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**>> Announcement Details**  
The details of the announcement start here ...

Announcement Title *	Press Release by subsidiary company, Millennium & Copthorne Hotels plc - Millennium & Copthorne Hotels continues its expansion in Asia
Description	Please find attached the press release relating to the above issued by Millennium & Copthorne Hotels plc on 29 July 2008.
<b>Attachments</b>	 MC_Ann_290708.pdf Total size = <b>51K</b> (2048K size limit recommended)

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## PRESS RELEASE



### **Millennium & Copthorne Hotels continues its expansion in Asia**

*HRH Princess Ubolrat Rachakanya of Thailand opens Millennium Resort Patong Phuket*

**July 29, 2008** – Millennium & Copthorne Hotels plc (M&C) will celebrate its newest hotel opening in Phuket on 29 July 2008. The 421-room Millennium Resort Patong Phuket joins M&C's growing number of new hotel openings this year.

The resort hotel is the first to be opened by an international hotel group in Phuket since the devastating tsunami in 2004. It is also the first property opened by a Singapore-owned hotel group in Phuket in recent years.

London-listed M&C, in which Hong Leong Group Singapore has a majority stake through its property arm City Developments Ltd (CDL), is Singapore's largest hotel group with a portfolio of more than 110 hotels in 18 countries with nearly 35,000 rooms.

Millennium Resort Patong Phuket enjoys a prime location on Rat-Uthit Road at the intersection of Bangla Street in Patong and is part of the new landmark mega Phuket Jungceylon shopping and leisure complex.

Phuket Square Company Ltd owns the Millennium Resort Patong Phuket and is also the owner and developer of the Phuket Jungceylon complex. Real Estate Capital Asia Partners LP (RECAP) acquired a 95% interest in the 2 million square foot hotel and retail Phuket Jungceylon project in 2006. RECAP is a private real estate fund in which the CDL has a significant interest with other limited partners.

"The resort and the Jungceylon complex are combining to change the face of Patong Beach and to inject new life into the area. We are excited to be part of the rejuvenation of Phuket," said Mr Kwek Leng Beng, Executive Chairman of Hong Leong Group Singapore and Chairman of M&C.

"The resort incorporates Thai elements in its design and offers warm Thai hospitality which will bring the guest experience to a new level," added Mr Kwek, who is also Executive Chairman of CDL and Chairman of M&C Hotels.



Mr Peter Gibbons, General Manager, Millennium Resort Patong Phuket, said, "With its unique infrastructure and lush surroundings, the resort meets all needs in terms of design. Offering two distinctive wings, we are able to provide the perfect choice, whether you are looking for a vibrant and trendy atmosphere or a slightly more stylish and elegant ambience.

"We are deeply honoured that HRH Princess Ubolrat Rachakanya, who is widely recognized for her dedication to promoting the Thai tourism industry, has agreed to grace our grand opening," added Mr Gibbons.

The opening of the Phuket property is the latest in a stream of hotel openings by M&C in Asia and the Middle East. These include the Copthorne Hotel Qingdao (May), Grand Millennium Beijing (April), Millennium Harbourview Hotel Xiamen (January), the Grand Millennium Sukhumvit Bangkok (November 2007) and the Grand Millennium Kuala Lumpur (September 2007).

Scheduled to open in late 2008 or early 2009 are two more hotels in China - Millennium Wuxi and Millennium Chengdu. In April, M&C also announced a joint venture with Indian group Rakindo to build 20 to 30 branded hip business class hotels in India, the first of which will open in 2009 in Chennai. M&C will also open a hotel under this business class hotel brand in Singapore's trendy dining and nightspot area of Mohamed Sultan Road in 2009.

In the Middle East, M&C recently opened two new properties in Dubai and one in Kuwait under management contracts, and announced the signing of a further seven management contracts in the United Arab Emirates and one in Dubai.

"We believe that that our strategy of expanding our hotel portfolio in Asia in 2008 and beyond is the right one, as demand for hotel accommodation is strong and is expected to rise," said Mr Richard Hartman, Chief Executive Office (CEO) of M&C Hotels.

"The Phuket property is also M&C's first resort property in East Asia and this allows us more options to deliver the kind of service the more discerning traveller expects," added Mr Hartman. M&C currently already has resort properties in Europe, the Middle East and the United States.

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## **Millennium Resort Patong, Phuket**

### **Information on the property**

The hotel comprises a total of 421 rooms that are divided into two wings.

Part of the property sits on top of the retail centre and caters to up-market tour groups and families on vacation. The Bar 8°, which is located at the hotel's modern and contemporary atrium, offers live music, courtesy of leading bands. This wing boasts a total of 197 rooms, which include superior and deluxe rooms, as well as junior suites complemented with spacious balconies and additional pantry facilities for long-term guests. The Straits Dining restaurant serves buffet breakfast and delectable Southeast Asian cuisines.

Peacefully tucked in the exclusive enclave of the Jungceylon development, the hotel's second wing offers an open-aired concept that portrays a tropical and relaxed ambiance with rich yet soft Thai culture that combines some Portuguese elements. This wing offers a total of 224 rooms, which include superior and deluxe rooms, cabanas, as well as executive suites. Carrefour and Robinsons department store, a multiplex cinema and bowling alley are also located within the Jungceylon complex.

Perfect for business travellers, the hotel offers comprehensive meeting facilities to meet corporate travellers' needs. Its F&B outlet, Bistro, is an all-day dining restaurant which serves Western, Continental and Thai specialties. The Lounge 98° offers a cozy yet modern setting for guests to unwind or relax with friends for cocktails.

### **Recreation facilities**

The Millennium Resort Patong, Phuket will have two swimming pools, one of which will be an outdoor pool surrounded by cabana-style guestrooms. Other leisure amenities include a state-of-the-art fitness centre and luxurious spa facilities with individual suites offering Thai and international massage therapy.