



EIGHTH WONDER



BANYAN TREE
HOTELS
AND RESORTS

**MEDIA RELEASE
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SINGAPORE'S BANYAN TREE HOTELS & RESORTS ACCEPTS EIGHTH WONDER'S INVITATION TO JOIN ITS LINE-UP OF WORLD-CLASS HOSPITALITY PARTNERS IN THE SENTOSA INTEGRATED RESORT (IR) PROJECT

[SINGAPORE, Oct 16, 2006] – Las Vegas-based Eighth Wonder, a privately held company that conceives, designs and develops entertainment and leisure resorts, retail complexes and casinos, is delighted to announce that Singapore's home-grown Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts has joined its line-up of world-class hospitality partners in the Sentosa IR project.

Should Eighth Wonder win the bid for the Sentosa IR, Banyan Tree will manage and operate its first resort in Singapore. Combining all the hallmarks of a Banyan Tree experience, the resort will feature exclusive and private villas. Each private villa will be set within lush tropical gardens in the Sentosa IR. Banyan Tree's renowned sister brand, Angsana Spa will also be incorporated into hotels within the Sentosa IR.

Mr. Paul Chong, AVP, Business Development of Banyan Tree Holdings, said: "Banyan Tree is pleased to be a hospitality partner in Eighth Wonder's Sentosa IR project based on the strength of the ideas, the partners, and the vision alone. The project presents a great opportunity for Banyan Tree to return to its roots, by establishing its signature brand of hospitality on home ground. In addition, the extent of the planning reaches out to even environmental sustainability and talent development, and this is a philosophy that Banyan Tree closely identifies with, and fully supports."

Mr. Mark Advent, Chairman of Eighth Wonder, said: "Our vision for the Sentosa IR is to make it truly world-class, and yet uniquely Singapore. Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts' success story is likewise truly world-class, and similarly uniquely Singaporean. We are deeply honoured to have Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts lay its imprint in the Sentosa IR project."

A leading manager and developer of premium resorts, hotels and spas in the Asia Pacific, Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts was established in 1994. Since the first Banyan Tree resort was launched in Laguna Phuket, Thailand, in 1994, it has imprinted its distinctive brand of Asian hospitality in 19 hotels and resorts, 51 spas, 58 retail galleries and two golf courses in various destinations worldwide.



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Banyan Tree Spa pioneered the tropical garden spa experience and established a Spa Academy at Banyan Tree Phuket where its spa therapists undergo more than 300 hours of training. Its sister brand, Angsana Spa's refreshing blend of treatments place special emphasis on the use of natural ingredients such as native flowers and fruits, based on aromatherapy, therapeutic sense of touch and a fusion of Eastern and Western techniques.

Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts also established an extensive Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme in tandem with its growth. Its philosophy of "Embracing the Environment, Empowering the People," has seen it establish industry-leading CSR initiatives such as the Green Imperative Fund - used to finance environmental action and community based project in communities where it is present – such as its marine conservation projects, and the Asian elephant conservation project. and developed numerous community outreach programmes.

Since 1994, the Group has garnered more than 250 awards and accolades from leading industry associations and trade publications such as Conde Nast Traveler US Gold List 2006: World's Best places to Stay (Banyan Tree Phuket), and Luxury Travel Gold List 2006's Best Overseas Spa (Banyan Tree Spa Phuket).

Further details on Banyan Tree, including its concept for the villas and Angsana Spas will be available at a later stage.

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About Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts

Banyan Tree offers an intimate retreat experience featuring its own signature blend of romance and Asian sensuality. The philosophy behind the hotels, resorts, spas and galleries is based on providing a place for rejuvenation of the body, mind and soul – a Sanctuary for the Senses.

Banyan Tree resorts are found in Phuket, Thailand (1994), Maldives Vabbinfaru (1995), Bintan, Indonesia (1995), Bangkok, Thailand (2002), Seychelles (2002) and, Shangri-La, China (2005) and Lijiang, China (2006). Flagship Banyan Tree Phuket was the first to introduce a tropical garden spa concept.

About Angsana Resort & Spas

Launched in 2000, Angsana is the sister brand of Banyan Tree, inspired by the exotic Angsana Tree noted for its crown of golden flowers. Angsana resorts are designed as contemporary, chic and vibrant retreats to live life spontaneously and sense the moment.

Angsana resorts are found in Bintan, Indonesia (2000), Great Barrier Reef, Australia (2000), Bangalore, India (2001) and Maldives Ihuru (2001).

To date, the Banyan Tree Group manages and/or has ownership interests in 19 resorts and hotels, 51 spas and 58 retail galleries and two golf courses in the Asia Pacific.

About Eighth Wonder

Headquartered in Las Vegas, Eighth Wonder is a private, closely held company that conceives, designs and develops entertainment and leisure resorts, retail complexes and casinos around the world. Eighth Wonder is led by industry pioneer Mark Advent. His unique city design of New York New York Hotel & Casino inspired billions of dollars in city-themed developments along Las Vegas Boulevard.

About the Sentosa Integrated Resort

The Sentosa Integrated Resort is envisaged to be a large-scale iconic development and a “must-visit” attraction for visitors. It will be a world-class tropical resort that offers the whole family a fun and memorable leisure experience. It will broaden Singapore’s tourism and entertainment options, complement existing tourist attractions as well as catalyse new tourism investments.

The Sentosa IR will occupy a 49-hectare site, and yield up to 343,000 sqm in gross floor area. Leveraging on its location in the resort setting of Sentosa, the IR could have an enthralling mix of island resort recreational and entertainment facilities. Other amenities and facilities within the IR could include resort hotels, spas, dining and retail outlets, corporate meeting facilities, incentive travel venues as well as a casino.

For more information, go to <http://app.stb.com.sg/asp/index.asp>