

MEDIA RELEASE

CASINOS, INTEGRATED RESORTS HOST CNI MASTERS STUDENTS IN MACAU, HONG KONG

4 March 2008 (CNI) – SINGAPORE – The Venetian Macau, MGM Grand Macau, Macau Studio City, The Wynn Macau, Grand Lisboa, and Hong Kong Disneyland recently participated in a four-day immersion course with the Master of Management in Hospitality (MMH) students from the Cornell-Nanyang Institute of Hospitality Management (CNI). This Master Class gave students a first-hand appreciation of the casino and entertainment industries in Macau and Hong Kong, and was led by **Dr. Sheryl Kimes**, holder of the Singapore Tourism Board's first professorship in Asian Hospitality Management. This class is an important part of the MMH curriculum.

"As part of the course, students had the opportunity to understand Macau as a destination, study the profile of the Macau consumer, and grapple with issues such as managing human capital and hotel development and financing," remarked Professor Kimes. "By travelling to Hong Kong and Macau, the students were privileged to see in practice, case studies about Macao Studio City, Wynn Macau and Hong Kong Disneyland."

Daniel Shim, SVP of Human Resources for The Venetian Macau remarked "It is great that an international educational program brings its students to Macau to help the world understand the area. Also, bringing in prospective talent helps show them the opportunities that exist in Macau."

The program gave students insights into issues such as typical consumers, hotel development and financing, managing human capital through a series of lectures led by notable industry leaders such as **Dr Leonardo Dioko**, Professor and Director of Research at the Institute for Tourism Studies Macao (IFT) and **Dr Robert Kirby**, President of Kirby Leadership. Dr. Dioko was impressed with the caliber of the students, commenting that "the CNI students posed insightful questions," and were "excellent students, quite mature."

Throughout the four day event, students socialized with and garnered perspectives from senior executive management of the hotels. The students met and interacted with senior executives including **Nicholas Naples**, Chief Operating Officer for Macau Studio City, **Pete Wu**, Director of Business Development for Macau Studio City, **Wendy Yu**, VP of Human Resources for Wynn Resorts (Macau) and **Gabe Hunterton**, Vice President of Casino Operations for MGM Grand in Macau.

Naples observed that introducing senior executives to the students during the Master Class seemed to achieve the important objective of providing a real-time forum for graduate students to have direct access to industry professionals representing a range of functional areas within the hospitality industry. He added, "This helps to build a bridge between the classroom and the workplace, as well as provide challenging opportunities to students who are making a serious commitment to our industry." While Hunterton commented, "What an enjoyable group of young people to be around, interact with and learn from."

“The students really impressed me. They quickly grasped the business issues for our company and asked intelligent questions to dig deeper. I would be happy to have these students working for me some day!” remarked Joe Gavigan, Vice President, Business Insight & Improvement for Hong Kong Disneyland Resort.

The students themselves benefited tremendously from the Master Class. Vanessa Amelia Peterson, a MMH '08 student who participated in the Master Class commented that “The Master Class gave me refreshing insights into the hospitality industry in Macao & Hong Kong. I was exposed to best practices and saw how they are put into action. What I appreciated and enjoyed most was the opportunity to spend time with the guest speakers and hotel executives; to ask questions and listen to their ideas, logic and strategies. I certainly learned a lot through this process”.

Carmen Teo, another MMH '08 student commented that "The first impression of Macau as a visitor would have been just the amazing speed at which the Macau Tourism Industry is growing. However, being CNI students, we were fortunate in being able to gain a broader perspective of the destination through interacting with the various functional executives such as Human Resources, Development, Marketing, Operations from various properties such as Venetian, MGM, Grand Lisboa and Wynn. The second part of the Master-class to Hong Kong Disneyland further enhanced our understanding of the operational intricacies of a World Famous Theme Park Destination."

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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.

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