

NEWS RELEASE

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CDL JOINS LAS VEGAS SANDS FOR MARINA BAY INTEGRATED RESORT

City Developments Limited (CDL) has entered into an exclusive arrangement with US gaming giant, Las Vegas Sands Corp. (Sands), to bid for the Integrated Resort (IR) in Marina Bay. They have signed a memorandum of understanding today and will enter into other related agreements in the beginning of the New Year before making a joint bid in March 2006.

Earlier, CDL's Executive Chairman, Mr. Kwek Leng Beng held discussions with various contenders of the IR at Marina Bay and decided on a joint bid with Sands. CDL plans to take an equity stake of 15 per cent in the Sands project in Singapore.

“CDL takes a long-term view of this mega project. We want to contribute meaningfully to Singapore's economic and tourism future. If anyone can develop a successful Integrated Resort of international appeal, it is Sands. We are pleased to have this opportunity to work with Sands and I believe Sands sees us as adding value, given our extensive and valuable experience in property and hotels,” said Mr. Kwek.

Singapore-listed CDL, a property and hotels group, brings to the table a track record of over 40 years as a top rate property developer, with iconic projects like The St Regis Hotel and Residences at Tomlinson, condominiums at Sentosa Cove and The Sail @ Marina Bay, which is adjacent to the site of the planned Integrated Resort. Its hotel subsidiary is Singapore's largest international hotel group, with over 90 hotels and 24,000 rooms in 16 countries.

The exclusive partnership also promises substantial mutual benefits, not only in the sharing of advice but also know-how in the development of the IR. There is also a good opportunity in CDL's hospitality business that can be tapped for joint marketing and cross business referrals.

Sands owns and operates The Venetian Resort-Hotel Casino and the Sands Expo and Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Sands Macao Casino in Macau, China. Its Chairman and CEO, Mr. Sheldon G. Adelson, was a pioneer of the MICE business in Las Vegas. At that time the move was met with much skepticism but now Las Vegas is considered the world's foremost MICE destination.

MICE stands for Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions, a business Singapore now sees as crucial to its position in the global tourism industry. "Singapore has an opportunity of bringing on board the MICE pioneer of Las Vegas to help elevate Singapore to become a major MICE centre in the world," said Mr. Kwek.

Sands was also the first foreign investor in the Macau casino industry, with Sands Macao Casino, which is now making a profit. "Mr. Adelson's foresight, entrepreneurship and sound track record not only in Las Vegas but in Asia makes Sands the best choice for us," added Mr. Kwek.

Having met with Mr. Adelson a few times, Mr. Kwek is said to be impressed with his business acumen and track record. Both men share similar business philosophies and are entrepreneurs.

Mr. Kwek, who is also Executive Chairman of Hong Leong Group Singapore, was an early proponent of casinos for Singapore in the 1990's. He raised the idea from a business point of view. The hotelier and developer in him wanted to see Singapore becoming a more vibrant tourism hub. When the proposal for an IR was first raised, Mr. Kwek was one of those who proposed that it be located at Marina Bay or Sentosa.

He said Singapore now has a chance to understand and learn how US companies were able to convert a desert town like Las Vegas into a vibrant and exceptional destination. Sands played a distinct role in that transformation.

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