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Sustainable Hotel Awards Presented at HICAP in Hong Kong

Hong Kong – Winners of the Sustainable Hotel Awards were presented at the 20th annual Hotel Investment Conference Asia Pacific (HICAP), held 14-16 October 2009, at the InterContinental Hong Kong. HICAP is hosted by Horwath HTL and Burba Hotel Network (BHN).

The 56-room Six Senses Hideaway Yao Noi in Koh Yao Noi, Phang-nga, Thailand, was the winner in the Sustainable Project Design category. The hotel is owned by Six Senses Resorts & Spas/EHY Company Limited and operated by Six Senses Resorts & Spas. The hotel was recognized for its use of recycled and natural materials, sensitivity to the surrounding natural environment, and rain collection efforts. Sonu Shivdasani, Chairman & CEO, Six Senses Resorts & Spas accepted the award.

The 362-room Radisson Plaza Hotel Sydney, in Sydney, Australia received the award in the Sustainable Operations category. The hotel is operated by Carlson Hotels Worldwide and was recognized for its waste, water, and energy management efforts, as well as its “green” education and training programs. Accepting the award was Jean-Marc Busato, Managing Director, Carlson Hotels Worldwide.

The winner in the Sustainable Destinations category was the 87-room The Oberoi, Udaivilas in Udaipur, Rajasthan, India. The hotel is owned and operated by Oberoi Hotels and Resorts. The conceptualization, design and construction undertaken in complete context and harmony with local traditions and culture, as well as the management of a 20 acre wildlife preserve, were noted as exceptional green efforts by The Oberoi. Accepting for The Oberoi was Gautam Raj, Executive Vice President, Strategic Development, The Oberoi Group.

Rounding out the awards in the Sustainable Communities category was the 30-room The Schoolhouse Rental Homes At Mutianyu Great Wall, in Mutianyu and Yingbeigou Villages, Huairou District, Beijing, China. The hotel is owned and operated by Jim Spear and Liang Tang. The property was recognized for its dispersed and small scale development, creation of employment opportunities, and its community outreach program. Jim Spear and his wife and partner, Liang Tang, accepted the award.

Sustainable Hotel Award nominations were requested from the HICAP delegates through the HICAP website.

Nominations were then reviewed and voted upon by a prestigious panel of invited judges, including: Professor Michael C. G. Davidson, Head of Department, Tourism, Leisure, Hotel and Sport Management, Griffith Business School; Lyndall De Marco, Managing Director, Hotel Sustainability PTY LTD; James Dion, Associate Director, Center for Sustainable Destinations, National Geographic Society; Mark Eckstein, Managing Director, International Finance, WWF-US; John Goldwyn, Senior Associate, WATG; Dr. Harold Goodwin, Director, International Centre for Responsible Tourism, Leeds Metropolitan University; and Klaus Lengfeld, Coordinator, GTZ.

About HICAP

HICAP is Asia’s largest and longest running hotel investment event, making it the most important gathering of hotel developers, investors, lenders, operators, and other industry executives for information exchange, trend spotting, and deal making. Approximately 700 delegates attended the 20th annual HICAP, which recently concluded.

About Horwath HTL

Horwath HTL is the world's largest hotel industry specialized consulting organization, currently with 50 offices in 30 countries. Since the set-up of Asia Pacific operations in 1987, Horwath HTL has been involved with over 2,000 projects throughout the region in all phases of the property lifecycle for clients ranging from individually owned businesses to the world's most prominent hotel companies, developers, lenders, investors and industrial corporations. Horwath HTL currently operates out of regional offices in Tokyo, Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singapore, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Mumbai, Sydney, Auckland, and Honolulu.

About BHN

BHN is the worldwide leader in developing and organizing conferences for the hotel and tourism investment community. With more than two decades of experience, over 70 events completed to date, and more than 56,000 international delegates, BHN conferences have become "must attend" events for industry leaders who come together to network, conduct business and to learn about the latest trends. BHN events include: the Americas Lodging Investment Summit (ALIS) in San Diego; the ALIS Summer Update in Los Angeles; the Central America Tourism & Hotel Investment Exchange (CATHIE); the Caribbean Hotel & Resort Investment Summit (CHRIS) in Miami; the Hotel Investment Conference Asia Pacific (HICAP) in Hong Kong; HICAP Update Singapore; HICAP Update Japan in Tokyo; and the Hotel Investment Forum India (HIFI) in Mumbai. The BHN website at www.Burba.com is the gateway for information about the conferences BHN produces, as well as a direct link to important layers in the hospitality investment world.