worked at British Midland Airways from 1997 through 2001 as Director of Corporate Affairs, and in 2001 was the founding Managing Director of low cost airline, bmibaby. Tony has had broad experience in formulating and implementing international airline strategies, airline operations, corporate affairs, marketing and revenue management, and in representing airlines in

negotiations with government and regulatory agencies, in the UK, the United States and other major countries.

Under Tony's leadership as Group Chief Executive and President, the Tiger Airways Group has achieved a number of major milestones. These include expanding its route network from just 3 destinations to over 30 destinations across Asia and Australia while flying more than 4 million passengers by the end of 2007. He is also responsible for leading the expansion of Tiger Aviation Group following the success of Tiger Airways Singapore with the establishment of Tiger Airways Australia and the soon to be launched, Incheon Tiger Airways in South Korea. The airline's achievements and innovation received peer recognition, reflected in Tiger Airways winning the Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation's "Best Low Cost Airline" Award in 2006.

### **Robert McIntosh, Director for CBRE Hotels, Asia Pacific**

Robert McIntosh is the director responsible for CBRE Hotels in Asia Pacific. He has over 30 years property experience of which 20 have been in relation to hotels. Robert's experience has been wide ranging in terms of geography, property type and skills. After nearly 10 years in the UK dealing with a range of property types he moved to Australia and was the National Valuation Director for a major real estate advisory firm. He has been involved in advisory, valuation, consulting and sales assignments throughout the Asia Pacific region. He has developed financial models for commercial, retail and hotel properties He has also been involved in numerous conferences and training courses as a speaker and moderator.

### **Philip Ho, General Manager, Singapore & Taiwan, Zuji Travel Pte Ltd**

Philip is General Manager of ZUJI Singapore, a site acknowledged as Singapore's most popular online travel agency. He is also General Manager of ZUJI Taiwan. With more than 15 years experience in the areas of online travel, hospitality, hotel and business leadership, Philip has responsibility for ensuring ZUJI delivers great value travel, and a one-stop-shop for travel products online in Singapore and Taiwan. Based in Singapore, Philip has worked with ZUJI since its inception. Previous to his current roles, he was Director of Marketing for ZUJI, and created ZUJI's brand personality and 'Travel Guru' positioning. Philip was the creative driver behind many of ZUJI's Singapore and international, award winning advertising campaigns, customer relationship - management initiatives and innovative website travel products. Philip is a member of the ZUJI Executive Team. Prior to joining ZUJI, Philip worked with Singapore Airlines in various roles across cargo marketing, revenue management and market planning departments, as well as with Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc as VP of Sales & Marketing for Asia- Pacific.

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

The Cornell-Nanyang Institute of Hospitality Management offers Asia's first graduate hospitality management program. Enrolled students spend equal periods of time at Nanyang Technological University's campus in Singapore and at Cornell University'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 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)

Media Contact: Illka Gobius

Verve MPR Pte Ltd

+65 6728 3820

[pr@verve.com.sg](mailto:pr@verve.com.sg)

Contact:

Sonali Deuskar

Cornell-Nanyang Institute of Hospitality Management

+65 6790 5800

[spdeuskar@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:spdeuskar@ntu.edu.sg)